

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 20, 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 of the HOA Board asked for the status of the missing railings on the walkway and if Piermont intends to repair them.

The Mayor advised that the Village replaced railings earlier but the HOA is to paint them; he is unaware of more missing pieces.

Walter Sevastian will check the agreement and will advise at the next meeting.

Anne Putko spoke to the Board about noise in Village. Businesses and residents use landscapers 3 at a time and gas powered equipment. She would like the noise ordinance revised noise less than three workers on any property at a time and provide for the use of electric devices. Also, at the last meeting permission was given for amplified music in June. Ms. Putko asked the Board to reverse last week's decision on amplified music.

The Mayor said that residents can use their property within the bounds of the law and residents should use common courtesy and be considerate of their neighbors. The Mayor and Board felt that the amplified music request was sensible. The Code requires the music to cease at 11:00 p.m.

Trustee Moran stated that electric equipment is as loud as gas.
Trustee Blomquist has an electric mower that is as loud as gas mower.

A Public Hearing continued on the 2010 - 2011 Tentative Budget.

The Mayor gave an overview of the proposed budget numbers.

Expenses only increased by .85% - revenues declined 12.03%

Public Comment –

Ms. Abrahamson of 216 Gair St. moved to Piermont 12 years ago and her total taxes were \$7,000 and are now \$19,000.

Trustee Silverberg advised everyone who believes their assessments are too high should grieve taxes in Orangetown and the School District as well as Piermont.

Joan Day - 309 Cottonwood Court – increases are unbelievable.

Peter Fauchner of 501 Gair – can we afford the services you are providing because of the cost of the employees providing this service – do we need a PD the size it is.

Richie Stark of Franklin Street commented that 3 surveys have been done on dissolution of the Police Department and all three times the residents voted to keep the department in place. The Board has been here all year and worked hard and for residents to come once a year is not fair.

The Mayor added that the Board begins mid-February to pull together the budget and all workshops are posted and open to the public; there is a public hearing on the tentative to be adopted by April 30.

Fred Devan – 109 Abbottsford Gate – the Board has turned out an honest budget through hard work. Resident's total taxes include 62% School, 23% Village and 15% Town & County. Disbanding the Police Department is not a fix. Nyack did that and taxpayers now pay third parties for the service.

Peter Fauchner asked if the residents can vote on the budget and the Attorney replied that they cannot according to State Law. Mr. Fauch suggested an outside group of residents could look at expenses and have input during the process.

Mike Miller – 101 Abbottsford Gate – commented that the fund balance appropriation is much lower than last year.

The Mayor advised that the Fund Balance is the fiscal health of the Village and liabilities could come to the Village at any minute.

Trustee Silverberg agreed that it would be irresponsible to take more money out of the Fund Balance.

The Police Department contract expired May of 2008 and is currently in binding arbitration because an agreement could not be reached.

Trustee Silverberg said that when private business revenues are down there is also less business conducted. When government revenues are down they still plow snow, pick up garbage and enforce the law.

Lou Terminello – the Village needs to look into consolidation of services or layoffs – 12% is unacceptable.

Greg Toner of Orchard Terrace commented that if spending is only up .85% then the Board has worked hard.

Trustee Silverberg made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Blomquist said that hopefully the economy will turn soon.

Trustee Moran said that the Board are all residents. In 1997 she retired and chose to be on the Board. Studies have been done on Police Department dissolution and there was no savings. The 2000 Committee was great and had very good ideas. Trustee Moran suggested bringing that kind of committee back together.

Trustee Gussow said that the Board barely increased spending and the point was not recognized and income has decreased.

Trustee Silverberg said that this was his first budget and he was impressed by the amount of work done by the Board and staff in reviewing every line of the budget. The recommendation of a committee to assist may be a good idea for next year.

The Mayor agreed with all comments and said hopefully we are reaching the end of the economic crisis.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to adoption the 2010-2011 Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. The roll was called for a vote:

Yes:	Trustee Gussow	No:	None
	Trustee Blomquist		
	Trustee Moran		
	Mayor Sanders		
	Trustee Silverberg		

Motion carried and the 2011 Fiscal Budget was adopted.

RESOLVED, that the Certificate of Current Homestead Base Proportions and Adjusted Base Proportions (forms RP 67-1 and 6703) are being made part of these minutes and pursuant to Article 19, Section 1093 of the Real Property Tax Law for the Levy of Taxes on the 2010 Assessment Roll, are hereby adopted and the Village Clerk is authorized to affix the Village Certification.

The resolution was moved by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Blomquist.

The roll was called for the vote:

Yes:	Trustee Gussow	No:	None
	Trustee Blomquist		
	Trustee Moran		
	Mayor Sanders		
Abstain:	Trustee Silverberg		

Trustee Gussow made a motion to promote Eric Holmes to the position of MEO 1. The motion was seconded by Trustee Silverberg. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to appoint Mike Bettmann, Jr. to the position of permanent Laborer. The motion was seconded by Trustee Silverberg. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Silverberg made a motion to accept a proposal from Brooker Engineering with reference to MS4 and MCC Annual Report in the amount of \$950.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

The Fire Department would like to erect a building 10' x 12' at the skating pond to accommodate a bathroom. The fire company will pay for the plumbing and the Village was asked to pay for the gravel, the road cut and road opening permit.

The Village Attorney advised that the Village would need to contact United Water, the owner of the property, to request the change to their property.

Trustee Gussow suggested using a composting toilet that does not require sewer lines. She will get information for the meeting of May 4, 2010.

Cornetta's applied for a special permit for their seasonal tent. The Attorney advised that while the permit is in effect for 30 years the code requires an annual permit. The following resolution was moved by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried

WHEREAS, Cornetta's Restaurant and Marina has, at the direction of the Piermont Building Inspector, filed an application to renew a Special Permit to erect a seasonal tent at the marina for outdoor dining during the 2010 summer season;

WHEREAS, Cornett's Restaurant and Marina have erected the seasonal tent for outdoor summer dining for a period of time in excess of 30 years;

WHEREAS, Piermont Village Code 210-76 (B) mandates that Special Permit renewal applications be granted unless the Piermont Building Inspector determines that the conditions set forth in the grant of the original Special Permit are not being complied with;

WHEREAS, the Piermont Building Inspectors has provided the Village Board with a memorandum that the conditions in the original Special Permit obtained by Cornetta's Restaurant and Marina have been, and continue to be, complied with, and that the seasonal tent will be required to comply with the New York State Building and Fire Code;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Piermont Village Board of Trustees hereby establishes itself as the Lead Agency for the purpose of review of the proposed action under the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees undertakes a SEQRA review of the proposed Special Permit renewal application and finds as follows:

1. That the Special Permit renewal application is a Type II Action under NYCRR 617.5 (19) since the Village Board is required to renew the Special Permit based on the Building Inspector's determination that the conditions of the original Special Permit continue to be complied with.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the application to renew the Special Permit to erect a seasonal tent filed by Cornetta's Marina and Restaurant is granted pursuant to the provisions of Village Code section 210-76.

The Rockland Road Bridge Preservation Covenant from the State Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation requires full public access and approvals during the course of the project.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Preservation Covenant with reference to the Rockland Road Bridge. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

A request was made by Lynn Boone to hold the 2nd Annual Junque Sculpture on Friday, June 4, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Trustee Moran made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the amended schedule for the Clearwater and Mystic Whaler to dock at the Pier. A motion by Trustee Gussow to approve was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the amended minutes of March 16, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the minutes were approved; Trustee Blomquist abstained.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$93,450.91. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the Warrant was approved.

Motion by Trustee Silverberg to authorize Walter Sevastian to communicate with the County District Attorney with reference to the State Police issued tickets was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Moran made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Trustee Silverberg. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to exit Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.