

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: May 8, 2023

Present Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Clarence Speed, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Library Director Tobi Farley, OIC Vernon Doyle

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 10th Board Meeting; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the minutes for the April 10th Organizational Meeting and Budget Hearing; made by Trustee Speed, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 18th Special Meeting; made by Trustee Speed, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the Budget to Actual Reports for the month of April; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the April 26th and May 8th Abstracts; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests

T. Gurbo: Asks questions of the Board and Clerk. She then talks about the Climate Smart Task Force.

K. Reese-Hurd: Speaks about the dangers of electromagnetics and supports the resolution banning 5G in the Village.

D. Haynes: Is requesting a public workshop to discuss the Climate Smart Task Force.

R. Wilkins: Speaks about the Clean Slate Bill. She would like to see Philmont sponsor it.

M. Seserman: Speaks about supporting the Clean Slate Bill. He next asks questions about sidewalk repairs. Finally, he thanks the Board for their patience and responsibility.

S. Ambrose: Speaks about supporting the Clean Slate Bill.

Attorney Fitzsimmons: He reports nothing new, just on-going projects.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: All documentation was submitted to the County for changes to the tax roll including certification, the tax warrant, property transfers, and address changes. Any property transfers and address changes were also updated in water/sewer program. Certified letters for delinquent water/sewer users will be mailed May 9th. Had meetings for health insurance and Village insurance policy. Tax bills will be mailed out by the close of day on May 31st. They are due by July 1st without penalty. Participated in 3 webinars. Worked with the Union Attorney for union contract. The oath book was updated and signatures obtained where needed. We had an unusual amount of Dig Safe Requests. We have been very busy with water payment, notaries and death certificates. The office will be close on Monday May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Building Inspector Report: Not given to this office

Library Report: Given by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **Building and Grounds:** We have an emergency Narcan box from the Columbia County Health department that we will be hanging in the hallway on the wall to the bathroom and utility closet. **Services:** The first pollinator garden was planted thanks to Free Columbia staff and students. Thanks also to DPW for delivering the soil, mulch and water. May programs: Monday, May 8th 5:30pm - Habitat for Humanity new homeowner info session Wednesday, May 10th 4:30pm - mental Health presentation for teens and parents. TH High School Guidance Counselors Wednesday, May 10th 7:00pm - James Baldwin session. Saturday, May 13th 10:00am - prep/planting day at library. Saturday, May 13th 2:00-4:00pm - Maria Crespo art show opening reception. Tuesday, May 9th, 16th, 17th 4:00pm - stepping stone workshops

Sunday, May 21st - Book It! Tuesday, May 30th 6:15pm on Zoom - the Story of Japanese- American Internment During WWII. Summer programs: We will be bringing 2 programs to the Town park camp and possibly having a weekly book cart. We will have a Firefly Watch at Summit Lake on June 21 with Mud Creek. Community Day, July 1- We are planning an Interactive Sidewalk project and have begun inviting organizations to participate. We are also planning a Repair Cafe to be held that day. More programs are in planning stages awaiting confirmation of dates. **Grants/ Town, State County Funding** Received notice that we will receive \$1,000 grant from the Bank of Greene County. **Stats** April in-person and virtual program attendance 64. April people in the library 645. April 2023 total circ 3741(.9% of total system wide circulation). April 2023 digital services 241 (includes OverDrive and Claverack and Philmont's shared hoopla account and kanopy). **Meetings/ trainings/ projects** I attended the Taconic hills school Success Fest as a local organization on Saturday, April 22. I attended a webinar through Partners for Climate Action HV on Tuesday, April 25. **CCLA** - We have finally received 501c3 status and will be seeking more grant funding to do more county wide projects. The newest museum pass brochure is available with 2 new museums added. We unfortunately did not receive all the funding we were anticipating for the county wide big read and are therefore postponing the project to the fall. **CL/CD** - The next meeting is scheduled for May 9th. We will be discussing state funding for Central Library use and making recommendations regarding renewals of system wide data bases.

Community Center Report: Given by Trustee Cropper, as submitted by Director Veronezi. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **Facility:** The center has been checked during the month. DPW will work on the door entrances as soon as time is available. Programs: Cub Scouts, Webelos, and crochet classes are taking place at the center. Wood was donated by Ghent Wood Products for use in a bird house building project. I have the wood and will soon be cutting pieces for the activity. I attended the Columbia County Economic Development meeting on April 25 with the intent of finding how the County's Opioid Recovery Money is being utilized. At the present time there is a task force working on the distribution. From my research I have found that there are many avenues for the use of the funds. Some are obvious like the distribution of naloxone and others are embedded in the health continuum such as prenatal care and neonatal care for addicted parents. I met via phone with Mayor Johnson, Building Inspector Lee Heim, Deputy Mayor Doug Cropper and Commissioner of Department of Social Services Bob Gibson. It may be possible to provide a bus from upper Main Street and Main to the Claverack Town Park Program this summer. This potential opportunity would be based on need. If anyone is aware of children who would take advantage of the bus please email or phone me. This is in the research phase. Programs and presenters are always welcome.

Police Report: Given by OIC Vern Doyle. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. For the month of April, we had 16 calls for service, 0 arrests, 129 property checks, 9 UUTs Issued, and 34 V&T warnings. They are all set with coverage for dump day and Memorial Day. There are new standards for hiring and reporting requirements. That has been completed and verified and we are in compliance.

Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report: Given by Mayor Johnson, as submitted by Grant Administrator S. Baker. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **BOA grant updates:** The BOA Grant Committee meeting was held on 4/25/23. Attended by: Mayor Johnson, Bob Macfarlane (Co-Chairs), Barbara Sagal, Chair LWRP Watershed Management Plan, and members of the BOA Subarea 1 Working Group, David Bolevice and Karen Schoemer. The meeting was conducted as a "Welcome Orientation" to welcome Bob Macfarlane as the newly appointed Co-Chair. The meeting was conducted to bring Macfarlane up to speed on all activities including, the Work Plans, Budgets, Timelines, Subarea Working Groups, and the Local Match requirements. 12 documents were provided for the meeting that are also available on the PBI project(s) website pages for public information. The final draft of the Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant planning firm for the BOA Pre-development Activities was reviewed and approved to be published on the NY State Contract Reporter website in early May to solicitate proposals from planning and engineering firms. The RFP was approved by the DOS in mid-April following initial drafts with changes made in response to DOS comments received. **LWRP grant Watershed Management Plan updates:** The monthly Watershed Advisory Committee meeting was held on 4/12 and was led by the newly hired planning firm [LaBella Associates](#) hired to assist producing the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Management Plan. Attendees included DOS, Barbara Sagal Chair of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) with members & participating towns of Claverack, Ghent, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz. The meeting discussed and workshopped the Vision, Goals & Objectives for the watershed as Task 8 of the Work Plan.

Climate Smart Task Force: Given by Thomas Paino. Storycrafters final video was presented and approved. Crediting to "Produced at Old House Studio by Barry Marshall and Jeri Burns, known as The Story Crafters". This was a donation to CSC efforts. The money remaining from the municipal energy audit will be applied to implementing the interior lighting retrofit for the Village Hall. It was agreed to get estimates for the Flex Tech program to do the more advanced audit of

the water treatment plant. Two consultants responded, and information was sent to them. Still waiting on the estimates. Data collection for Pledge Element 2.1- Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory- has started with Jess collecting past electrical billings. Pledge element 2.5- Government Operations Climate Action Plan is dependent on 2.1 GHG inventory. Individual task force members' responsibility for uploading documents to the shared GoogleDoc folders organized by pledge number continues. The NYSEDA submission deadline is now July 7th. Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan is dependent on County initiation with Cornell Extension taking the lead. Andrew, Tom Susan, and Michael met with Jan Borchert of Crawford Engineering to discuss micro-hydro potential in the Village. This conversation will continue with the possibility of engaging a hydrologist. An inaugural newsletter was issued, which highlighted the visit to the Valatie Micro hydro facility. It is being considered to have a QR code at the EV charging station, so there is something to read while charging. Frequency, content, and contribution to the newsletter are still being discussed. Debra, Tom, and Ray met with Kristen Wilson (fundraising) of RUPCO, covering fundraising basics. Andrew, Tom, Susan, and Michael will continue with Crawford Engineering to discuss composting and aerobic digestion, water treatment plant alternative measures, and infrastructure in anticipation of a climate adaptation study. The Columbia County Clean Heating and Cooling program scoping document was completed by Michael, enabling Philmont to be a participating municipality within the County program. A logo will be chosen at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 10th.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Given by Trustee Detzel, as submitted by Robin Andrews. On Monday, MAY 22nd, we will be having our first Comp Plan Public Meeting. We are excited to be welcoming people to stop by anytime between 4-8pm at the Village Hall to add their input into what their priorities and thoughts for Philmont are. There will be poster boards to add input onto, a kids area from 4-6 (so feel free to bring your children), as well as pizza, compliments of High Falls Pizzeria. The village website has been updated with minutes and updated information on the process (thank you Debra, and thank you Nabal for our logo). This meeting is our first opportunity for public input. We will then be using some of that information to create a survey which we will use to solicit more input this summer. Then there will also be another public meeting as we compile our findings later in the year. The village now has the contract from LaBerge. I made some changes, as did Rob, and LaBerge has agreed to all of them. I hope that you will be able to pass the motion to approve it with the amendments tonight. The funding asked for in the contract is covered by grant funding from the Greenway and NYS, with the exception of the budgeted 10% match from the village of \$6610. The committee is also doing our best to minimize that amount. There are flyers for the public meeting. I am hoping that people will feel free to take them and if they have any place to post them, that would be great. We look forward to seeing you all on the 22nd!

Mayor Johnson: He reports that he has been working on the water tower project for most of the month. There have been many difficulties, but they are getting a handle on them. The ban will continue for a while. There will be interruptions, but please bear with us. He has been talking with the Town of Claverack about taking over our DPW duties and abolishing the Village DPW. He also met with DSS.

Trustee Cropper: He reports that he met with the labor lawyer and Brian. He also had a meeting with Debra and Tom to decide where to spend the remaining money from the energy audit. He found out about a potential USDA grant for geothermal, which was looked into. There was a special meeting and a meeting with Bob Gibson and Julie. The workshop meeting was attended, as was the CEDC breakfast meeting with Skip and Julie.

Trustee Detzel: He reports nothing new, just on-going projects.

Trustee Speed: He reports he has been attending meetings and getting his feet wet again. He has been working on the sidewalks.

Fire Department Report

10 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 23. Total EMS calls for the year 29. Drills for the month 4, truck inspections 1, and 1 work detail. There was a sub night on April 7th with 10 members.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST provided to the members of the Board and the public

- 1) Email from Emily Noonan dated April 12, 2023, in regards to Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy.
- 2) Email from Jessica Winters dated April 13, 2023 regarding unregistered vehicle and chicken complaint.
- 3) Letter from Summit Lake Conservation Group dated April 14, 2023 in regards to The Woods.
- 4) Letter from Minkler-Seery American Legion received on April 19, 2023 in regards to Memorial day activities.
- 5) Email from Scott Mathias of Columbia Habitat for Humanity dated April 21, 2023 in regards to use of the Village Green.

Motions and Resolutions

Motion: to enforce the water turn off law and take action against delinquent water users; made by Trustee Speed, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer \$8274.04 from Equipment Reserve account to general account to pay for the motor for the street sweeper; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to accept with regret the resignation of Nathaniel Drake from the Village of Philmont Library Board of Trustee effective immediately; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to appoint Suzi Miranda as a member of the Village of Philmont Library Board of Trustees, with a term to expire September 30, 2026, to fill the unexpired term of Nathaniel Drake; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to appoint Akita Jun to the Village of Philmont Volunteer Fire Department as a member; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to appoint Stefon Ambrose to the Village of Philmont Volunteer Fire Department as a member; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to contract with Utility Service Co., Inc. for the water storage tank rehabilitation; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to contract with LaBerge for the Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan update; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to reimburse Code Enforcement Officer Lee Heim in the amount of \$463.04 for the purchase of the tablet for CEO assistant and FOIL request copies; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$6,800 from Water Maintenance Reserve to Water Fund Checking to pay Tighe & Bond for engineering of the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to make emergency repairs to the wells on Pruesser Road; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to allow the Mayor to sign the USDA air pack grant paperwork; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to accept and approve the "amendment proposal for construction services" with Tighe & Bond for water engineering services; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

VILLAGE OF PHILMONT COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK RESOLUTION NO. 2 of 2023

At a regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Philmont, Columbia County, New York, duly held on the 8th day of May 2023 at the Village Hall, Main Street, Philmont, New York, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: Trustee Cropper;

Seconded by: Trustee Detzel.

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Philmont has determined that a parcel of real property that it currently owns as an undeveloped street "Franklin Street", located in Philmont, New York ("the property") that is a former unopened, undeveloped street or roadway that is not being utilized and, therefore, is no longer necessary for public use and maintenance, and does not serve the needs of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village has received an offer to take a portion of the parcel and merge it with adjacent lands of Nancy Moretti, all costs of the transfer to be paid by Nancy Moretti; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board believes that the transfer is in the best interest of the village as it will place the lands back on the tax roll and reclaim the undeveloped road bed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Philmont pursuant to the provisions of New York Village Law §1-102, does adopt this resolution authorizing the Philmont Village Mayor to execute any and all documents to sell and transfer the property, said documents being in form and content acceptable to the village attorney, and be it further

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Philmont Village Board members voted "Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

Trustee Cropper;

Trustee Detzel;

Trustee Speed; and

Mayor Johnson;

The following Philmont Village Board Members voted "No" in opposition, thereto: NONE.

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Village Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Mayor of the Village of Philmont.

Dated: _____

Jessica Thomas, Village Clerk
Village of Philmont

Motion: to set a public hearing on local law #1 of 2023 establishing a real property tax exemption for historic properties; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Unfinished Business and New Business:

Mayor Johnson talks about the water tower. It is estimated that water restrictions will continue through August until the project is complete. Several people were seen watering flowers and lawns. This needs to be taken seriously so we do not lose water again. We lost one of the wells during this process and cannot have a new one drilled before the painting. Conserve water wherever possible.

Motion to adjourn –made by Trustee Detzel and 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment 8:16 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Thomas
Clerk/Treasurer