

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES METING
June 16, 2009

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

Trustee Audie Moran - Absent

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

Public Comment:

Margaret Grace and Linda Hacker are both dog owners and requested a dog run/park fenced and locked for use by residents only near the Rittenberg Ballfield. There are residents that will donate the chain link fencing to be installed hopefully by the DPW; maintenance will be done by owners using the area by cleaning up after their dogs.

Walter Sevastian advised the Board that they would need to amend the leash law and to keep in mind that the height of the fence will be very important.

The Mayor asked Margaret Grace and Linda Hacker to develop some rules and regulations for presentation to the Board at the July 14, 2009.

Continuation of Public Hearing – Fees, Parades and Special Events:

The Village Attorney explained that when the Board looked at adding a fee for Special Events, it lead to the Parade Law which required the addition of a Special Event and amendments to the schedule of fees.

Mayor Sanders advised that two laws would need to be amended.

Walter Sevastian told the Mayor that the Board had already passed a SEQRA resolution.

Ray Icobelli said that the Applefest requires one police officer and a few barricades. The amendments would require \$3,500 to be paid for the event.

The Mayor replied that the Village would then research exact expenses involved with the event and the unused balance, if any, would be refunded.

Mr. Icobelli stated that he had been approved for the date by the Board and the property owner and would like to think the fee does not apply to this years Applefest. The Mayor responded that that is a fact, the fees do not apply to this year.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Blomquist and seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the Public Hearing closed.

There are two (2) local laws to look at and the Board will separate them and address them individually.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve amendments to Chapter 141 entitled Parades, Processions and Special Events. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

With reference to amending the Fee Schedule, Trustee Blomquist said that at the last meeting the Village Attorney suggested that the Village limit the number of events held.

Trustee Devan agrees with Trustee Blomquist and does not want to pass new fees at all. He further stated that there is a bad economic situation in the world and use of the Village is good for the Village. He also does not want to discourage those that come in every year.

Trustee Gussow said she was troubled by the Village cost to hold these events but understands the situation that Trustee Devan spoke of and maybe a single fee would be a good idea.

It was suggested that the Special Event fee could be one as a flat fee.

The Village of Nyack only permits one special event per weekend and this could be another option for inclusion in the special event law.

The agenda was moved to #7 – stop sign at Ladik Street and Ohio Street.

Ivanya Alpert of Liberty Street has lived there a year and does not think the traffic and speeds are not just an issue of drivers missing the “dead end” and there are people parking on the street on weekends.

Bill Cavanaugh – Liberty Street – said that at the turn there is an obstruction and drivers from out of town aren't aware of the curve in the road. There are 16 children living in that area now.

Chief O'Shea looked at the area and advised that a stop sign should be addressed immediately. He further stated that he was on duty on June 6 when the “Children at Play” sign was run over.

The residents agreed that every time the police are called, they responded immediately and they thanked Chief O'Shea.

Trustee Devan made a motion to set a Public Hearing for July 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. with reference to a Stop Sign at Ladik & Ohio Streets. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

A motion to open a Public Hearing with reference to Fireman Parking on Tate Avenue was made by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the Public Hearing was opened.

Trustee Blomquist explained that the volunteer housing on Tate Avenue only has two parking spots. The firemen need to get to their cars quickly and would like to be able to park on Tate Avenue to be able to respond in a timelier manner.

Walter Sevastian stated that it would require adding Section 190-15.3 Fireman Only Parking Zones and will need a neg dec if the Board intends to adopt.

Public comment: none

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

Trustee Devan declared a neg dec under SEQRA. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to adopt Section 190-15.3 as written. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

The Sidewalk Bistro would like to hold Bastille Day on July 11, 2009 from noon to 10 p.m.

Rich Esnard advised that the owner would like to close Piermont Avenue and have all the restaurants put tables and chairs on sidewalk.

Mayor Sanders said that the first request was a 10 hour event for a Sunday with a fee of approximately \$5,000 to seal off Piermont Avenue. This request is for Saturday from noon to 10 p.m.

Trustee Devan advised that he would approve this with the qualification for an offsetting fee be paid to help defray the cost to the Village.

Trustee Gussow and Trustee Blomquist agree.

Mayor Sanders said it is important to bring people into the Village and this event is a great idea although, it is a challenge in blocking off Piermont Avenue on a Saturday.

Alain Eigenmann of the Sidewalk Bistro said that 90% of businesses approve; John McAvoy of the Turning Point wants insurance for the lot across the street for bocce; the stores and restaurants could stay open later to allow more business. He still needs to speak with Phil Griffin. He has three sponsors for the event.

Mr. Eigenmann was told that he may want to restrict serving alcohol to indoors only. He agreed that each business will restrict liquor leaving their establishment.

Walter Sevastian advised that alcohol consumption on a public street would be ticketed. He further stated that Mr. Eigenmann would need to get an insurance certificate naming Village of Piermont additional insured for \$1,000,000.

With reference to traffic, the Police Chief advised that traffic will be rerouted through Piermont Landing or up Tate Avenue.

Mayor Sanders questioned tables being put out on the sidewalk.

The Village Attorney said that approval of the event would be giving license to businesses to conduct business outside.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve Bastille Day for July 11, 2009 based on a fee to offset Village expenses. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote, the motion was carried.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve a proposal from Brooker Engineering to complete the MS4 Annual Report in the amount of \$950. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The DPW is experiencing an employee shortage; James Goswick will be out until the end of June, Jason Mounier is on light duty and Ed Miggins is out on medical leave. Al Bartley is requesting to hire Joe Palkovic as a seasonal worker that could later be hired on a permanent basis. The Mayor advised that the Board would need to look into budget issues and also needs to sit down with Joe Palkovic for further discussion

Trustee Gussow made a motion to hire a seasonal employee for the period July 28, 2009 through August 21, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist and upon vote the motion carried.

Xaviers Restaurant has requested the use of the Pavilion for August 17, 2009. A letter will be sent to them approving the use and putting them on notice about clean up procedures. If the Pavilion is left in a poor state requiring surrendering their \$500 deposit, they will not be approved in the future.

The composition of the Piermont Recreation Commission mirrors the PAL Board. The PAL has placed Mr. Peter Cocker on leave. Trustee Gussow made a motion to remove Peter Cocker from the position of member and chair of the Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Jon Zeltsman of the Farmer's Market requested a renewal of an existing Special Permit to operate the Farmer's Market on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the period of May 31 to November 22, 2009.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the renewal of the Special Permit with reference to the Farmer's Market. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Walter Sevastian reported that Rockland County wants ownership of Lot S to be taken over by the Village at a cost of the current unpaid taxes. The property was last checked for PCB's in 1996. The consensus of the board was not favorable.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the minutes were approved.

A motion by Trustee Devan to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$219,700.99 was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the Warrant was approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.