

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES METING**  
**December 17, 2008**

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 at the Piermont Library and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Burt Dorfman – 790 Piermont Avenue – thanked Chief O’Shea and Mayor Sanders for looking at his situation. He lives on the north side of Hester Street. The south side of Hester Street has no parking but trucks park there and the police have been giving them tickets. Mr. Dorfman said he would like “no parking” signs across from his house because he needs to be able to get in and out of driveway.

Mayor Sanders advised that he has been speaking with the Police Chief on this issue and the Chief will look into it further. The Mayor would like the Building Inspector to look into the situation.

Tess Delia brought to the Board’s attention a serious matter of intrusions into Hudson River would like the Village Attorney to contact her as soon as possible.

Mayor Sanders gave an update on the status of the negotiations with the PBA. The Village has been meeting with the PBA since March. Negotiations went to mediation and there were two (2) sessions. There was a meeting last Tuesday and the Mayor feels the offer on the table was a good one that included a modest increase over three (3) years. The PBA rejected the offer and negotiations will be entering Binding Arbitration which may not start until well into next year. The cost could potentially be between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

North Parking Lot Plans were discussed. Trustee Gussow said that this has been a 10 year effort and that the plan on the table is the best one in her opinion; it does not threaten residents or the Community Garden. Parking spaces and barriers have been minimally changed.

Mayor Sanders added that the Village has also spoken with the Fire Department regarding an additional storage area but feels there is a better location for this.

Piermont Rowing Club advised that the current boat area needed is 76’ and as far as redoing the corral area, they will adhere to Village Code. They asked if the yearly rental fee could be modified if there are fee involved with a new modular building.

The Mayor further advised that drainage will greatly increase with this plan.

Kevin Fagan commented that at the last meeting the Fire Department spoke about a 2 bay garage for storage and the Village Board sounded in favor. The new plan does not include this area for equipment storage & repair. Mr. Fagan strongly feels this area is necessary. He asked that the Board continue to consider this building and the growing needs of the Fire Department in the plan.

Jim Alise asked if the issue was the parking or the building. The Mayor replied both since there will be a loss of 4-5 parking spaces.

Trustee Devan felt that the Village should leave no stone unturned in working with the Fire Department. He would like at least one more meeting before any approval is made.

Trustee Gussow does not understand why the vehicles can't be moved out of the fire house since repairs are not constant. If another building is needed, it should be next to the Fire House.

Trustee Moran said she was new to this plan and she was not attached to any plan. She feels that the Village needs to work closely with the Fire Department to see what works best.

Trustee Blomquist said there are a couple of issues. There is no doubt the Fire Department is completely out of space and the Village needs to look into increasing the Fire House. Trustee Blomquist feels that the Village should meet again.

Mayor Sanders said he would like to move forward with this plan by Spring of 2009.

Trustee Audie Moran asked for 2 weeks to the next meeting, after she sees it and the Fire Department comes in with their plans.

Trustee Mark Blomquist felt that the Village could wait to the end of January to obtain cost estimates and meet again.

Mayor Sanders asked Trustee Fred Devan to work with Kevin Fagan on the cost estimates. Trustee Devan asked for approval to pay the Village Engineer.

The Mayor asked for an estimate to get the estimate in question. This item will be moved to the agenda of January 20, 2009.

Trustee Gussow made a motion go forward with the plan on the table.

Trustee Devan asked to qualify the motion that the space is potentially Fire Department property.

Trustee Moran added that she would vote if the Board promises the space to the Fire Department.

NO SECOND – motion failed.

Surcharges for special events were discussed. The Police Chief came up with \$750 when there was no road closure and \$1,500 for road closures. The DPW costs would be \$250 for all special events. A suggestion was made to bill DPW actual hours after events. A motion was made by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Fred Devan made a motion to approve the "Escape New York" request to rent the Goswick Pavilion on September 26, 2009. This is the second year for this organization and there has been no impact on the Village. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

There is a request for the Dennis P. McHugh 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Run on May 16, 2009 with a start time of 9:30 a.m. This time is a problem in the Village. The Police Chief will call and advise them that they need to move the start time back to 9 a.m. Trustee Fred Devan made a motion to approve the run on May 16, 2009 with a start time of 9 a.m. and fees of \$1,750 for Police and DPW fees. The motion was seconded by Trustee Joan Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The request to hold a Bastille Day on July 12, 2009 would involve closing Piermont Avenue between Tate Avenue & Ash Street. The estimate for Police Department fees would be \$5,000 plus DPW costs. This is being requested as a 12 hour event and depending on the success could have sponsors in future years. The Village was asked to help with the costs but could only do that in the next budget year. Chief O'Shea asked for a reduced proposal and new costs would be estimated. January 7, 2009 is the next meeting of the Merchants Association and this will be discussed.

The Mayor reported that the Community Playgroup fell short on 3 months of payments but has become current through December 2008. Their enrollment is down significantly and no one is sure of their financial state.

Trustee Audie Moran was in the building Monday and observed 2 adults and 4 children in one room.

Trustee Moran made a motion for the Village Attorney to give the Community Playgroup 30 days notice to vacate the North East room for use by PAL. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

There is a Youth Commission in the Piermont Code that is to have a chairperson and 5 members. This Commission currently does not exist and the Mayor would like to look at the PAL Board and mirror that Board. This Commission needs to notice their meetings as public.

With reference to filling the position of Building Inspector, Larry Picarello is looking for a full-time position. Letters will be sent to the first three names on the Rockland County Personnel list.

A small parcel on Liberty Street is Village property; however, the Village continues to receive complaints about cars parking there. The Mayor suggested creating permit parking at the site. This could be created by resolution at the next meeting of January 20, 2009.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2008. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$38,899.61. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the warrant was approved.

At the request of the Mayor, Trustee Devan made a motion to seek Engineer estimates on the attached list of proposed Capital Projects. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The Mayor advised that all departments should continue to cut back expenses due to the fact that revenues are not meeting the projections for this year. For example, the Village has received the second and final check for County Revenues for a total received of \$54,718.00. The budget projection was \$70,000 which leaves a \$15,282 shortfall. The Mayor also advised that Surplus Equipment was projected at \$15,000 and to date there has been no sales of vehicles.

Trustee Fred Devan reported that the May 31, 2008 Audit was finalized and shows a Fund Balance of \$283,195 which is an increase of \$210,283.

Chief O'Shea advised the Board that Jose Vega had a serious stroke and he would like to hire a part-time college age man to fill the position temporarily. The Board approved moving forward.

County Sales Tax revenue to Police now totals approximately \$38,000. The Police Chief requested the purchase of another 6-cylinder Dodge Charger for \$22,003.75. This would replace one of the 8-cylinder Crown Victoria's and when auctioned with the Building Inspector's car, there could be \$5,000-\$7,000 in sales from surplus equipment. Trustee Devan moved to approve this purchase. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Moran made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.