

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 4, 2010

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

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

Public Comment:

Bob Samuels – with reference to increasing revenue, he asked if a fee could be charged for Piermont providing river rescues.

The Mayor advised that the service is contracted out and Central Nyack has that contract. He doesn't believe there can be a charge.

Kevin Fagan reported that damaged gear from the last dive was given to Central Nyack who is billing the Thruway Authority.

Trustee Moran said that she had emailed Connie Coker to see if there was any compensation available but she never heard from her. Another attempt will be made.

Margaret Grace of the Piermont Community Dog Run will be holding a grand opening on May 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Contracts will be ready for residents to bring into the Clerk's office to pick up a key. Ms. Grace also mentioned that she had written an article for the newsletter on a Muni Meter system that could be looked into as a source of revenue. Visitors in summer don't know where public parking is and the Village needs signs indicating public parking.

Dennis Hardy mentioned the illegal signs put up by Phil Griffin regarding parking for restaurants and landing only.

Walter Sevastian said he would like to see the site plan and resolution approving the development of the property.

Mayor Sanders could not find how to prove 100 spaces on landing for public parking, it is private property and the Village can't prove the illegality.

Curt Lowey asked if private property with public access was defined in the Vehicle & Traffic law.

Margaret Grace advised that the ad hoc committee is still looking through files document by document.

Robert Wright is a Community Playgroup parent and said he understands the lease in not being renewed. He asked if there was anything to be done to keep the school open.

Mayor Sanders advised that the Village did not renew the lease in May of 2009 and gave one year's notice. There have been many months of non payment of rent. The Village has attempted to work with the operators of the school with little to no progress. April 2009 was the last payment received. There was a meeting in late summer of 2009 and the Village offered to reduce the monthly payments and the amount owed but there was no response and no rent payments made.

Walter Sevastian stated that an eviction proceeding is underway and it is scheduled to be in court on May 20, 2010.

The parents in attendance offered to meet with the playgroup staff and come up with the money owed. They asked if the lease could be renewed since the parents would be more diligent.

Mayor Sanders said that the Village does not want to deal with the tenant organization any longer. The Board would entertain an offer from another entity and added that this is a heavily regulated industry.

Walter Sevastian added that moving forward, for someone to take over the organization it is going to take time. Piermont Community Playgroup Inc. is the tenant and new licensing and approvals would be a time consuming issue.

Mayor Sanders stated that the Village is not ready to put a stop to the eviction proceedings.

A presentation was made by Tim Hoffman of the U.S. Geological Survey in Troy, New York. There is a need for a new location for a monitoring system gauge that measures salt/fresh water and the NE corner of the pier would be the location of choice. The system would include 2" & 3" pipes and a box that would be 3' tall x 1.5' deep x 2' wide.

The Mayor said that there are a lot of processes in the works including repair of damage from a storm and a grant to upgrade the building as well as informational signage regarding the history of the pier, etc.

The Board consensus, conceptually, was positive with concern for the location and how visible the equipment would be.

The Mayor would like to have Mr. Hoffman reach out to Wade McGillis of Lamont so there can be a meeting to coordinate all of the projects.

The Mayor moved to appoint Denise Ehrhart to the position of Village Clerk-Treasurer for a term to expire December 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried. The Mayor then swore in the newly appointed Clerk-Treasurer.

The North Shore Walkway agreement was reviewed by the Village Attorney following a discussion at the last meeting regarding railings that were missing. The Village agreed to replace the railings but the HOA would paint them. The opinion of the Attorney was that the Village should do the painting as well.

At the April meeting, Empire Hose asked to install sewers for a bathroom at the skating pond and requested that the Village pay for the road opening permits. Trustee Gussow brought up other technologies being used in other places not needing sewers.

Trustee Gussow explained that a composting toilet, with no building cost included, would cost an average of \$10,000.

Kevin Fagan said that they would like to provide a more functional snack bar and restroom facility with water. The cost would be \$5,300 for the sewers and the building, to be paid for by Empire Hose.

The Board consensus was to renegotiate the lease of the property with United Water. This will be readdressed at the June 15, 2010 meeting.

Mayor Sanders mentioned an Inter-Municipal agreement for services to Grandview for back-door garbage pickup and curbside trash pickup. Grandview's current contract for garbage pick up expires the end of this month. Grandview is bidding with back-door pickup and curbside pickup for June 1, 2010. Currently, with backdoor pickup, Grandview spends \$49,000 a year. They pay the tipping fees separately. Piermont would need equipment and manpower to achieve this service.

Trustee Silverberg suggested offering a fixed price including the tipping fee.

The Mayor and Tom Temple will continue to discuss the expense to Piermont to offer the service.

The Rowing Club removed their coral last weekend and 4 boats remain on the grassy area of the North Parking Lot. All required documents from Marini Bros. are in Village Clerk's office.

Trustee Gussow mentioned a small area that will not be paved so posts could be installed after lot is complete. The Mayor stated that the area earmarked for rowing club is for a temporary period of time and if they should move there would be a gravel area costing the Village \$3,000 to pave.

Boat racks would sit in wells under grade level but the fence is a separate issue. Repaving if the rowing club leaves, could be included in a new lease.

Trustee Silverberg said that the Village needs to consider the cost it will face with these changes as well as the lease fee that was originally for the period of March to December which will now be 12 months. Trustee Silverberg stated that the Village is spending \$300,000 for 50 parking spaces.

The Mayor said that the 8 parking spaces will have a value. "Fee in lieu of" is to be discussed on May 18, 2010 and the cost would be per spot per year.

Walter Sevastian and Mayor Sanders will coordinate a meeting with the rowing club and the lease issues during the week of May 18, 2010.

When Jerry Ables of the Fire Department asked what needs to be done with the tent in the North Lot, the Mayor said that it needs to be removed. The Fire Department has no plan in place to move the tent and needs a place to move all of the equipment to. Mr. Ables asked if the tent could go back in the lot or does the Fire Department have to wait for the building at the end of pier.

The Mayor responded that the tent is not going back into the lot and that he had discussed with the DPW using the Patch for storage. The Village will be proceeding with the building on the pier by fall. As of now, everything must be moved in a week and a half.

Jerry Ables will work with Tom Temple to find a place to store all equipment and keep it covered.

WHEREAS, the Village of Piermont is undertaking a public works project to, inter alia, reconstruct and resurface the public parking lot commonly referred to as the "North Parking Lot";

WHEREAS, a certain number of vehicles owned by Piermont residents who park in the North Parking Lot, utilizing over night parking permits issued by the Village Board, will be displaced during the construction;

WHEREAS, Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West are private roads open to the general public, and are located adjacent to the North Parking Lot;

WHEREAS, the owner of the private roads has given permission for the holders of overnight parking permits for the North Parking Lot to temporarily utilize Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West for overnight parking until the construction project is completed;

WHEREAS, Village Code section 190-38, Schedule X, currently prohibits overnight parking on Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West;

WHEREAS, the Village Board is desirous of suspending the prohibition of overnight parking on Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West on a temporary basis, strictly limited to current North Parking Lot overnight parking permit holders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees declares itself Lead Agency and undertakes a SEQRA review of the proposal to temporarily suspend the overnight parking prohibition on Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West for current North Parking Lot overnight permit holders and finds as follows:

That the proposal to temporarily suspend the overnight parking prohibition on Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West for current North Parking Lot overnight permit holders during the public works project in the North Parking Lot is an "Type II" action under SEQRA, being a minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent impact on the environment, and is not subject to any further review relative to the environmental significance of the action. NYCRR §617.5 [c][15].

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees temporarily suspends the overnight parking prohibition on Hudson Way and Flywheel Park West on a limited basis, for current North Parking Lot overnight parking permit holders, limited to the period of time that the public works project in the North Parking Lot prohibits safely parking in that lot.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Gussow moved a resolution to declare the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 31, 2010, coordinated by the Piermont VFW, a Village sponsored event. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

The Board set their meeting schedule for summer 2010 as follows: June 15, July 13, August 10 and September 7 and 21, 2010.

Trustee Moran made a motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Blomquist made a motion to approve the warrant in the amount of \$42,412.64. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the warrant was approved.

Trustee Silverberg made a motion to approve the American Cancer Society's 23rd Annual George Washington Bridge Challenge for Sunday, June 13, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Silverberg made a motion to authorize budget transfers for the DPW. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Silverberg advised that he would like to begin holding discussion over the next few months regarding a budget committee as suggested and the Public Hearing on the 2011 budget. Trustee Gussow agreed and Trustee Silverberg will begin to put something together.

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Gussow was seconded by Trustee Silverberg. Upon vote the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.