

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

March 6, 2007

Present: Mayor Edward Traynor, Deputy Mayor Fred Devan, Trustees Joan Gussow, Chris Sanders, Audie Moran, Walter Sevastian, Esq.-Village Attorney, Denise Ehrhart- Village Clerk-Treasurer

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

Public Comment:

Dan Sherman – spoke to the Board about Cowboy Fields stating that the Orangetown School Board was appraising surplus property and that residents have been meeting with the Board. If it goes to sale they would notify interested parties. Alan Beers has contacted the School Board several times over the last few years and Legislator Connie Coker is working with Mr. Beers to develop a right-of-first-refusal. This property would become part of the Rockland County Open Space Program (approximately 32 acres).

Karen Brown asked if Diplomat Gardens had been sold. The Mayor said he was aware of the situation and that they were being converted to condominiums. He said he was concerned since it would be displacing many families.

Richard Stark gave the Board estimated data he found online on the construction of buildings using the sq. ft. figures for Village Hall.

Resident Art Rittenberg passed away on Friday March 2, 2007 and Chief O'Shea asked the Board to name the ball field at the Pavilion in his honor. He would like to have a dedication ceremony in June and put up a plaque. The enclosed resolution was moved by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Sanders. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Village received 3 proposals for Construction Management with reference to Village Hall renovations which will be reviewed by the Village Attorney. He will report back to the Board in May 2007.

Dennis Hardy would like the matter of Village Hall renovations to be presented as a Referendum in November for resident vote. He stated that it can either be placed on the ballot or the residents could get a Permissive Referendum.

Walter Sevastian advised that a Village Board Referendum is for certain things only and is binding. A Permissive Referendum required a petition of 20% of all registered voters when it is regarding finances.

At the meeting on May 8, 2007 the Board will discuss the proposals and a possible referendum.

Bill Herguth said he thought he had heard that the cost of renovations to Village Hall was too high. Mayor Traynor said the proposals were regarding an estimate to determine the cost. Mr. Herguth feels that anything over \$500,000 should be tabled and that the Village should build something more suitable.

Richard Stark stated that if the RFPs received need to be analyzed it may be that they were not drawn up correctly and may need to be redone.

John McAvoy asked if the numbers include what happens during construction and that temporary offices could be costly. Costs being discussed should include temporary housing.

Dennis Hardy – if there are going to be renovations the Board should consider a Clerk of the Works for the project. The Board agrees with Mr. Hardy.

DEC Parking at the Pier – Chief O’Shea advised that the DEC would complete the project by the end of March installing a small lot at the end of the Pier. Walter Sevastian called the DEC Attorney who directed him to Betsy Blair who will present the Village with a schematic in 2 to 3 weeks. Chief O’Shea feels that enforcement will be very difficult.

Bob Samuels said he goes out on the Pier almost every day and would like to see no traffic. He would like to see it made a walking park only. He asked if once the lot is striped, can the Village still change their mind to ban traffic and the answer was yes.

Moved agenda to #7 – Trustee Sanders stated that the Library was due to open and the Village needs to give them a C/O. While there are no safety issues and the building is safe, issues exist in the site plan drainage and catch basins.

1. one catch basin not installed and the Village will complete
2. a second catch basin was buried 6” too low
3. the catch basin installed on the northern end where the Village lot will be was done incorrectly.

Ken DeGennaro – Brooker Engineering – gave the Board a memo (attached). Certain surveys have not been received from the Library which will delay solutions.

The Village Attorney said that the Village can issue a temporary C/O and request a performance bond.

Mr. Sevastian will write a letter to John Angelis to issue a temporary C/O and ask the Library to provide a performance bond to complete the work in 90 days.

Trustee Devan advised Brooker Engineering that they need to meet with Al Bartley about the Sidewalk improvements.

A resolution to set a Public Hearing on a proposed franchise agreement with Verizon for March 27, 2007 at 8:30 p.m. was moved by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the Public Hearing was scheduled.

Chief O’Shea asked that the 2003 Police vehicle be declared surplus adding that the Village may be able to get \$5,000-\$7,000 at County Auction. Motion by Trustee Devan and seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Phase III Sidewalks – Al Bartley will be meeting with Brooker Engineering.

Rutgers University requested access to the Pier to collect air and water samples. They will be asked to come before the Board on March 20, 2007 to give further information.

A motion was made by Trustee Gussow to grant permission to the Hudson River Fisherman's Assoc. to use the Pier after 9:00 p.m. on March 28 and April 13, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the motion carried.

A motion by Trustee Gussow to approve the minutes of February 20, 2007 was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the minutes were approved.

A motion was made by Trustee Devan to approve the warrant in the amount of \$79,590.49. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the warrant was approved.

Al Bartley advised the Board that the Highway Department will be holding its second annual Open House on May 26, 2007.

Jim Alise advised the Board that the Fire Department budget was completely spent and that they need to use contingency funds to continue paying their invoices through the end of the year. The Village Clerk will provide the Mayor with a year-to-date budget report in the morning.

Trustee Sanders moved a Resolution regarding Planning Board #06-31 with concerns on drainage from 311 Tweed Boulevard (see attached). The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the meeting adjourned.