

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 17, 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:

Kevin Murphy – a film student attending William Patterson University would like to film on the Pier on April 4 but is concerned with the fees of \$250/hr. and asked if it can be waived. Mayor Sanders asked the Police Chief if that is the student fee and was told that the student fee was \$50 per day plus a \$250 application fee and insurance. Mr. Murphy had misunderstood the fees.

Ivan Szendro advised the Board that their sister village sent acknowledgement from the embassy thanking Piermont for their support. He also had a letter from the Hungarian Mayor inviting all to visit Hungary the end of July for Hungarian Day when Ivan will tell the Legend.

Alberto Bruffi – Sparkill Creek Preservation – recovery act makes funding available to remove River Herring from the creek and for the removal of barriers preventing fish from swimming upstream to spawn. He reports that the DEC and Army Corps of Engineers are in favor of this project. Mr. Bruffi would like this “shovel ready” with permits complete at the time Federal funding becomes available. He had the applications available and gave them to the Mayor.

Mayor Sanders invited Mr. Bruffi to attend a meeting on April 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. on the Ferdon Mill Pond. Mr. Ed Devine and Connie Coker will be attending.

When Trustee Moran asked how much money would be available Mr. Bruffi was not sure.

Joanne Tuttle reminded the Board about the raw sewage spilling into the creek and asked if there were any updates.

The Mayor will be meeting Supervisor’s office to discuss this with the County Health Department to determine where this is coming from. The Mayor told her to phone the Police Department for them to take photos and file an incident report.

Commendations were presented to the Fire Department for their work on the restoration of the Skating Pond.

Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Fee Schedule was continued from March 3, 2009.

The Village Attorney advised that the Board adjourned the Public Hearing on special event fees. A resolution added fees for special events and was opposed by the Emerald Society for many reasons.

Upon investigation, Mr. Sevastian found that there is a good deal of litigation on record. The Board now needs to amend 2 local laws. The Village will need to renounce the Public Hearing to include the parade law.

Public comments:

Roberta Ebert – asked if it is fair to charge a fee for the Crabfest.

Walter Sevastian replied that that was a good question and was the purpose of this law.

Ed Stoker – Pres. R.C. Emerald Society – fee waivers being discussed were in our correspondence. The Emerald Society is a Piermont resident with a Post Office box in Piermont. He asked that the Board think of the overall effects on a charity.

Bud Ayers told the Board that he believes that when the Pavilion was put together by the Fire Department and PAL it was for their use with no charge and Piermont residents only.

Richie Stark added that the residents are paying for the maintenance of all parks.

Bill Herguth – asked that the Board reconsider the entire event idea – residents come first.

Barbara Riso submitted a letter in favor of the fees. Bill & Gayle Elson wrote a letter in favor of fees. The Emerald Society is not in favor.

The Emerald Society thanked the Board for their considerations.

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

Trustee Devan asked if the Village could cover special events for Fiscal year ending 5/31/09. In the new Fiscal year the money will not be there.

Trustee Gussow agrees with Trustee Devan.

Trustee Moran also agrees.

Trustee Blomquist also agrees but said the Village needs a fee schedule for the future.

Mayor Sanders said that the Village set out to offset expenses to the Village by establishing fees with the DPW and Police Department. With the comments before the Board, we could look to cover all fees with the law or offset some of the fees.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to schedule a public hearing on amendments to the fee schedule for special events and for amendments to the parade law for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 8 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the Public Hearing was scheduled.

Trustee Moran made a motion to waive the street closure fees for the Emerald Society and the McHugh Run. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the fees were waived.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to set the Public Hearing on the 2010 Tentative Budget for Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Tax Grievance Determinations were reviewed. The Board is asking Brian Kenney to check all listing with a question mark (?). The Board will continue their review and approval on March 19, 2009.

The Piermont Rowing Club presented a new plan with roofing differences (“pergola roof”) for their corral.

Trustee Moran agreed with the plan.

Trustee Gussow asked if there could be more open with less cross support pieces. The Mayor confirmed that the new plan was for a flat roof instead of trussed. He would like to involve Dan Sherman and the Parks Commission and that the suggested east/west placement may be worth looking into.

Mike Miller agreed with east/west placement.

The review of the Brooker Engineering fee schedule was tabled to the next meeting.

Trustee Devan made a motion to waive the Pavilion security fees for Empire Hose on the dates of their three events. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the motion carried.

There was a request to hold a Piermont High School Reunion at the Community Center Gymnasium on November 8, 2009. Max capacity will be looked into. The Board approved the event with a fee of \$150.00 and a refundable security deposit of \$500 (same as the Pavilion rentals) along with an insurance certificate naming the Village additional insured.

The Court of St. Anne #866 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas has requested that the Board proclaim April 18, 2009 as CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT ST. ANNE #866 DAY. A motion was made by Trustee Blomquist to do so and the motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Devan made a motion to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$111,455.29. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the warrant was approved.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to authorize Mayor Sanders to respond to the Orangetown Planning Board on an application recently received. The motion was seconded and upon vote the motion carried.

Chief O’Shea presented his January and February reports to the Board. He also advised that Detective Holihan made 6 arrests on the Pier with reference to the number of fish caught. The Chief advised that he had turned in his PAL budget to the Clerk and that there are now 900 kids in the program.

A motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters was made by Trustee Moran and seconded by Trustee Blomquist. Upon vote the Board entered Executive Session.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Trustee Gussow and seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the Board resumed public session.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.