

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 20, 2009

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 and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Tom McArdle representative for the Gary Larson Foundation asked the Board to hold their 8th Annual Bocce Tournament July 26, 2009. They raised \$15,000 last year. Mr. McArdle also requested a fee waiver again as in the past.

Mr. McArdle was informed that the Board had adopted a fee of \$150.00 and submission of a refundable \$500 security fee for charitable organizations.

Trustee Devan made a motion to charge the Gary Larson Foundation the reduced fee of \$150.00 plus deposit for the Bocce Tournament on July 26, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Mike Miller said that he had heard that there was going to be an announcement of the proposed 2009 projects but noticed that it is not on agenda.

The Mayor advised that he was planning to go over proposed projects at the Reorganization meeting but due to the ice storm he didn't cover the "shovel ready" projects. Those projects include:

- North Parking lot
- Village Website
- Challenges in the Business District
- Mill Pond Dam
- Pond – remediation of silt
- Rockland Road Bridge
- Pier Park upgrades
- Ritie Street drainage corridor
- Tweed Boulevard drainage
- River rescue boat building
- Phase IV sidewalks
- Phase III roads
- Liberty Street paving & drainage
- Village Hall renovations

Trustee Devan stated that the Village Board must be aggressive to hold the County and State to the repairs that include Tweed Boulevard, Rt. 9W from So. Nyack to Piermont, among others.

Bob Samuels commented that there is now a Democratic Government, a Democratic Governor and a Democratic Assembly – this Village should be able to get something done now.

A Public Information meeting on MS4 Stormwater Management Implementation was scheduled for February 3, 2009 and Ken DeGennaro will make a presentation.

Motion was made by Trustee Moran to hire Timothy Burke to the position of Assistant Recreation Director of the Piermont PAL Community Center on a temporary basis, at a rate of \$10.76 per hour effective January 8, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The Board discussed the idea of permit parking on Liberty Street. Trustee Gussow felt it would become a lot for abandoned cars. Trustee Devan commented that the discussion was the result of a long standing feud among neighbors and permit parking won't solve the problem.

Public Comment - Dimitri Laddis suggested planting trees through donations of the neighborhood and continue DPW maintenance. Trustee Gussow said that willow canes could be planted there and they would also take up a lot of water.

Mayor Sanders thought it was a good idea but maintenance would be a challenge due to unknown property lines. The Village would need a survey to begin work of any kind at an approximate cost of \$1,250.

A discussion on the North Parking Lot continued from the last meeting. The property is just north of the Library with a total of 53 spaces.

Bob Samuels asked if the Board received a cost analysis on the Fire Department building originally proposed for that lot.

The Mayor replied that he had not received a cost analysis and that there are plans for a boat building at the end of the Pier and an annex on the south end of fire department building.

Bud Ayres asked if the piping under the drive area of the proposed lot will hold up under the weight of the fire department vehicles and Mayor Sanders agreed that that is a great concern.

Mr. Ayers was also concerned with having sufficient space to continue holding fire department drills in that lot. He said that the new parking is in the complete opposite direction than current. The Village may need to put up signs or cones in the northern most section of the proposed lot when the fire department holds drills.

Al Bartley felt that the fire department would adapt to the new layout. He did not think that the weight from the vehicles would hurt the lot but he will check with Ken DeGennaro. The fire department may need to drill somewhere else.

Trustee Blomquist will make a presentation on a revenue generating plan at the next meeting on February 3, 2009.

Tracey Cushner suggested parking meters or a charge of some kind in the proposed lot.

The Mayor asked the Board to authorize the Village Engineer to prepare a proposal on bid documents for the north parking lot. The Board agreed and the Mayor said he would ask that the proposal be prepared for the February 3 meeting.

Trustee Moran made a motion to enter into a License Agreement for the use of the Town of Ramapo Police Firing Range. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried. The Village Clerk will get the necessary insurance certificate naming the Town of Ramapo additional insured.

A request from the Friends of the Piermont Library was made to use the Pavilion on September 12, 2009 for the Crab Fest with a waiver of all fees. The Board recently made a decision to charge non-profit groups a fee of \$150 to rent the Pavilion and require them to post a refundable security fee of \$500.

A contract with Perception Electronics for computer services in the Police Department, Court and Building Department has been given to the Board. The start date of the contract will be changed to read "to begin June 1, 2008", end May 31, 2010 and includes a revised Schedule A. Trustee Devan made a motion to approve this contract with Perception Electronics. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

The Mayor opened the continuation of the Public Hearing on the application by New Cingular Wireless for site plan approval.

A representative for AT&T advised the Board they were looking for site plan approval having completed required meetings with the ZBA. All eight (8) columns of the cupola will have antennas on them instead of the original plans for six (6) columns.

The Village Attorney advised that the Board had passed a resolution referring New Cingular wireless to the Architectural Review Board, the Planning Board and the ZBA; had declared lead agency and passed a negative declaration. Mr. Sevastian has prepared a resolution of approval.

No board comments

Trustee Devan commented that the property owner has not rectified a violation against him for tree replacement and is due to appear in court tomorrow evening. Attorney Walter Sevastian advised that the violation cannot hold up this approval.

There was no public comment.

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

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

Trustee Moran made a motion to open a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to Chapter 210-79(B), Chapter 175-11(A), Chapter 174-17.1 and Chapter 174-17.2. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the public hearing was opened.

The County of Rockland Department of Planning made seven (7) recommendations upon their review of the amendments. All referrals were made and no other responses were received by the Village Clerk.

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The Board had passed Environmentally Sensitive Sites legislation increasing the slope of 25% to read 40%.

The County suggested that the “waiver section be removed”. The Board discussed this suggestion and the Attorney recommended leaving the waiver section in place.

There was no public comment.

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

Trustee Moran made a motion to adopt Local Law #1 – 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote Local Law #1 – 2009 was adopted.

Trustee Devan made a motion to open a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant application. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the public hearing was opened.

Sylvia Welch advised the Board that the Village of Piermont does not usually qualify for many projects except improvements to public property for handicap accessibility. At a meeting of the CDG Committee on December 16, 2008, all present agreed on the need for handicap accessibility at the Community Center especially in light of the fact that the Village may make public use of part of the building. The application will be seeking \$125,000 with the Village matching with \$5,000.

Board comments:

Trustee Gussow questioned the Village being able to afford a match toward this project.

Trustee Blomquist asked if we apply for the grant and can't put in our share of the money, what would happen. The grant would be lost if the project cannot be completed.

Trustee Moran commented that the Village applied for the elevator last year.

There were no public comments.

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

Resolved, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and submit all documents in order to effectuate an application for 2009 Community Development Grant funds to make the Community Center on Hudson Terrace ADA compliant by providing handicap access as presented by the CDBG Committee:

1. Removal of Handicap Barriers – Community Center (\$125,000)

This resolution was moved by Trustee Audie Moran and seconded by Trustee Mark Blomquist.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

A request from the R.C. Police Emerald Society to hold their annual 5K Run on Sunday, May 3, 2009 was discussed by the Board. The fee for closing the road and for DPW cleanup totals \$1,750 and they will be told that the run must begin at 9 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the R.C. Police Emerald Society 5K run for May 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. with expenses paid in the amount of \$1,750. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the warrant in the amount of \$113,881.94. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the warrant was approved.

Trustee Moran asked how the Village could go about retrieving the many records still in the possession of the former Village Attorney at his residence. The Village Attorney, Walter Sevastian will make the request that the records be returned.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to extend an agreement with the Town of Ramapo for Building Inspector services through February 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Mayor Sanders reminded the Board that the Village had received plans from Orangetown for the Biondi site development. After review, comments were compiled into a letter to be forwarded to the Orangetown Planning Board.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to authorize the Village Clerk to forward comments dated December 26, 2008 to the Orangetown Planning Board, the Piermont Planning Board, the Orangetown Town Board, R.C. Dept. of Planning, Piermont Building Inspector and the NYS DOT. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the motion carried.

Al Bartley advised the Board that he had notified the family of Eleanor Stroud that there would be a grand opening of the Eleanor Stroud Park at the skating pond on Saturday February 7, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Bartley also reminded the Board that there needs to be some kind of policy to determine the safety of the ice at the skating pond. Chief O'Shea suggested that he contact Orangetown Parks & Recreation to see how they handle Veteran's Park.

A report from NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) regarding a recent inspection of Village property will be discussed on February 3, 2009.

During the recent snow storm, there was an accident with the 2006 Dump while salting roads that destroyed the snow plow. It will cost an estimated \$5,000 to \$6,000 to replace. The Village Clerk will send the incident report to the insurance company to determine coverage and deductible.

Trustee Devan made a motion to replace the snow plow with funds from the contingency account until insurance coverage is determined. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Devan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.