

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 1, 2008

Present: Mayor Christopher Sanders, Deputy Mayor Fred Devan, Trustees Joan Gussow, Audie Moran, Mark Blomquist, Denise Ehrhart-Village Clerk-Treasurer

Walter Sevastian, Esq.-Village Attorney – absent

Mayor Sanders called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

None

John Angelis, Building Inspector – presented his revised recommendations on the revised Permit and Inspection Fee costs.

Existing fees are based on the cost of construction/renovation and he is recommending that the first \$1,000 @ \$50/each additional \$1,000 @ \$7 be increased to first \$1,000 @ \$125/each additional \$1,000 @ \$25. He added that there have been no increases since 1999.

He also recommended an increase in Inspection Fees from \$40 to \$65 and the addition of a \$100 fee for a “Stop Work Order”.

Bill Elson asked what the Building Permit fee would cover. He was told that it affords the privilege of having the Building Inspector make inspections for safety purposes.

Richard Stark told the Board that he did some research on Grandview and Orangetown. Anything above the Building Permits fee is at 1% and includes all inspections except reinspections. He agrees with Bob Samuels thoughts that this should not be a way of raising money for the Village. He feels that raising fees does not encourage residents to obtain building permits and doing work legally. The proposed rates are 2½ times higher than Grandview and Orangetown which may be dated 2000 and 2004 but are the current rates.

Trustee Gussow agrees with the comments Mr. Samuels made at the last meeting regarding the fact that residents don't pay the Police every time they come and, therefore, does not agree with the proposed fees.

The Mayor said that the Village is looking at more use of services.

John Angelis told the Board that Orangetown charges \$25 for a copy of a C/O and Piermont charges \$.25; failed inspections are charged at \$125, Piermont charges \$75.

Trustee Devan agrees with the comments that the inspection fees should not be included unless there is a failed inspection or a missed inspection; the Building Permit should cover all fees.

Trustee Moran commented that Piermont's current fees total for \$4,200; proposed fees are \$13,600 for the same permit and she agrees with one building permit fee except for missed or failed inspections.

Trustee Devan feels the information presented is conflicting and he would like more accurate numbers.

Mayor Sanders asked John Angelis to review the proposals and that the Board will readdress them in the near future.

The Piermont Historic Society made a request to become Guardian and Trustee of the Train Station. Due to the absence of the Attorney any decision will be tabled.

Bill Elson went over the proposal mentioning the discussion held at the Library in December to use the station as a viewable museum from the outside. In milder months the Historic Society could hold their public meetings there and a small section of the building could be used as a museum. When the interior is ready for viewing there could be a barbeque and Open House. The building still needs a ventilation system, refurbishment of the 2nd floor, restoration of original ticket booth and a security system/fire alarm system.

As the building is improved it will become a target for vandalism and Mayor Sanders would like to see it used on a regular basis.

John Angelis' suggestion was repositioning it nominally by calling it the "Bell Kelly House" instead of the Erie Railroad Station. It is an icon of the Village and Bill Elson would like to proceed, especially with the exterior, to create an aura of activity to deter mischief.

Karl Knoecklein said that no one is sure what the interior will be but the Building Inspector spent time with the Historic Society and they realized it was a residence not a railroad station. What you need to do to a house is different that what you need to do to a public building. They would like to restore it to the 1910 version with heating, water and a bathroom upgrade.

Bill Elson said the Society is not pressuring the Board into a decision tonight but these things are costly and they would like to proceed with some security.

The Mayor said ideas are coming forward and will continue to develop.

Trustee Gussow thinks the proposal is terrific and likes the idea of occasional uses.

Trustee Moran supports the Historic Society's efforts.

The Mayor commented that the proposal appears to be an agreement in kind for a 2 yr. contract. The Board would like to see the Attorney draw up a contract and move forward with this. It will be readdressed at the meeting of April 29, 2008.

Bid Specs for Phase III Sidewalk Replacements were reviewed by Al Bartley and the Board. The Phase III work will complete the sidewalks in the Village.

Trustee Devan made a motion to advertise for Public Bids on Phase III Sidewalk Replacement, to be opened on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Brooker Engineering made a proposal with reference to the Municipal Parking Lot in the amount of \$57,700 on a total project to cost \$512,000. The Mayor will ask Ken DeGennaro the review and amend his proposal.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the proposal of Brooker Engineering in the amount of \$8,500 for the Ferdon Avenue Pond (Eleanor Stroud Park Skating Pond) Desilting Plan. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Al Bartley made a request of the Board to approve increasing the Road Opening Permits to Utility Companies to the same fees as Contractors and property owners pay. Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve increasing Road Opening Fees to Utility Companies according to the attached fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion was approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.