

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
December 21, 2010

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

Mayor Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Richie Stark – wished everyone a Happy Holiday and thanked the Board for their service. Mr. Stark also thanked Dan Goswick for helping to get Piermont Avenue light up again.

The Board reviewed a proposed amendment to Chapter 210 – Zoning - “Site Plan Review”. Dennis Michaels and the ad hoc code committee are recommending the amendments in order for the code to more adequately translate the site plan process and the board powers.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to set a Public Hearing for Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. on the proposed amendments to Chapter 210 – Zoning – Site Plan Review. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

The proposed agenda for the January 4, 2011 Reorganization Meeting was briefly reviewed.

Trustee Moran made a motion to schedule the annual Community Development Block Grant public hearing for January 18, 2011 at 7:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

Mayor Sanders explained that there was a Law Enforcement Study is being funded by the Police Chief’s Association through Asset Forfeiture Funds to look at Police consolidation, a possible County Police force, and reforms to the Taylor Law, a study of the Rockland County Police Act and other issues of enforcement. The Chief’s Association is to earmark funds for the study and not only want support of Town Supervisors and Village Mayors but also asked for Village Board support.

Chief O’Shea advised that the Chief’s Association will be asked to take money from the seizure funds for this study if approved. The Chief stated that all meetings should be public and open to everyone including the PBA; he was recently uninvited to attend a meeting of Supervisors and Mayors. The Chief is not in favor of a County Police force but supported looking at shared service. He feels that the people of Piermont are best served by the Piermont Police Department who does an excellent job. Chief O’Shea is not in favor of the study.

Trustee Silverberg asked if the Village would loose money if it supports this project. It was explained that there would be no cost to Village at this time.

Mayor Sanders that there was a significant amount of money from Police Departments in the county amounting to approximately \$75,000,000.

The Mayor asked if the Board wanted to support this study:

Trustee Gussow was not in favor of looking at consolidation but would support review of the Taylor Law.

Trustee Silverberg said that looking into consolidation only is not a good idea and it is not clear on what is being requested.

Trustee Moran was in favor of being part of the study but prefers the Village's own Police Department.

Trustee Blomquist said that consolidation only saves pennies and we need to save dollars. He would like to know exactly what the cost is.

Mayor Sanders said he was not in agreement with consolidation to a County Police force but is in support of using funds for the study.

Fred Devan asked if everyone else in the County has agreed to the study and use of the funds.

The Town of Ramapo, Village of Suffern and the Village of Spring Valley are not going to participate.

The Board was asked for their comments regarding funding the study:

Trustee Moran said yes, it would show the people in the Village ways to save money are being explored.

Trustee Blomquist want to know the cost.

Trustee Gussow felt it was the responsible thing to do and said yes.

Trustee Silverberg said that the county looking at the Taylor Law won't work, a County Police force would be a waste of money and sees nothing useful happening. He is not in favor.

The Mayor stated that he will not break the tie.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to continue the public hearing on a special permit application from the Community Market to the meeting of January 18, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Moran made a motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Silverberg and upon vote the minutes were approved four (4) in favor with Trustee Moran abstaining.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$66,384.59. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the Warrant was approved.

The Board will review a draft of amendments to off-street parking in Business B at the 2nd meeting of January.

A draft Audit for Fiscal 2010 has been received and details will be available at the 2nd January meeting.

The Village Auditors advised that there is a need for an accountant for better accounting controls. The Board is looking for a proposal by a CPA in January. It is mid year of the 2011 Fiscal and bank reconciliations are undone.

Dept. Reports:

Tom Temple said that the DPW had marked out the temporary Clerk's Office on the floor of the meeting room. He will be getting a quote from a mover tomorrow; lumber is expected to cost approximately \$700.

Mayor Sanders said that the Board would like an estimate of the project including furniture in order to move forward with start dates. There will be further discussion on January 18, 2011.

Police Department - no report

PAL – Joey Gottlieb is looking for permission to have batting cages near the ball field. PAL will use pitching machine at the site. The area could be staked out for review. Some batting cages have fenced roofs but maybe this would not be necessary.

The Mayor stated that supervision is very important. Trustee Gussow added that it should be locked for unauthorized entry.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.