

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 24, 2008

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

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

An Executive Session was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Trustee Devan made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried. Al Bartley, DPW Supervisor, and Jason Mounier MEOI were also in attendance.

A motion by Trustee Devan to exit Executive Session was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried,

Public Comment:

Mayor Sanders asked everyone to please join him in a moment of silence for Bill Goswick, former Mayor of Piermont, who recently passes away.

Fire Dept. Chief Kevin Fagan assumed that the Fire Department was on the agenda regarding the construction of a storage building across from the Fire House where the tent currently stands. The proposed building would be a 60'x50', or possibly 40'x60', steel structure on a slab. The building would be used to store and repair the boats and equipment with the entrance facing the Cameron residence. The tent in that space is only 20'x40'.

Mayor Sanders advised Chief Fagan that he had previously spoken with Lawrence Goswick and advised that a huge project is in the planning stages for the entire lot where this building would be. The building would need to fit into the whole plan which may not be presented by the Village Engineer until September, or later. Mayor Sanders told Chief Fagan that this building proposal will be considered in that lot plan. Chief Fagan asked to be kept in the loop on the project.

Robert Ebert asked if anything could be done about the dumpsters for the View. When the doors of the surround are open, you can see garbage everywhere and the lids on the dumpsters are never closed.

The Village Attorney said it could be treated as a property maintenance issue. The Mayor will alert the Building Inspector of the problem.

Trustee Moran made a motion to open a Public Hearing on Amendments to the Zoning Code with reference to Definitions and Word Usage. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the Public Hearing was opened.

Mayor Sanders advised that these amendments were meant to clarify terms used in the Village Code. Comments from County Planning were received and there were 2 recommendations; one on "Line, Street" and one on "Lot Line, Rear".

Richard Stark questioned page 1 – "lot coverage" – was there a previous definition and would a long driveway be considered part of the property footprint.

The Mayor advised that this is a new definition and that a long driveway would be considered part of the foot print under this definition.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to continue public hearing to July 22, 2008 at 8:45p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist.

Kim McDonald of JNS Enterprises made a presentation on Municipal Tower Ownership. Ms. McDonald explained that she met the Mayor at the NYCOM Conference and briefly discussed a tower on the Pier. What her company does is develop a site at no cost to the Village – market the area the Village designates, maintain and manage the site, the Village owns the tower, and the revenue sharing is 50% of revenue on the tower. Total rent on a tower is usually \$2,000 with a 3% annual increase.

Jeff Staley, Pres. & CEO advised that an average of 4 users can be accommodated dependent on the height of the tower and that his firm survives all future Boards and continues to operate the tower for the Municipality

Mayor Sanders mentioned that the existing provider at the Fire House lot tower looked to add to the current tower years ago. He further commented that an alternate location would be the Community Center, however, not a first choice.

Curt Lowey asked what happens if a service provided prefers a secondary site. Mr. Staley said he hadn't dealt with that but most will compromise sites if their needs are accommodated.

Walter Sevastian noted that Piermont does not have a Telecommunications Law in place and we should look to draft one.

Richard Stark stated that he likes the idea of the Village owning the tower but when you expand the site, who pays for the construction.

Trustee Moran would support the flag pole idea but is concerned with the appearance of the base. Ms. McDonnell said she will email a picture of how the base looks.

Trustee Blomquist commented that the Village would be foolish not to take the next step.

Ms. McDonnell will follow up with the Mayor and get contact information for the current provided, make some contacts and get back to the Village.

Item #5 "Review of Procurement and Investment Policies" was tabled to the August 12, 2008 meeting.

A no parking zone across from 171 Hudson Terrace would need a Public Hearing to identify the area in the code. This matter will be discussed in the near future, date uncertain, after a discussion with the Building Inspector.

A simple Resolution naming Rockland Road Bridge environs as a Piermont Heritage Area will be available from the Attorney at the July 22, 2008 meeting. The Village Attorney advised that the Village can designate Heritage Areas without zoning restrictions.

Rich Esnard stated that he is currently working on a project cataloging historic sites in Piermont in that area.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to authorize the Mayor to submit an application to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation for funding in support of the restoration and enhancement of the Rockland Road Bridge and upon approval of said submission, to execute a project agreement. This motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Gussow made a motion authorizing the Mayor to submit an application to the NYS DOT for funding in support of the restoration and enhancement of the Rockland Road Bridge and upon approval of said submission, to execute a project agreement. This motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Trustee Gussow to designate the "Erie Path Right-of-Way" as parkland in the Village of Piermont, hereafter to be identified as Station Park. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Devan made a motion to accept a proposal of \$21,000 submitted by Brooker Engineering for the Concept Plan Phase and Construction Drawing Phase of the Municipal Parking, to be paid from the Engineering line of the 2009 Budget, to be reimbursed by grant money if applicable. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Curt Lowey asked if this was on an hourly rate

Richard Stark asked if this was the final design plan and was told that it was and was a combination of all recommendations from the Village Board, Planning Board, etc.

Service Award Trust – Trustee Blomquist and Deputy Clerk Manne met with Gene Heter, agent for the Service Awards Program, about switching from whole life insurance to term insurance. This would increase the coverage by \$40,000. Also discussed was the transfer of funds to Empire National Bank to earn a higher interest rate. This funds transfer necessitates the need to create a new trust and appoint new trustees as authorized signers.

A motion was made by Trustee Gussow to appoint Trustee Mark Blomquist, Mayor Christopher Sanders and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Caryn Manne as trustees of the Service Award Trust. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

A request was made by Rutgers to use the Pier to conduct four seasonal samplings during 2008 and 2009. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the request was granted.

Columbia/Lamont-Doherty asked to dock the Seawolf at the Pier in July. However, the dates were not clear stated. Trustee Gussow will contact them for clarification.

A motion was made by Trustee Gussow to approve the request of the Ladies Auxiliary – Veterans of Foreign Wars to hold a brief candle light vigil on September 11th, 2008 at the Memorial on the Pier. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the request was approved.

Trustee Moran made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2008. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$285,192.29. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the Warrant was approved.

The Mayor recently became aware of the Building Inspector taking the Village car home. In 2006 he was authorized to use the vehicle daily for Village business. The Mayor feels he should not be taking the vehicle home.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to restrict the use of the vehicle being driven by the Building Inspector to within the Village unless on Village business. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried.

Walter Sevastian will be scheduling a meeting with Patricia Finn, Esq. and a representative of the Community Playgroup regarding the execution of the lease.

The Attorney reported to the Village that the County of Rockland does not have the title insurance for Lot S. The Village will not be purchasing this property.

Police Chief O'Shea gave the Board his May Report and advised that he had received a \$5,000 grant for DWI checkpoints.

Chief O'Shea further reported that Officer Bernard Brown arrested two suspects in break-ins in Piermont and in possession of GPS systems that were stolen.

Al Bartley reported that July 26, 2008 was Pier Clean-up Day from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

The energy audit results were distributed and the largest savings will be in Village Hall, the Fire House and the Community Center.

Trustee Blomquist advised that the Fire Department Rescue Truck is going to auction in 2 weeks. The Village Board will declare the 2003 Durango surplus at the July meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Trustee Devan, seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the meeting adjourned.