

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

April 6, 2010

Present: Mayor Christopher Sanders, Deputy Mayor Mark Blomquist, Trustees Joan Gussow, Audie Moran, Steven Silverberg, Walter Sevastian, Esq.-Village Attorney, Denise Ehrhart-Acting Village Clerk-Treasurer

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

Public Comment:

Mike Miller said he read in previous minutes a discussion on Lot S and the County offering it for sale to the Village. Piermont Landing paid for a title report and found that the County went back to court to reverse the closure. There are millions in remediation at risk and Mr. Miller doesn't want to see the Village take on that expense.

Carol Cameron asked where the Village stands on the No. Parking Lot project.

The Mayor advised that the grant extension was approved through December 2010. The bidding process is complete and the work is ready to start.

Residents of 674 Piermont Avenue are holding their daughter's wedding in June at their home. They asked the Board for a permit for DJ amplified music. The wedding will be at 5 p.m. and the reception will follow with a DJ through 11 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2010.

The Attorney advised that there is no permit to use private property and that the noise ordinance will apply. The code states noise must end by 11 p.m.

Farmer's Market has requested a seasonal special permit for Sundays, May 30, 2010 to November 21, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Motion to approve by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Public Hearing on 2010-2011 Tentative Budget – motion to open by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the public hearing was opened.

The Mayor gave a brief overview including an expected decrease in revenues. In 2010 Fiscal there was a decrease of 8%. This year there is an additional 12.3% decrease in revenue or \$94,604 less than last year.

The Board has worked very hard with department heads regarding their expenses. There is an \$81,404 increase in retirement costs

All property in the Village was reassessed to ensure 100% valuation which resulted in a 4.71% decrease in overall taxable assessment.

Trustee Silverberg advised that the Board spent a lot of time cutting costs. The Board had reduced their salaries and looked for everything that could cut, much of which cannot be controlled.

Trustee Blomquist said that state mandates cannot be controlled.

Public Comments:

Peter Fauchner regarding an increase in employees salaries, asked why pay public servants more money.

Trustee Gussow advised that there were no increases last year and the Board cut their own salaries to allow some employees to have small increase.

The Mayor said that 1.75% to employees is an \$8,000 increase which is minimal to employees who took 0% last year.

Trustee Silverberg stated that most increases of the Budget increases are mandated by the State.

Mike Miller commented that last year had a modest increase and asked what the remaining surplus is to cut down on increase.

The Mayor replied that there is an allocation of part of the surplus that goes to payment on a bond. There is an approximate \$230,000 fund balance.

Mike Miller said that the Police Dept. was flat last year and this year also. The final arbitration will retro back to 2008. He asked the Board what they will do if the fund balance proves insufficient.

Mayor Sanders does not feel it will be insufficient.

Dennis Hardy questioned the 20% increase in personnel services in the building department. The Mayor said the Village needs to increase from 25 hours/week to 30 hours/week. Mr. Hardy asked about employees contributing to their benefits and the Mayor stated that the Village has new employees doing that but cannot change current employees.

Mike Miller asked if the Village has considered merging services and the Mayor said that it has been approached by Grandview for DPW services.

Lou Terminello asked what Grandview pays for fire coverage and said they could provide equipment.

Rich Stark thanked the Board for their hard work but hopes the budget gets refined further.

Margaret Grace suggested that the Community Center could be a great space for BOCES now that the Playgroup will be out.

Trustee Silverberg made a motion to continue the public hearing to April 20, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The Board is looking into legislation on Moratorium/Payment in Lieu for parking in the Business B District. As of now, businesses in Business District B need to provide off street parking. If they cannot provide the parking a variance would be needed from the Zoning Board but there is nothing in the code to assist in the variances.

Currently, if a business changes, parking must be shown. The Board is looking at creating relief from this requirement - retail to retail would not need to show parking and in the case of a more intensive use the business would need to provide parking for additional use only.

The Board is looking at a moratorium from enforcement of this section of the code to provide parking in Business B District conditional on a fee in lieu at \$120/space for the required spaces.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to set a public hearing on a law to amend off street parking for May 18, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Silverberg and upon vote the public hearing was scheduled.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion on the Boards intent to declare lead agency for purposes of SEQRA. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

Sidewalk Bistro applied for a special permit renewal for their back and front seating. The Attorney advised that the original special permit did not include dining in rear and that last year's request made an amendment included dining in rear as well. At that time they provided parking leased from Library.

Trustee Silverberg made a motion to table the request to May 18, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

Cornetta's Restaurant & Marina applied for a special permit for their outdoor seasonal tent for the 2010 Summer. The request was tabled to April 20, 2010.

A Preservation Covenant with reference to a \$200,000 award for the restoration of the Rockland Road Bridge was tabled to the April 20, 2010 meeting.

Christopher Sanders, Mark Blomquist and Cheryl Pacella were designated as signatories for the Firemen's Trust Fund Account.

At the last meeting of March 16, 2010 there was a discussion of a Village owned tree that had fallen between two homes on Piermont Place. After the meeting, the Mayor authorized Tom Temple to proceed with its removal at a cost of \$2,200. The DPW also removed Mr. Herguth's tree that had fallen in Kane Park

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to approve the warrant in the amount of \$149,272.79. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the warrant was approved.

Walter Sevastian advised the Board that the Community Playgroup will be serviced with a 3-day notice to vacate the premises.

Trustee Blomquist advised the Board that the Fire Department needs storage space until the boathouse is build.

Trustees Moran and Blomquist went to the storage area with the contents of the Railroad Station. A small amount can be brought back to the Station and the balance could be sold off.

The Board scheduled a Budget Workshop for Tuesday, April 13, 2010. Motion to adjourn by Trustee Gussow, second by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.