

Public Hearing/Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: June 12, 2023

Present Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Clarence Speed, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker, and Library Director Tobi Farley

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

Public hearing in regards to Local Law 1-Enacting a Real Property Tax Exemption

This would be a local law enacting a real property tax exemption for qualifying historic properties. It states that a historical property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of any increase in the value attributable to such alteration or rehabilitation pursuant to the following schedule: Years 1–5: 100% exemption; year 6-80%; year 7–60%; year 8–40%; year 9–20%; year 10-0%.

The property itself is still taxable. It will only be improvements that will be exempt. This will help get the buildings in the Village cleaned up.

An email from Spring Sutter is read. She thanks the board for considering a yes vote. Knowing that their property taxes won't significantly increase when Hopkins house is restored helps them secure a construction loan for the project.

J. Thibeault- She is there to contribute the Heritage Working Group's support in favor of the Village Board of Trustees positive motion for the adoption of the proposed local law enacting the real property tax exemption for historic properties for the Village of Philmont.

S. Baker- Talks about the process for the Historic District in Philmont.

Motion: to close the public hearing; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Call to Order Regular Meeting: 7:16

Motion: to approve the minutes from the May 8th Board 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 May; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the May 24th, May 31st and June 12th Abstracts; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests

K. Reese Hurd: Talks about the dangers of electromagnetics.

T. Gurbo: Talks about the Clean Slate Act and the Climate Smart Task Force.

C. Christiansen: reads a statement written by Tom Paino.

S. Michie: Speaks in support of the Climate Smart Task Force.

Attorney Fitzsimmons: He reports nothing new, just ongoing projects the Board is aware of.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Tax bills were mailed out on May 31st and are due by July 1st without penalty. We have been extra busy with walk-ins, recording, and depositing in relation to the taxes. Meter cards will be recorded for Water / Sewer billing. Water/Sewer bills will be mailed out by the close of day on June 30th and are due by July 31st without penalty. The water/sewer program will be updated to reflect the new rates and the debt service fee Record retention has been continued. Robert Patterson will be preparing work on the AFR (Annual Financial Report) at the end of this month. Benefit deductions and accruals have been updated with payroll. We assisted the DPW with the

flower pots in preparation for Memorial Day. The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Building Inspector Report: given by Mayor Brian Johnson. He has been busy with buildings. He has given a report about upper Ark Street and Eagle Street. He has also been training the other building inspector.

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:** Rain barrels are at all garden sites and being filled by the DPW. All sites are looking good and are being watered by staff and volunteers. Dave Bolevice hung the Narcan box in the library. **Services:** We had 9 volunteers at our second planting day in front of the library including A representative from the Partners for Climate Action (grant funders). June programs: June 13, 5:00pm – Native pollinators with Hawthorne Valley Farm Scape Ecology Program. June 14, 7:00pm – last James Baldwin Discussion group. June 21, 8:30pm - Firefly Watch at Summit Lake with Mud Creek. June 30, 4:00 -5:00pm – Middle School Battle of the Books at Claverack Library (Weekly meeting through the end of the Summer and regional battle the second Saturday in September.) Community Day, July 1- We are planning an Interactive Sidewalk project and have begun inviting organizations to participate. Sidewalks will be decorated the day before. We will have a Repair Cafe from 11am-1pm in the pavilion including; lamp repair, hand sewing, bike repair and an investigation station for kids to take apart old appliances such as phones, toasters, etc. We are accepting donations of such items now. **Grants/ Town, State County Funding:** \$11,000 from HRBT and \$5,000 planning grant from Berkshire Taconic Foundation (announced, funds to follow) **Stats:** May in-person and virtual program attendance 135, May people in the library 746, May 2023 total circ 3,097(.8% of total system wide circulation), May 2023 digital services 309 (includes OverDrive and Claverack and Philmont's shared hoopla account and kanopy) **Meetings/ trainings/ projects:** Book It! was successful! Thanks to those who volunteered. There were leftover food donations that have been frozen and will be used for snacks at Battle of the Books meetings. Charter amendment has been completed and sent to the DLD for review. **CCLA** – I attended the Hudson Children's Book Festival as a representative of the county association. I was a lovely day. We need volunteers for the Columbia County Fair, August 30 from 4:30-9:30. Can be split into 2-3 hour slots. **MHLS** – I will be attending an in-person DA meeting on Tuesday, June 13 in Poughkeepsie.

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. The spring flowers that were planted last year by George Brehm are beautiful. **Programs:** Cub Scouts, Webelos, and crochet classes are taking place at the center. I am researching programs for the summer. If anyone is aware of children that need transportation to the Claverack Town Park for the summer program. Please let me know. Programs and presenters are always welcome. There will be a program Monday June 19th about the water situation and how to conserve. Julie is speaking about arranging a big truck event possibly in July.

Police Report: Given by Trustee Cropper. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. For the month of May, we had 18 calls for service, 0 arrests, 68 property checks, 10 UUTs Issued, and 71 V&T warnings. There was a traffic detail that resulted in 18 tickets and 32 warnings. The entire department completed the range certification. They are all set with coverage for Community Day.

Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report: Given 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 5/23/23. Attended by: Mayor Johnson, Bob Macfarlane (Co-Chairs), Barbara Sagal, Chair LWRP Watershed Management Plan, and members of the BOA Subarea 1 Working Group, Mark Rowntree, and Karen Schoemer. The meeting discussed the BOA consultant selection process, reviewed the selection scoring chart, and discussed the logistics to hold 3 selection review meetings consisting of one in-person meeting to be held at the regular BOA monthly meeting scheduled for June 27th, followed by two meetings to be held by Zoom. Consultant proposals in response to the released RFP (Request for Proposals) are due to be delivered to the Village Office by June 21st. Each member of the BOA Grant Committee will receive a pdf of each proposal received. The selection review process will conclude the week of July 10th. Review of the BOA Work Plan **Component 3: Zoning and Property Updates** Requiring the Village to appoint a zoning review committee to review and adopt zoning updates. **LWRP grant updates:** Waiting on LaBella Associates to submit consultant invoices for payment- therefore, DOS Payment Request is on hold until June.

Climate Smart Taskforce: given by Trustee Gitterman. The Storycrafter approved video was incorporated into Tom's Local Champion's final presentation covering the history, challenges, and accomplishments of Philmont's CSC. Video of the entire presentation will be posted to the Village website by Debra. Lightbulb exchange will be part of the Philmont Community Day. NYSERDA Clean Energy Community PON 3298 (municipal building energy audit) original contract has

been revised to reflect applying unused funds from the water treatment plant audit to lighting retrofit in the Village Hall. Tom will schedule a meeting with Greg Legget and Dog to review the prospective work at the Village Hall to arrive at an estimate and strategize additional funding sources. Discussion for possible Flex Tech audit of the water treatment plant continues with two potential consultants. The small size of the treatment facility may preclude participation in the program. Date collection for Pledge Element 2.1- Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory should be coordinated with Audrey Kropp of Cornell and based on data being compiled by Jess. Pledge element 205+ Government Operations Climate Action Plan is dependent on 2.1 GHG inventory. The uploading of documents to the shared GoogleDoc folders organized by the Pledge number continues as per previous assignment. Susan will assemble the next issue of the newsletter. Tom will provide brief description of the Local Champions experience and how it applies to Philmont's program to reduce GHG emissions. The logo in the Local Champions video was accepted with the possible modification of the typeface in the word "Philmont" to suggest its strep terrain setting. Allison reserved a table for the CSC at Philmont's community day celebration. It was agreed to initiate Philmont's participation in the County's aerobic composting program. The county provides containers and weekly pickup of composting collected at a location designated by the Village.

Comprehensive Plan Update: given by Robin Andrews. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. On Monday, May 22nd, we had our first public outreach workshop, here in the Village Hall. It was well attended, with a steady stream of people, answering questions on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Philmont as well as descriptions of a vision for Philmont, Priorities and an opportunity to comment on specific places. We also had some additional responses through an open invitation on the website. Photos from the event are now on the website. Special thanks to High Falls Pizzeria, McNan's, Price Chopper and the committee members that provided food. At our meeting on June 7th, we reviewed the compiled responses to begin to get an understanding of issues and hopes that arose. Using some of that information, we are now working on creating a survey to offer for the entire village. We are hoping to have that available for distribution sometime in July. In addition, we are putting out the Santa Claus box at the post office, for your Future Philmont wish lists. We will have a table out on Community Day, to share where we are, and offer the opportunity for further input. We also thank Mayor Johnson for executing the contract with LaBerge. We, on the committee, are dedicated to ensure this is a community led process, but we are also quite grateful for their guidance and support. We are currently at over 100 volunteer hours from the committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5th, at 7:15pm.

DPW Report/ Mayor Johnson: They had quite a project at the water tank this month. Everything is complete, and we should be good to go to get the tank painted. The men did a good job of cleaning up for Memorial Day. There should be a preconstruction meeting for the tank shortly. He and Doug met with a hydrologist and Alex from Claverack Pump in regards to getting a plan together for a new well. He thanks Jeff French for Memorial Day. It was a great parade, and it was special having Anne Macfarlane, who was born and raised in Philmont, as a speaker.

Trustee Cropper: Met with Brian and the water tank people. That project is moving along. They also met with Kippy and Hooky in regards to a fire district discussion. There was an interview with a potential candidate for a water/waste water operator. He attended the workshop meeting, the open house for the Comprehensive Plan, and the Memorial Day ceremonies. He attended an event at Claverack Town Park, where there were a lot of important officials there. He got to put Philmont's face in their minds and talk about some of the issues that affect the village. There will be a dam inspection, which he will be attending.

Trustee Detzel: He reports nothing new, just general work.

Trustee Speed: He attended the Memorial Day parade. He also attended the banquet at Kozels for the fire company, where he had the honor of swearing in the officers that were elected. He is still working on a time to meet and get working on the sidewalks.

Fire Department Report

10 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 26. Total EMS calls for the year 36. Drills for the month 2 and truck inspections 2. Recruit NY weekend occurred on April 22nd with 14 members. Columbia County battalion 2 meeting at the training facility was attended on April 24th with 2 members. Taconic Hills Little League opening day was also attended with 13 members. Ladder testing occurred May 16th at the firehouse.

Trustee Gitterman: She attended the Memorial Day parade and the Community Day Committee meeting. She contacted the Sheriffs and State Troopers to participate in the parade. She attended the Climate Smart Community Committee meeting. A lot of updates on the website were completed.

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

- 1) **Email from Karen Schoemer dated May 8, 2023 in regards to Clean Slate resolution**
- 2) **Letter from Jeff Bancroft dated May 15, 2023 thanking the DPW**
- 3) **Statement from Thomas Paino dated June 12, 2023 in regards to Climate Smart Community**

Motions and Resolutions –

Motion: to authorize the mayor to sign the annual renewal of CDPHP PPO Traditional Option dental insurance for the Village of Philmont; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to authorize the mayor to sign the annual renewal of MVP HDEPO 4400/8800 Silver Plan 8 health insurance plan for the Village of Philmont; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

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

Motion: to accept with regret the resignation of Matthew Montross from the Village of Philmont Police Department; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to appoint Emily Noonan as a member of the Village of Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire March 1, 2028; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$18,354.60 from Water Maintenance Reserve to Water Fund Checking to pay bills related to the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation project; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to allow the Mayor to sign the budget modification amendment for the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Management Plan; made by Trustee Speed, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to authorize the receipt of funds in the amount of \$82,000 from Rural Development to be utilized for the purchase of 10 Air Packs from Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for utilization by the fire company; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Unfinished Business and New Business:

Community Day is discussed. There will be music from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Green. There is a Mardi Gras-themed parade at 4; line-up is at 3:30 at Pine Haven. There will be a block party with BBQ, music, and a bonfire on Canal Street. They are looking for vendors for the green.

Debra and Brian attended the Habitat for Humanity ground breaking. Mayor Johnson thanks Habitat for Humanity for considering Philmont. They would like to continue working in Philmont, so he and Debra are looking for other possible locations in the village.

Motion: to adopt Local Law 1 of 2023; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays.

Motion to adjourn: made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment: 8:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Thomas
Clerk/Treasurer