

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES METING**  
**April 7, 2009**

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

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

Public Comment:

Richie Stark: commended the highway department for their hard work in the upgrades to the meeting room.

The Mayor advised that it was Justice Court Grant funds that allowed for the improvements.

Unregulated traffic on the Pier was brought to the Board's attention. A resident had raised the possibility of speed bumps at one time. There are 4 speed limit signs that possibly could be in English and Spanish. One speed bump where the stop sign is should be sufficient to alert cars.

The Mayor advised that he was aware that speed bumps were discussed before but that they could be a liability. Speed limits are posted on roadways not in the Park.

Chief O'Shea is checking with the Highway Supervisor about the stop sign at entrance. The chief further advised that speed bumps create an interruption for ambulance and fire equipment.

Walter Sevastian added that speed bumps are not approved traffic control devices by the State of New York, but they do work in Nyack.

Trustee Moran stated that bicyclists are a concern when it comes to speed bumps.

Curt Lowey said that the Pier is busy on weekends and asked how many accidents were there this year. The Chief replied none this year.

Al Bartley asked the Board for permission for the Open House at the highway garage to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Permission was granted.

On April 21, 2009 there will be a mandatory OSHA Refresher Course and the Highway department will be closed to attend.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the Operating Budget 2009-2010 and the Capital Budget 2009-2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the Public Hearing opened.

The Mayor thanked all departments for their hard work to reduce their budgets. Expected revenues for this year are down 8%. A salary increase freeze is in effect the there is an increase in this budget of 5.6% due to principal and interest payments and a retirement payout.

Mike Miller – Capital Budget – in the past proceeds from bonds were in the operating budget and are now in appropriated fund balance. The Mayor said that the \$1,974,000 bond in 2009-2008 had excess unspent proceeds that will be used to pay down that debt.

Tracy Cushner asked if the Sales Tax PD was new and was told that last year it was combined with general County Sales Tax.

Richie Stark said with the pay freeze are other benefits being cut. Trustee Blomquist replied that the Board cannot cut Government employee's benefits.

Bill Elson stated that everyone needs to go the School and Town Budget meetings and not just the Village Budget meeting.

Mike Miller asked if there would be new tiers of benefits for new employees and the Mayor advised that the new Building Inspector does not get benefits.

Richie Start asked if the Board had asked employees to make any other arrangements to save money and the response was no.

Lou Terminello asked how many employees there were in the Highway Department and Police Department. Highway – 7 and Police Dept. – 8.

Trustee Blomquist said that the Board members were all residents and subject to the tax increase as well.

Trustee Gussow said that she shares everyone's grief as a resident. She added that there are not many revenue sources.

Trustee Devan advised that this was not the final version of the budget and that the Board hopes to reduce it further. He also announced that he would not be running for re-election this year.

Mayor Sanders stated that the Village services are excellent and expensive. He does not want to cut services to minimize expenses. The Mayor commented that the Board might consider using the Fund Balance to reduce the budget further. He would like to revisit further reductions.

Trustee Moran commented that the Town of Ramapo Tax Assessor stated in a public seminar that she attended, that within Rockland, Orange, Westchester, Nassau and the Northern New Jersey counties, the Village of Spring Valley has the highest taxes of any village, and that their Village tax is even higher than their school tax.

Lou Terminello commented that per capita, Piermont is higher than Spring Valley.

The Town of Ramapo Tax Assessor also said that he had been hired as a consultant by the condos during the revaluation. He felt that the Village of Piermont did an excellent job of assessing the condos. Trustee Devan said that the condos have refused to ever release any information of the Assessor's findings and thanked Trustee Moran for reporting the Ramapo Assessor's comment about Piermont.

Mayor Sanders advised that this is the first year the Village created a Capital Budget which will avoid washing projects through the Operating Budget. He

further stated that if the listed projects are not funded by Grants the Board would not move forward. The Board consensus was in agreement with the Mayor.

Trustee Blomquist moved to close the Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Operating and Capital Budgets. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the Public Hearing was closed.

Sidewalk Bistro – 482 Piermont Avenue – applied for a Special Permit with reference to obtaining full restaurant privileges in the rear patio area and increasing the number of tables from 10 to 13.

Trustee Devan said that he had no problem with the requests. Trustee Gussow asked if there was still concern by the neighbors and was told no. Trustee Moran was in full support. Trustee Blomquist was also in support. The Mayor asked about parking requirements and was told that there was an agreement with the Library for parking which brings them into compliance.

Trustee Devan moved to approve the modification to the Special Permit, held by the Sidewalk Bistro, originally issued on May 2, 2000 and transferred to the Sidewalk Bistro on March 25, 2008 and filed by Ludger Alain, LLC d/b/a/ Sidewalk Bistro.

The modification of the Special Permit permits:

1. Full dining in the rear of the building;
2. A limit of 13 tables in the rear dining area as set forth on a seating plan annexed to the application.

It was a condition of the vote to modify the Special Permit that the applicant maintain its agreement with the Piermont Library to provide off-street parking to accommodate the increase in the number of tables with full dining permitted on the premises. The vote to modify the existing Special Permit is a Type II action under SEQRA.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the Special Permit was granted.

Former Mayor DiFrancesca would like to finish the GI Joe with lighting at no expense to the Village.

Trustee Devan was in favor. Trustee Gussow said she would not approve the lighting. Trustee Moran thought it was a good idea. Trustee Blomquist commented that he saw a different plan than the one on the table this evening.

Debbie Ayres asked if the new lights were solar powered. She was told that solar lights would not be powerful enough for the flag pole.

Mayor Sanders stated that there was a sodium light across the street from the park that lights the entire park and he would prefer the spotlighting. The Mayor would like to see the sodium light disconnected.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to approve the lighting at the GI Joe statue and flag pole. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried 4 to 1 with Trustee Gussow opposing.

Results of bid opening of April 3, 2009 for the North Parking Lot:

Joseph M. Sanzari, Inc. 90 West Franklin Street Hackensack, New Jersey 07601	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$282,200.00 \$349,000.00 \$ 21,400.00 \$ 51,400.00
Bellavista Construction Corp. P. O. Box 753 Ardsley, New York 10502	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$268,000.00 \$281,500.00 \$ 25,560.00 \$ 36,000.00
Tilcon New York Inc. 162 Old Mill Road West Nyack, New York	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$224,060.00 \$268,160.00 \$ 75,000.00 \$ 12,000.00
Victor P. Zugibe, Inc. 66 W. Railroad Ave. Garnerville, N.Y. 10923	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$352,420.00 \$468,820.00 \$ 54,000.00 \$ 30,000.00
Cal Mart Enterprises, Inc. 4 Burts Road Congers, New York 10920	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$274,274.00 \$328,823.00 \$ 21,900.00 \$ 26,000
JMK Enterprises LLC 301 North Main Street-Suite I New City, New York 10956	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$264,269.00 \$315,469.00 \$ 44,906.00 \$ 28,000.00
Aikler Paving Co. 1684 East 233 <sup>rd</sup> Street Bronx, New York 10466	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$205,000.00 \$285,000.00 \$ 18,955.00 \$ 38,160.00
Marini Bros. Inc. 9 Lafayette Street Hackensack, New Jersey 08601	Base Bid I Base Bid II Lump Sum Alt. Bid I Lump Sum Alt. Bid II	\$183,000.00 \$218,900.00 \$ 34,280.00 \$ 14,000.00

The Board reviewed comments from the Engineer. The Mayor stated that there will be no award without grant money. The discussion will continue April 28, 2009.

Bud Ayers suggested taking the money from Fund Balance and not take on new debt.

The Board discussed a Bond Resolution in the amount of \$360,000 and the possibility of encumbering only the \$81,000 already expended.

Trustee Blomquist would like to take a look at fund balance. Trustee Moran and Trustee Gussow agreed. Trustee Devan said the Board needs to look at what makes more sense. Discussion will continue on April 20, 2009

There was a discussion on a temporary salary increase for MEO I, Tom Temple who will take on Al Bartley's responsibilities without overtime pay. An increase addresses the overtime.

Trustee Devan moved to increase the pay to Tom Temple to \$29/hour beginning April 1, 2009 through August 21, 2009 or a total of \$13,920.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Further discussion was held to approve Brooker Engineering updated fee schedule. Trustee Gussow moved to approve the new fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the motion carried.

Idling of Motor Vehicles legislation was brought to the Board's attention by Police Chief O'Shea. County Law says 3 minutes. Everyone felt this would be beneficial in Lot C and Lot D but would require signs. Trustee Devan moved to approve signage with reference to a limit of 3 minutes for idling vehicles. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Moran made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, March 17 and March 23, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$176,079.44. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the Warrant was approved.

The Police Dept. will be holding Safety Day on Friday, May 29, 2009 and will be closing the Pier for 4 hours from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Trustee Devan made a motion to allow closure of the Pier for 4 hours on May 29, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Richie Stark thanked the Board for their hard work on the new budget.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the DPW budget transfer request. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

The Board authorized the Mayor's letter to the Orangetown ZBA with reference to the Biondi/Tweed Boulevard Site Plan to be mailed.

The Community Playgroup has a lease for this year and the northeast corner classroom is not in lease. The PAL has taken back the use of that room. The Playgroup wrote a letter advising the Board that they were reducing their lease payment amount. There was no April lease payment made and they state that they will continue paying as of May 5, 2009. The Mayor requested that discussion of the 2009-2010 Community Playgroup lease continue to May 5, 2009.

Trustee Devan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.