

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**

September 25, 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:

Maureen O'Connell – had presented the Greenway Trail Maps on March 7, 2006 and thought it was approved that night. Ms. O'Connell represents Piermont on the Rockland River Front Council. The approval does not appear to be in the Village minutes as officially approved on April 6, 2006. Ms. O'Connell had previously reported to the Council that it was approved and asked for a resolution in approval for the record. She also asked to continue to be the representative of Piermont to the Rockland Riverfront Council.

**WHEREAS**, Article 44 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) directs the Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley, Inc. to designate a Hudson River Greenway Trail, and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Piermont manages, owns or holds an easement for a community trail which will enhance the opportunity the public has to appreciate and support the preservation of the historic, scenic, cultural, recreational and natural resources along the Greenway Trail, and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Piermont requests that 4.6 miles of the Piermont Trail be designated as a riverside/countryside corridor/connector trail as part of the Hudson River Greenway Trail System;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Piermont requests designation of the Piermont Trail as part of the Hudson River Greenway Trail System.

The resolution was moved by Trustee Fred Devan and seconded by Trustee Chris Sanders. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Devan moved to authorize Maureen O'Connell to continue to represent the Village of Piermont on the Riverfront Communities Council. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sanders. Upon vote the motion carried.

Maureen O'Connell added that when money comes through the Riverfront Communities Council they are now requesting that the Council logo be placed visibly at the site indicating that they provided funding.

Richard Stark asked if the drainage by the Library was complete and is the Village confident that the contractor is paying the entire cost. Ed Nelson, representing the Library, confirmed that it was corrected at the contractor's expense.

Ivan Szendro: a ruined Village, named Nagygec, in Hungry was washed away in a flood and Mr. Szendro is asking for Piermont's support as a sister Village as they rebuild their land.

The Mayor asked the Village Attorney to prepare a document and the Board will readdress this request on October 16, 2007.

Public Hearing continuation – Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control – the Village Attorney explained that New York State adopted Stormwater legislation and gave an overview of the requirements regarding the amount of land disturbed.

State Legislation refers to an acre or more; the Village Engineer recommended we reduce that to 5,000 sq. ft. Walter Sevastian wrote ½ acre into the law which can be revisited in a year if ½ acre proves to be too large.

Al Bartley commented that Upper Nyack is a ¼ acre and the Town of Orangetown adopted the state code as written with no amendments. Mr. Bartley further stated that this law will protect the Village and the residents. A lot of projects comply with erosion control at the beginning but never follow it through.

The Attorney advised that the Board can adopt this law tonight as drafted with a caveat to amend the Land Development Activity (2.2.2) condition to reflect that ¼ acre or greater, or 10,000 sq. ft. shall be covered by the law.

Trustee Devan moved to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sanders. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Sanders moved to adopt the Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control Local Law as drafted with a caveat to amend the Land Development Activity condition to reflect that ¼ acre or greater, or 10,000 sq. ft. shall be covered by the Law. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried.

The Mayor said that the Bond Resolution for a new Rescue Truck was for state-of-the-art equipment and is probably the last of the large investments needed for the Fire Department.

Trustee Devan moved to approve a Bond Resolution for the Fire Dept. Rescue Truck in the amount of \$295,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow and upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Library Budget Note in the amount of \$47,000 is due to a shortfall caused by the lack of the Library Bond principal and interest being included in the current Budget.

Trustee Devan moved to approve the Library Budget Note in the amount of \$47,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Gussow made a motion to open a Public Hearing to consider an increase in the Veteran's Exemptions. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sanders. Upon vote the Public Hearing was opened.

Trustee Devan gave an overview of what the Town of Orangetown and others have done and if adopted by Piermont it would be a nominal cost to residents (\$.05 per \$1,000). This would only affect the Village Tax.

The Mayor asked the Board for comments and the consensus was very positive.

Trustee Sanders moved to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Devan made a motion to adopt the amendments to the Veteran's Exemption for Wartime Veterans to \$54,000 and for Combat Veterans to \$36,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the amendments were adopted.

Charles Burck has asked for a reduction of his Performance Bond of \$102,000 to \$11,950 based on the balance of work to be completed. The Planning Board and Village Attorney have recommended the requested reduction.

Al Bartley advised the Board that there are settling issues that need to be addressed and there is also some paving to be completed but he wrote to the Planning Board and recommended waiting to pave until spring '08.

Trustee Gussow moved to discharge the Performance Bond in the amount of \$102,000 and that escrow in the amount of \$11,950 be given to the Village Clerk's office by Friday September 28, 2008. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sanders. Upon vote the motion carried.

The Village has been holding Phil Griffin's escrow of \$40,000 from which the sidewalk on Gair Street in the amount of \$9,000 was to be deducted.

Trustee Devan moved to refund \$31,000 as the balance of Mr. Griffin's escrow. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Planning Board recommendations for the north parking lot are not complete according to Trustee Sanders. They are going to be amended and will be discussed on October 16, 2007.

A motion was made by Trustee Moran to approve the Valet Parking Permits for Xavier's and Lighthouse based on the Police Chief's recommendations was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Devan to authorize the Mayor to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement with the County of Rockland for the rehabilitation of the Bridge Street Drawbridge and seconded by Trustee Gussow. Upon vote the motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gussow to authorize the Mayor to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Orangetown for the town-wide Stormwater District Evaluations and Phase II Stormwater Implementation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Devan made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an Agreement with the County of Rockland to reimburse the Village for overtime for counter-terrorism training as outlined in the LETTP Homeland and Security Grant 10/1/04 – 9/30/07 in the amount of \$2,183.21. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

A draft of a Lease Agreement with the Piermont Historical Society was tabled to the meeting of October 16, 2007.

Law & Order – Special Victims Unit – will be filming on Paradise Avenue and moving to the Pavilion on Monday, October 1, 2007 and Tuesday, October 2, 2007. They would like to film until 11:00 pm at the Pavilion. They hope to finish by 8 or 9pm but may run over per Chief O’Shea.

Trustee Devan moved to approve Law & Order filming until 11:00 p.m. at the Pavilion on Monday, October 1, 2007 and Tuesday, October 2, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran and upon vote the motion carried.

Trustee Devan moved to authorize the Rockland Department of Tourism and the Rockland Business Association to drive a bus onto the Pier late in the afternoon of October 21, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the motion carried 4-1 with Trustee Gussow voting no.

Trustee Gussow moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2007, August 14, 2007 and September 11, 2007. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan and upon vote the minutes were approved.

Trustee Devan moved to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$521,421.90. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moran. Upon vote the Warrant was approved.

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory would like to place an additional Porto San on the Pier on October 1, 2007 since 140 High School students will be coming to the Pier on October 2, 2007. The Board advised that it would not be a problem but to park the buses in the lot next to Parelli Park on October 2, 2007 and have the students walk the Northshore Walkway due to the Law & Order filming.

The Library has requested Village Hall to hold their Election and Budget Vote on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The date on the calendar is clear and was approved.

Motion, to authorize the Village Justice, Laura G. Weiss, to submit a grant application to the State of New York Justice Court Assistance Program in the amount of \$30,000.00 for Security Equipment and to further authorize Trustee Fred Devan to sign same.

This resolution was moved by Trustee Joan Gussow and seconded by Trustee Chris Sanders. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Al Bartley reported to the Board that the Village Hall roof repairs and mold removal would take one week and should start in two weeks.

With reference to the Ferdon Avenue Dam, FEMA has an application for \$66,000. The Village Engineer prepared a plan costing \$255,000. Mr. Bartley requested approval to pay the Village Engineer to apply for grants to cover this project. A motion was made by Trustee Gussow to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Trustee Devan. Upon vote the motion carried.

Mark Blomquist, Budget Officer for the Fire Department, reported that when the figures were compiled for the refurbishment of the Fire Dept. Ladder Truck, \$3,200 was left out to cover the cost of the new Siren as well as \$491.20 to cover purchase and installation of the windshield. These items will be included in the next Various Purpose BAN issue.

The Village Attorney reported that he received a Memorandum of Understanding from the Town of Orangetown allow the Village of Piermont to operate and maintain the Erie Trail. This will be placed on the agenda of October 16, 2007 for further discussion.

Rubber Dagger Films has requested a refund of the \$1,000 security deposit for filming. Based on the violation of the filming permit, the Board does not feel the security should be refunded. The Village Attorney will respond to the Attorney for Rubber Dagger Films.

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