

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**March 3, 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:

Peter Cocker – PAL – Joey Gottlieb has found a multipurpose vehicle for use at the fields, snow removal and also emergency use for rescues on trails. The cost is \$10,000 and there is an opportunity to either buy outright or lease/purchase.

Trustee Devan asked how much PAL would be contributing and he was told it would all come out of the Village budget.

Trustee Gussow had no problem going to bid.

Trustee Blomquist as if all attachments included and was told they are, all but water pump.

Trustee Moran agreed with going to bid.

Presentation of Certificates with reference to the Skating Pond was tabled until the next meeting.

Moved to #4 – Rockland County is offering to charge for treatment of Village catch basins. The Board questioned if this was required since it just runs off into river. The Board was advised that the County uses a briquette that sinks and releases slowly. DEC said Piermont can do it with a license per Public Health Law - license to administer insecticide to aquatic pests plus a DEC permit. Another letter is coming out looking to spread cost over time. The County Health Dept. determines if Piermont is a breeding ground. The treatment would cost \$1,036.00. Village Attorney Walter Sevastian informed the Board that other towns and villages have pushed back on this fee program and the county was reconsidering the arrangement. The county will be sending another letter updating the terms.

Mike Miller commented that the Landing has 25 catch basins and asked if they could be included and not charged.

Trustee Devan made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a Preservation Covenant between the State of New York, the Piermont Historical Society and the Village of Piermont with reference to the Piermont Station. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

A motion by Trustee Gussow to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009 was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$30,910.68. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the warrant was approved.

Old/New Business – The Mayor gave an update on the Building Department – 9 candidates were interviewed and there are 2 more to go. They should all be complete by the end of this week.

Trustee Moran moved to extend an agreement between the Town of Ramapo and the Village of Piermont Building Department and Code Enforcement services through April 30, 2009. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow asked what was discovered about the poultry running loose in the Village and was advised that the rooster was captured but the chickens were still free, as well as the Guinea Hens. The owner came to court and denied ownership and has no concern for them. A neighbor has asked that we amend the code to include chickens.

Trustee Devan wants to legalize the Community Center work being done by the PAL (painting and refurbishing) by Board approval. He would like to see a list of the improvements; the budget used for the work and is whether this is a PAL or Village expense.

Mayor Sanders and Trustee Gussow met with the Rowing Club and the March 17, 2009 Agenda will include a revision to corral.

Trustee Blomquist was approached by Fire Department volunteers about parking for the Tate housing. There are 2 parking spaces and 5 apartments. The Fire Department asked if the Village could reserve 3 parking spots on Tate for these units. Trustee Blomquist is working with Chief O'Shea to allow permit parking.

The Orangetown Planning Board has referred a subdivision in Orangetown to the Village of Piermont. Orangetown ZBA recognized previously written comments and comments are not requested by the Planning Board. This was referred to the Piermont Planning Board.

We have received invoices for the Ash Street drainage work and Ellen Jaffee has been working with the Village to expedite our Grant money. The Mayor has written another letter to Ellen Jaffee and has asked the Clerk to mail it in the morning.

Trustee Moran made a motion to open the Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the Public Hearing was opened.

Walter Sevastian advised that the Board was considering adding fees to reduce the cost associated with running an event due to the use of Village services and street closings for some organizations. The current fee law states there is to be a Public Hearing to adopt changes. Draft language was put together but needed a lot of research. The Emerald Society objected to fees not imposed as a result of a Public Hearing and considered the fees a restraint of their 1<sup>st</sup> Amendments Rights. Amendments to the fee schedule would also include parades.

Mayor Sanders said that the code allows amendments by resolution following a public hearing. The Board first tried for March 17 which would preclude the Emerald Society from attending and then tried for March 3. The legal notice was sent out immediately but was not printed until Friday which is not enough notice.

The Village Attorney advised that the public hearing was opened and the Board should take comments. He asked that the Board please hold the hearing open for further research.

Mayor Sanders opened the floor to public comment.

Brian Nugent – Rockland County Emerald Society presented a letter stating their position. We still have an objection to the fees and procedures. This is a new fee not tied to any local law. They have held this race for 9 years and the 10<sup>th</sup> year receive a letter advising of the fees. It is too late to change locations

The Mayor clarified that the Village is not billing for police services and wants to clarify these fees to be an “event fee” after researching costs to the Village.

Walter Sevastian acknowledged receipt of Mr. Nugent’s letters but stated that he does not respond to all correspondence stating an organization’s positions.

Two other speakers were opposed to the fees; five speakers were in favor of the fees.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to March 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the Public Hearing will be continued.

Trustee Blomquist made a presentation on Cost Containment and Revenue Generation. The Clerk will file a copy in the office.

The Mayor and Board thanked Trustee Blomquist for his hard work in putting the presentation together.

The Village Attorney advised the Board about pending litigation. Ms. Denese Shervington bought a home in Piermont in 2005 and sold in 2007. At the time of the sale, an illegal kitchen had to be torn out at a cost of \$35,000. She is making a \$55,000 demand in her lawsuit and the Village Insurance carrier is advising that the Village not pay. The Board consensus was to agree with the Insurance carrier.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.