

## Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: July 10, 2023

**Present** Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, and BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 7:01 pm

**Motion:** to approve the minutes from the June 12th Board Meeting; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to approve the Budget to Actual Reports for the month of June; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to approve the payment of bills from the June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> Abstracts; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

### **Public Requests**

M. Seserman: Asks questions in regards to board meeting rules, signage rules/ordinance, and sidewalks. A discussion continues in regards to the sign in question.

M. Jennings: Thanks to the Village, DPW, police, and village liaison for everything they did to help with Community Day. It will be Monte, Sarah, and Sherry's last year working on the committee.

P. Johnson: Asks questions about local laws and zoning codes in regards to unregistered vehicles, the size of signage on residential properties, and vacant buildings.

K. Reese-Hurd: Supports the resolution banning 5G in the Village. It would be a movement to protect citizens.

A. Mraz-Talks about health of buildings and health of residents.

T. Gurbo- Speaks about solar panels and EV vehicles and their effects. Let's open up and share ideas to make a better decision for all of the Village residents.

T. Paino-Talks about sign enforcement in the Village. The sign stating "impeach Biden Nazi Democrats are low lifes" is violating the zoning code for size. He would like the code enforced across the board for all properties.

**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 now overdue. A 5% penalty has been added to any outstanding taxes. There are 60 parcels still unpaid for 2023 and 9 who have back taxes from prior years. Water / Sewer bills were mailed out on June 30th and are due by July 31st without penalty. There were 33 broken meter notices sent out. The water billing program was completely reformatted for the new rates and debt service charge. Call volume in regards to the new water rates and debt service charge has been very high. Worked closely with Cliff and the engineers on the Water Tower Restoration project. Worked with Dave LaVoie for our health insurance renewal and employee changes. Lots of research was completed for the Climate Smart Committee. Had a meeting with RingSquared in regards to switching phone lines from Copper to avoid the \$75 fee per phone line that will be coming. Worked with the Union Attorney to get the Union contract signed and completed. Record Retention continues. Chrissy and I have both been very busy with taxes, water bills, posting, deposits and bank runs.

**Building Inspector Report:** Not given to this office

**Library Report:** Given by Trustee Detzel, as submitted by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **Building and Grounds** It looks like we are missing a picnic table from the pavilion. Also, the door to the storage room in the pavilion has some rusted scratches and should probably be treated and painted. **Services** Senior Lunch and Games - we are up to 6 participants registered for our Senior program. Last week we had 4 participants and played Rumikub. Thanks to the Tripp Nutrition Center and the Columbia County Office of the Aging for providing Meals on Wheels lunches. They have been very supportive and flexible. James Baldwin

program – the closing report was submitted for the grant and we will submit the next grant proposal by June 15th for a program on banned books in the Fall. Community Day - Repair Café had 4 lamp repairs and two other items examined. Shawn Jennings had a great display of Philmont historical pictures and memorabilia and was very happily chatting with at least 15 patrons and staff. Interactive Sidewalk was completed on Friday and we had 4 volunteers including 2 adults from Free Columbia and Renee's two daughters. You can find some pictures on our Facebook page. July Programs: Senior Lunch and games Wednesdays 11:30am, Summer Reading in the Garden (flowers and pollinator stories and activities) Thursdays 1:00pm, Family Movies (Bee Movie, Bug's Life Ant Bully and The Lorax) Fridays 2:30pm Pollinator and Bioblitz programs at Claverack Town Park Camp Thursday, July 13th and Tuesday, July 18th **Grants/ Town, State County Funding** \$2,000 Children's Foundation of Columbia County **Stats** June in-person and virtual program attendance 135, June people in the library 758, June 2023 total circ 3,652 (.9% of total system wide circulation), June 2023 digital services (includes OverDrive, Kanopy and Claverack and Philmont's shared hoopla account) 182 **CCLA** – We still need volunteers for our slot at the county fair on Thursday evening, August 30th **MHLS** – The system has replaced Mango Language with Transparent Language. It is now available to use with your library card. It has extra features that Mango did not have including ASL (American Sign Language) and more languages from and to English.

**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 stone in memory of George Brehm has been placed in the garden. Programs: Cub Scouts, Webelos, and crochet classes are taking place at the center. On June 19 the community center held a program on water conservation in the village. It was attended by 14 people and there were over 40 on line views. David Siter, the supervisor of water and sewers in the village presented information on the wells, tank, water use and how water meters work. He answered many questions from attendees. Deputy Mayor Doug Cropper explained some of the background on the issues. Eileen Ordu shared tips on conserving water in your home. Jess Cropper- Alt live streamed the program. Refreshments were donated. The wood donated by Ghent Wood Products has all been cut to size for the bird house building activity to be held this summer. The Columbia Youth Bureau was contacted for donations of bike helmets that could be given out for participating in a bicycle safety session and bike rodeo. I am currently researching the possibility of a "Big Truck" day at the center.

**Police Report:** For the month of June, there were 10 calls for service, 2 assists on arrests, 47 property checks, issued 7 UUTs, and 29 V&T warnings. Annual village employee training was completed. Community day was a great day that was uneventful so they were able to intermingle with residents.

**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. **REPORT SUMMARY: BOA grant updates:** The BOA Grant Committee meeting was held on 6/27/23. 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 and reviewed PBI Project Management email communications with the DOS/BOA representative resulting from no proposals for professional services were received in response to the BOA RFP (Request for Proposals) that were due to be delivered to the Village Office by June 21<sup>st</sup>. The RFP received several follow up inquiries from planning companies and architects requesting the RFP, but in the end, no proposals were forthcoming. In response, the plan for the BOA project to proceed with publishing an updated RFP will include the following actions: PBI to engage in conversations with the planning companies who were considering assembling a proposal to ask the reasons why they declined. Look at issuing an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) in place of an RFP which will provide the opportunity to craft the scope of work with planning companies and/or architects that respond. Consider reducing the BOA Work Plan scope of work to the primary sites for concept designs for the Community Center and the Canal St parking lots, Publish a separate RFP for the studies, engineering, Summit Lake water testing, and the Zoning analysis included in the BOA Work Plan. Redesign the proposal(s) Scoring Chart for the above scope of work changes. Aim to re-publish the RFP and/or RFQ in August/early September. **LWRP grant updates:** A WAC meeting was held 6/14 by LaBella who presented the preliminary draft for Task 9 of the Work Plan - Description and Assessment of the Waterbody(ies) and Watershed Resources, including 11 maps analyzing the watershed resources. Project is making good progress. Waiting on LaBella Associates to submit consultant invoices for payment- therefore, DOS Payment Request is on hold. **Historic District updates:** Inventory and photos of 481 properties have been uploaded to the state's Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) system by Jessie Ravage, preservation specialist hired to produce the nomination to be submitted to The National Register of *Historic Places anticipated for a December application. The Heritage Working Group coordinated with PBI to attend Community Day and man an information pop-up tent. Many thanks go to Jennifer Thibeault, property owner of Empire House, for designing and producing 2 beautiful banners for the event. All 15*

*members of the Working Group have taken up specific tasks to ensure the Historic District event is successful as a contribution to Community Day. Many thanks go to all volunteer members.*

**Climate Smart Taskforce:** The Climate Smart Committee was involved in Community Day, continuing the light bulb exchange and sharing information on the heat pump program. We got the new amended contract to spend the money that wasn't spent on the audit on lights for the Village Hall. There will be a walk-through to get an estimate. There was a suggestion to get an audit of the sewer plant done by the New York Rural Water Association. They may be able to do the audit at no charge. There was a huge effort to get everything into the state to get bronze certification. We did not have enough points. We will be entering more for the January submission. They are looking into working with the county on the compost program.

**Comprehensive Plan Update:** Given by Trustee Gitterman, as submitted by Robin Andrews. We had a table at Community Day, and provided the first set of survey's – and put out the Santa box to collect them. We have already collected a number of them, and the survey is now ready to be available online. We are working on a version of the printed survey that is more appropriate for a printed copy, and members of the Comprehensive Plan committee will be going door to door to solicit responses. The surveys are the committee's focus in the next month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Aug 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15.

**DPW Report:** A good job was done getting ready for Community Day. The Village looked really good; it was clean and neat, and everything was picked up. They have been working hard up the tower. Cliff has been working at the sewer plant. He took all of the samples, and everything has been good there. There was a meeting with Ed Harkins and Skip. They are going to try to clean the well instead of drilling a new one. The tank painting is supposed to take a month, and after the tank is full again, they will try to clean the well.

**Mayor Johnson:** Makes an announcement about being nice to the girls in the office. It is not their fault what the board does. The debt service payment in the water bill is for the disinfection station at the sewer plant. It will be on the bill every quarter for at least 4 years. That is the only way we can pay for it. We have been trying to find money for the project. We tried to get money for the water tank as well. We are not able to. He next thanks everyone for Community Day; he thought it was a good day for everybody.

**Trustee Cropper:** He attended an inspection at the upper reservoir dam with contractors, state engineers, and dam inspectors. The dam looks good, so there are no worries about it affecting Philmont, but there is a new inundation plan that was received from the state and put in the emergency management file. Forest Lake was checked, and things look good there. He attended the presentation on the water tower project. David Siter did an excellent job explaining everything. He attended the preconstruction meeting at the tower with Brian. He also worked to advance the dock project; Mark Rountree is going to construct the bench. Community Day events were attended. All were fun and looked good. He had a few public comments to answer.

**Trustee Detzel:** Reports that after 741 days the air pack grant has finally been received. \$82,000 towards air packs. Community Day was great.

**Trustee Speed:** Not present.

#### *Fire Department Report*

31 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 42. Total EMS calls for the year 51. Drills for the month 3 and truck inspections 1. The Philmont Memorial Day parade was attended on May 29<sup>th</sup> with 11 members. Hudson Flag Day Parade was attended on June 10<sup>th</sup> with 7 members. The Hudson Valley Firefighters convention in West Glen Falls was attended on June 15<sup>th</sup> with 14 members. A firefighter memorial service in Copake was attended with 5 members. A firefighter funeral service was attended with 7 members. Philmont Community Day on July 1<sup>st</sup> was attended with 9 members. Taconic Hills Little League wrap up its last game of the season on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Trustee Gitterman:** Community Day went super well. Monte, Sarah, and Sherry did a great job working for months to pull it together. Jordan Walker and Shawn helped as well. The library, PBI, Climate Smart, and Habitat all participated in the day. Another big presence was Rock Solid, with lots of things for kids. There was a great parade. The Sheriffs, troopers, and Village Police were also part of the day. The DPW also played a part in it. She thanks everyone. She watched the meeting for the water tower. It was very informative and helpful. She went to the Climate Smart meeting and participated in uploading everything. She also attended the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting and worked on the surveys and getting everything up on the website. She has been attending Community Day meetings. She has also

been working with Tom, Peter, and Michael on a community development block grant. There will be a hearing next Monday at 7 to get residents feedback.

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

- 1) Email from Thomas Paino dated June 19, 2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 2) Email from Candace Christiansen dated June 19,2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 3) Email from Peter Johnson dated June 19,2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 4) Email from Susan Michie dated June 20,2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 5) Email from Holly MacCammon dated June 22, 2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 6) Email from Barry Marshall dated June 26, 2023 in regards in to the sign at 22 Main St
- 7) Email from Raymond Rigoglioso dated June 27, 2023 in regards to Local Law 1 2020-Rental Property Registry
- 8) Email from Joanne Vilaghy dated July 2, 2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 9) Email from Desiree Graziano dated July 6, 2023 in regards to parking on Elm St
- 10) Letter from The Bank of Greene County dated June 29, 2023 in regards to ACH Origination Annual Agreement.
- 11) Email from Beth Servetar dated July 8, 2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 12) Email from Susan Bane dated July 8, 2023 in regards to the sign at 22 Main St
- 13) Email from Stan from Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society dated July 8, 2023 in regards to Forest Lake road

**Motions and Resolutions –**

**Motion:** to transfer the amount of \$59,501.92 from Water Maintenance Reserve to Water Fund Checking to pay bills related to the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation project; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to accept with regret the resignation of Nabal Camacho from the Village of Philmont DPW effective July 12<sup>th</sup>; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to adopt a Bond Resolution with Bank of Greene County, not to exceed \$700,000 for a term of 25 years at 5% interest for the water storage tank rehabilitation project; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to hire Alan Graziano effective July 17<sup>th</sup> for the position of assistant water/wastewater operator at a pay rate of \$24 an hour. Upon completion of a 6-month probation period and upon approval and permanent appointment by the village board, he will receive a pay rate of \$24.60; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to authorize payment of the community day expenses; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Unfinished Business and New Business:**

None

**Motion to adjourn:** made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment: 8:44 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Thomas  
Clerk/Treasurer