

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

April 10, 2007

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

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

Public Comment:

Mark Lewis – 151 Tweed Boulevard – advised that with reference to the Biondi property, he would like the Village Board to request that Orangetown have a drainage expert meet with Piermont before any approval is given.

Susan Cohen – 19 Elm Street – asked if the Village was taking care of the condos on the Landing regarding garbage, recycling, snow plowing, etc. The Mayor advised that as of January 1, 2007 garbage and recycling was being picked up. Trustee Devan added that because it is private property nothing else can be done by the Village.

The agenda was moved to #4 - maintenance on the Fire Department ladder truck. Chief Goswick asked if the truck could be sent out for maintenance on April 23, 2007 and to have the \$98,000 expense paid out in June. Trustee Moran moved to allow the truck to be sent out on April 23, 2007 and to have the invoice paid after the new Fiscal Year in June 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The following resolution was presented by the Village Attorney:

Whereas, on June 20, 2006, pursuant to the provisions of New York State election Law 15-104, the Piermont Board of Trustees resolved that all Village elections be conducted by the Rockland county Board of Elections;

Whereas, on June 20, 2006, the Piermont Board of Trustees also resolved that the Village elections shall occur on the date of the General election as authorized under election Law 15-104;

Whereas, as a result of the change of the date of the elections, certain Village officials, both elected and appointed, will have their terms extended by the operation of Election Law 15-104 et. seq.;

Therefore, be it resolved, that pursuant to the provisions of the New York State election Law referenced herein, as a result of the change in the Village election from March 2007 until November 2007, that the Piermont Board of Trustees hereby resolved to extend the terms of all elected and appointed officials whose terms would have expired had the Village election been held in March of 2007 until Reorganization in December of 2007.

The Resolution was moved by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the resolution carried.

Trustee Gussow moved to waive only the rental fee for St. John's church to use the pavilion on June 24, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the motion carried.

Mayor Traynor thanked all of the Village Department Heads and Board Members for their work on the 2008 Fiscal Budget.

A motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2008 Tentative Budget was made by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the Public Hearing was opened.

Trustee Devan gave an overview of the proposed budget which included the following:

As of right now the Homestead tax rate is 4.85 and the Non-homestead is 7.28; the base proportions are 80% Homestead and 20% Non-homestead.

Paige Simon of Hudson Terrace asked what the difference in cost would be if Piermont did not have its own Police Department. Trustee Devan advised that if the Orangetown Police covered Piermont the taxes from Orangetown vs Piermont would basically be a wash. Trustee Sanders also commented that revenues received cover 10% of the Police expenses.

Mike Miller asked if the Board had raised the rate for the Veteran's exemption. The Mayor advised that they were still looking into that exemption. Mr. Miller further gave a comparison of Villages throughout the state of New York as found in a report from the State Controller's Office. Trustee Devan responded that the Villages compared are not equal and may not all be full service Villages.

Margaret Grace stated that all residents were pressed and that her Piermont taxes are only as high as her homeowner's insurance which she considered good.

Roberta Ebert suggested that residents should itemize where the budget numbers could be reduced if they have comments that the budget is too high.

Bob Samuels commented that he knows some South Nyack public officials and there is no interest in combining the Police Departments.

Laura Weiss stated that the taxes were too high but it is what it is. Nyack did away with their Police Department and she now feels that the Village of Nyack is no longer safe.

A motion by Trustee Sanders to close the Public Hearing on the 2008 Tentative Budget was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the public hearing closed.

A Special Permit application from 605 Piermont Avenue for a new deck was approved by motion of Trustee Sanders and seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Devan moved to approve the warrant in the amount of \$49,179.70. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the warrant was approved.

Trustee Sanders gave the Board copies of a proposed new R-80 District – 2 acre zoning proposed – and advised that he will work further with Walter Sevastian and will bring this back to the Board on April 24, 2007.

On April 24, 2007 the Board will appoint Roberta Ebert as alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Trustee Gussow moved to approve four (4) parking permits for the Pier to the Hudson River Fishermen's Association to hold their children's Fishing Derby and Pier cleanup on Saturday, April 21, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

At the May meeting the Board will begin discussion on amending the law with reference to the Pier based on the DEC parking area without permits.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the meeting adjourned.