

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

January 8, 2008

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

Absent: Trustee Joan Gussow

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

Public Comment:

Denese Shervington – 664 Rt. 9W – explained to the Board that she did not know if this meeting was the correct place to discuss a complaint she had filed with the Board earlier today.

The Mayor replied that the file she requested from the Building Department would be available as of tomorrow (Wednesday, January 9, 2008). Mayor Sanders added that he would be meeting with the Village Attorney and will then be in touch with her to resolve the issue.

Ivan Szendro advised the Board that the sister Villages they twined with have gotten on to a construction list for needed repairs and rebuilding will begin soon. He thanked the Board for their support. Mr. Szendro requested a committee be put in place to work on how to be more active with the sister Villages.

Al Bartley requested assistance from the Board in scheduling a meeting with Connie Coker to discuss the Rockland Road Bridge remediation. Mayor Sanders stated that he understands this has been ongoing and agrees with the need to move forward with the bridge remediation as well as other areas on the Creek. Trustee Moran said she will contact Connie Coker to attempt to set up a meeting and will work closely with the Mayor as things proceed.

Mayor Sanders moved the agenda to #5: Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the town of Ramapo for use of the Ramapo Police Firing Range. Trustee Devan moved the resolution which was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion passed 4-0 with 1 absent.

The agenda was moved to item #7: approval of Minutes.

Trustee Moran made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2007 and December 11, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the minutes were approved 3-0 with 1 absent and Trustee Blomquist abstaining.

The minutes of November 27, 2007 will be placed on the next agenda due to a lack of a quorum to approve.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$124,174.50. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the warrant was approved 4-0.

Trustee Moran made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2008 Community Development Block Grant program. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote of 4-0, the public hearing was opened.

The Village Attorney explained that Towns and Villages that belong to the Rockland County Consortium with certain income levels qualify for funds after holding a public hearing. Piermont is above those levels but would still qualify for projects that remove handicap barriers.

Mayor Sanders added that Piermont does not often qualify since the income levels are slightly too high especially with the Diplomat Gardens change. It is a great program and he recommends that Piermont remain a part of the Consortium by passing a resolution. The Mayor advised the Board that he met with Joe Abate (Director) recently and discovered there are other areas Piermont may fit into.

There were no Board comments. There were no comments from the Public.

Trustee Devan made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the public hearing was closed.

Trustee Devan made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Cooperation Agreement allowing the Village of Piermont to continue as a member of the Rockland County Consortium for participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program and HOME Investment Partnership Program. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion passed 4-0 with 1 absent.

A CDBG Committee is needed to meet and come up with projects to apply for with applications due February 1, 2008. Bob Samuels and Roberta Ebert volunteered from the residents present and Sylvia Welch and Sylvia Carbonell will continue as members of the Committee.

The Board reviewed a Special Permit application for an owner occupied 2-family at 159 Piermont Avenue. John Angelis, Building Inspector advised that in 1987 the original owner received a Special Permit for an owner occupied 2-family which, upon sale, would revert back to a 1 family. The new owners are requesting to maintain the 2 family owner occupied use. Based on its history, the Building Inspector is recommending approval of the continuance.

The Village Attorney stated that the Board can approve this by resolution based on its compliance with Chapter 210-76 of the Village Code and can require that the permit revert back to single family status upon sale.

John Angelis will reinspect the property with the Fire Inspector to assure compliance and to confirm that there have been no changes.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Special Permit at 159 Piermont Avenue, pending the Building Inspector's reinspection, and that the property revert back to single family upon future sale. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried 4-0 with 1 absent.

A resolution to declare the Fire Department Grumman Rescue Truck surplus was tabled to February 5, 2008.

Mayor Sanders made the following liaison appointments to work with department heads on budgets, vouchers and issues that may arise:

Fire Department – Mayor Sanders
Police and PAL – Trustee Devan
DPW – Trustee Gussow
Clerks Office – Trustee Blomquist
Building, Planning & Zoning – Trustee Moran

The Mayor said he would also like to create liaisons to community organizations:

Historical society – Trustee Moran
Parks Committee – Mayor Sanders suggested that this be expanded to Parks & Recreation - Trustee Gussow with Trustee Devan.
Piermont Library – Trustee Devan
Business/Merchants Association (which is a splinter group working hard to organize events) – Trustee Blomquist
HOA Boards on the Landing (to improve communications) - Mayor Sanders
Orangetown Town Council meetings and general communication with the Town of Orangetown, etc. – to be decided
County Legislature relationship – to be decided

The Mayor mentioned a few items that need further discussion at future meetings. He felt that there should be safety signs with reference to safe ice skating at the skating pond; the Clerk prepared a tentative 2009 Fiscal Budget calendar that needs to be confirmed; a procedure for FOIL requests; a review of previous studies to date on Village Hall space needs, all of which will be on the agenda of January 22, 2008. The annual review of the Investment Policy and Procurement Policy for needed revisions will be scheduled for February 5, 2008.

A workshop will be scheduled for January 15, 2008 with Richard Zuckerman if he is available, to discuss the best way to approach the Employee Agreements. Trustee Moran said this has been outstanding for quite some time and should be expedited. Trustee Blomquist agreed.

Mayor Sanders also stated that the Village needs to improve communication with a website. He suggested starting simple. Mayor Sanders will look into domain names and other details. Trustee Blomquist will also research.

Police Chief Michael O’Shea advised the Board that the PAL Thanksgiving program assisted 25 families. Chief O’Shea requested the use of the Pavilion for 6-12 year olds to participate in the Baseball Camp for this year. The Board approved of the use of the Pavilion for this purpose.

The McHugh Foundation requested a 10 a.m. start for their May run but the Police Chief recommended 9:30 a.m. He will contact them and ask for the change in time.

Al Bartley asked the Board to allow the Village Engineer to apply for permits from the DEC to remove silt from the skating pond and for dam remediation. He was asked by the Board to get a proposal for the work.

Al Bartley further advised the Board that he is having serious problems with the small dump truck and is requesting to replace it in the near future. An estimated cost would be approximately \$50,000. He is looking into state bid offerings, if any, and would like this to be considered when moving into the 2009 Budget process.

Trustee Devan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the meeting adjourned.