

## Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: February 12, 2024

**Present:** Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Mason Willis

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

**Motion:** to approve the minutes from the January 8th Board Meeting; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to approve the minutes from the January 24th Special 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 January; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to approve the payment of bills from the January 10<sup>th</sup>, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and February 12<sup>th</sup> abstracts; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

### Public Requests:

K. Reese-Hurd speaks about the dangers of radiation and cell towers.

**Attorney Fitzsimmons:** He drafted a local law banning parking on Maple Ave. from New St. to the village line. A public hearing will be scheduled for the next board meeting. He also circulated a copy of the text that would be adopted as a local law regarding the tax break for firefighters and EMS. This will be discussed more at a later date, as it would not be able to go into effect for this year's taxes.

**Clerk/Treasurer Report:** Village Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 19th. Petitions are due by tomorrow February 13th and acceptance letters are due by February 16<sup>th</sup>. New payroll deductions were submitted to payroll. The annual water quality report for 2023 is complete and ready to submit to the state. The full report will be included in the April water billing. Began budget preparations. Reimbursement paperwork was filled out and submitted for the sidewalk project. Researched Village archives and maps regarding the name of Lake/View/Side Dr. and Prospect Ave/St per 911 request. Set up a bank account for sewer debt service charges. Worked with Tobi regarding library financials. We have begun working with Suzette Booy from Columbia County Real Property for the Columbia County assessment roll. Provided back tax and water/sewer information for transfer of Cassivant property on Summit St. Back taxes from 2017-current were paid. An employment record request for the NYS Troopers was completed. W-2's were received from the payroll company and were sent out to the employees by this office. The Office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents Day.

**Library Report:** Given by Trustee Detzel, as submitted by Director Farley. **Services** Ongoing programs: **senior lunch and games** – *Wednesdays 11:30pm* - We have about 10 patrons attending each week. Final report submitted to Berkshire Taconic for funding the program. **story time** - *Thursdays 11am* - Regularly have 2-3 families with 2-4 children attending. Upcoming programs: Postponed from Feb 13th - Now March 12th, 5pm. **Red Cross FREE Emergency Preparedness** - Floods, hurricanes, and wildfires are becoming more frequent and can be devastating to our loved ones, homes, and communities. Build confidence by learning simple steps you can take now, to help prepare and protect your family. It's easy to learn through one of our free disaster preparedness trainings! Hosted by the American Red Cross, Be Red Cross Ready is a national, standardized, FREE preparedness education curriculum for adults taught by certified presenters. The program is designed to help people understand, prepare for, and respond appropriately to disasters. February 16th - 2pm **Backyard Bird Count Citizen Science program with Mud Creek at Summit Lake** February 20th - 5pm **House Plant Care 101** February 26th - 5pm **Native Trees and Shrubs for Your Landscape** Shared programs with CCLA (county libraries) February 7, 2024 6:45 pm – **Tech Labs on Zoom: Library Apps** February 25, 2024 2:00 pm **Finding Julia - Centering Black Women in Antebellum History: Discussing "The Vice President's Black Wife"** Zoom program **Stats** January in-person and virtual program attendance 100 January people in the library 750 January 2024 total circ (.6% of total system wide circulation) 2,597 January (includes OverDrive, Kanopy and Claverack and Philmont's shared hoopla account) 282 **Grants** Four grant proposals are in process two of which are due February 15 and one due March 1. The

last is a rolling grant that does not have a deadline. The topics are food security (free fridge), senior programming, Battle of the Books reading program funding, and Adirondack Mountain Club most likely for citizen science kits or to expand the pollinator pathway program.

**Community Center Report:** Given by Trustee Cropper, as submitted by Director Veronezi. **Facility:** The center has been checked during the month. The center was rented for two family parties. Repair of the windows and doors is in the works. **Programs This Month:** Crocheting **Groups Using the Center** Scouts, Community Day Committee. Jess-Cropper Alt attended a grant writing workshop in Hudson. She will provide information on grants related to the arts. The Philmont Community Day Committee is holding a bake and plant sale at the center on February 11 from 11 to 2.

**Police Report** – given by Mason Willis. For the month of January, there were 9 calls for service, 1 arrest, 94 property checks, 5 UUTs issued, 17 V&T warnings, and 5 parking tickets issues.

**Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report:** Given by Grant Administrator S. Baker. **BOA grant updates:** The BOA Grant Committee meeting held on 1/23/24 was attended by Bob Macfarlane, Barbara Sagal, and Subarea 1 Working Group members Mark Rowntree, Karen Schomer, and Sally Baker of Philmont Beautification, Inc (PBI) as BOA Project Management. Mayor Johnson had a prior engagement and could not attend. We reviewed how the request by Rice+Lipka Architects for topological surveying for the Community Center and the Canal Street area sites can be accommodated as a BOA Work Plan Amendment and that the DOS have approved this change to be completed by a surveying company for the cost of \$15,000 from the BOA grant allocated for consultant design fees. The change will result in the two Market Studies and the Infrastructure Analyses to be changed out for the topological surveying. PBI will look into finding additional funding for those items to take place in 2024. We discussed PBI making the commitment to pay Rice+Lipka Architects an additional \$15,000 towards the architectural consultant fees. PBI will include this payment as a component of the organization's Resolution commitment made to the Village in 2019 at the time of writing the BOA Pre-development Activities grant that PBI would facilitate the required 10% BOA local match in the amount of \$20,908 in order that no tax revenue is used by the Village for the BOA grant local match. We reviewed the Rice+Lipka Architects timeline and approved the 13 meetings proposed to take place over a period of 10 months divided equally between in-person meetings, Zoom meetings, and three in-person community sessions to be conducted on site for the Community Center and the Canal Street sites. We discussed the potential of holding a Community Day (July 20<sup>th</sup>) event at the Community Center site for Rice+Lipka Architects and Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects to present their preliminary designs for community input and comments. We envisioned this event as an all-day event and will endeavor to assemble other tangential items like a food vendor etc. to help make the event fun to attend for Community Day. We reviewed the required MWBE 30% of the budget allocation for the BOA grant and how those requirements will be met by hiring Minority and Women Business Enterprises for specific Work Plan tasks and items. We discussed the need to start strategizing a Capital Campaign to be in position to construct a new Community Center and the next level concept designs to be produced by Rice+Lipka Architects including the various grant programs to be approached. It was decided to initially devote an entire BOA Committee meeting to follow up on these discussions. With reference to the current Comp Plan grant and the potential of the Village developing a NYForward or DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) proposal, it was agreed that a "Team Philmont" meeting should be proposed to the Village Board, the Comp Plan Committee, and the Climate Smart Task Force to come together to explore how best to combine forces and resources to be working collaboratively towards community-based goals. Discussion took place trying to clarify information about the Library's idea of relocating the Library. Additional items on the BOA Committee meeting Agenda were moved to be carried forward. **LWRP grant updates:** The scheduled WAC (Watershed Advisory Committee) meeting has been rescheduled to February allowing the firm to complete Task 9 before holding the final meeting for that Work Plan task. **Historic District updates:** The State Review Board met on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and approved the nomination of the Village of Philmont Historic District to be listed in the State Registry of Historic Places. The meeting for listing the District in the National Registry of Historic Places will take place in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024.

**Climate Smart Taskforce-** given by Trustee Gitterman. We were supposed to hear about the grant for the building updates, but that has been pushed back. The clean energy state funding program has been refunded, so we have the possibility of accessing money for work, for example, the work we want to do in the village hall. We have to achieve bronze status to be able to qualify.

**Comprehensive Plan Update:** given by Trustee Gitterman. Robin and Laberge have been having stakeholder meetings and also sending out surveys.

**DPW Report:** given by Mayor Johnson. There were a few water breaks, and the water department and the town worked flawlessly together to fix them. The roads and sidewalks have been well taken care of. The transition has gone smoothly.

**Mayor Johnson:** The emergency management meeting was attended at the Commerce Park. Jason will take care of the Climate Smart part of this; Brian and Doug will be the contacts and Debra has been getting the information out to the public. It is in progress and there's a lot left to do. This will be a 10-month project.

**Trustee Cropper:** Reports that he responded to a few water issues. He thanks Cliff and Alan. They have been doing a lot of work for the village and water department. He also thanks them for looking into the vent at the community center. Property checks were completed, and no issues were found. He also helped with Community Center access issues. The special meeting and workshop meetings were attended. He met with Sally and the rail trail people, and they will be coming to the February workshop. He had a discussion with Chief Beaumont about energy conservation in the firehouse. He also corresponded with the historian regarding the name change of Lakeside Drive.

**Trustee Detzel:** He talks about the event at the Community Center for Community Day. It went well and made money. There will be other events coming up. He also completed normal business.

**Trustee Speed:** Not present

**Trustee Gitterman:** A meeting with Brian and Vern was attended regarding the possible addition to the DPW garage for the police storage building. She spent a lot of time on the housing needs assessment. Nine proposals were received and went through. They have picked a firm to work with. A lot of website updates were also completed.

*Fire Department Report:* 7 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 7. Drills for the month 3 and 1 truck inspection. The county firefighter convention meeting in Stuyvesant was attended on January 10<sup>th</sup> with 8 members. Sub night at the firehouse was held on January 12<sup>th</sup> with 11 members attending. A funeral detail was attended by one member on January 17<sup>th</sup>. LOSAP totals are final for the year 2023 with one member's points being changed and sent to the Village Board for final approval.

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

- 1) Email from Margaret Hallisey dated January 24<sup>th</sup> regarding shoveling of sidewalks
- 2) Letter from Philmont Fire Department dated January 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the election of a member.
- 3) Email from Philmont Holdings LLC dated February 1<sup>st</sup> regarding Rock Street property
- 4) Letter from Kurt Basl dated February 7<sup>th</sup> regarding resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals

#### **Motions and Resolutions –**

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

**Motion:** to appoint Nathan Weier to the Village of Philmont Volunteer Fire Department as a member; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to reappoint Robert MacFarlane as Chairman of the Village of Philmont Planning Board for a one (1) year term, with the term to expire March 1, 2025; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to reappoint Judith Tice as a member of the Village of Philmont Planning Board with a term to expire March 1, 2029; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to reappoint Jess Cropper-Alt as a member of the Village of Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire March 1, 2029; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays. Trustee Cropper abstains from the vote.

**Motion:** to transfer the amount of \$4,388.87 from the Summit Lake project account to the general checking account to pay for Community Center repairs; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to credit account 4336, Town of Claverack in the amount of \$81.87 for penalties accrued while waiting for leak detection with the water department; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to transfer the amount of \$100,976.52 from the water checking account to the water maintenance account to repay the amounts transferred to pay for the water tower storage project; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to transfer the amount of \$89,497.71 from the water checking account to the water savings account to repay the amounts transferred to pay for the water tower storage project; made by Trustee Detzel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** to nominate Thomas Paino to be the representative of the Columbia County Climate Smart Community Task Force; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

**Motion:** To allow the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to sign the letter of support for the Berkshire Taconic Community Impact grant; made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

**Unfinished and New Business:**

There was a meeting with Vern regarding the grant for the police storage building. To maximize the money from the grant they will be adding on the DPW garage.

The property that was owned by the rescue squad is discussed. Unclaimed funds for the rescue squad were also discussed.

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

Adjournment: 7: 55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Thomas  
Clerk/Treasurer