

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: November 14, 2022

Present Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Debra Gitterman, and Larry Ostrander, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, and OIC Vernon Doyle

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order 6:59pm

Motion: to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022 Board Meeting; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the October Budget to Actual Reports; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the October 26th and November 14th Abstracts; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests-

M. Crane-He talks about the resolution Aleister Mraz proposed in regards to 5G and greenhouse gases. He provides data that the resolution is based on and a link for a meeting held in Poughkeepsie. 5G towers uses roughly 3x the electricity of a 4g tower. We already have all of the cell strength that we need and wireless internet can't handle business needs. Fiber optic needs to be brought in to the Village it is much better and much faster than wireless. A discussion continues that the cell towers are not in Philmont and that fiber optic is coming. There has been no discussion about more cell towers being put in the village.

P. Johnson-Starts by saying that he supports the push for fiber optic. He then talks about Local Law #1 of 2020. 26 months have passed since this ordinance was passed with 6 on the months being the grace period. The estimate of 100 properties in the village not registered. This equates to around \$25,000 dollars of fine income due but not collect due to inaction. The money collected so far has not covered the cost of the program. When will the fines be levied?

K. Martino-She states that she is also in support of Aleister's resolution. It would reduce energy consumption and help reach NY State's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Aleister's plan focuses on conserving energy instead of the state plan to go all electric. She would like a committee or work group in addition to the Climate Smart Task Force to help come up with ideas that everyone is comfortable with to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She presents the Board with papers signed by residents in regards to Aleister's plan and the LED lights.

Truck Bid Opening

One Bid was Received from DeNooyer Chevrolet located in Albany, NY, on October 26,2022, for the amount of \$75,976.50.

Attorney Fitzsimmons: He reports nothing new, just ongoing projects.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Water / Sewer bills were mailed out on October 1st and were due by October 31st without penalty. Certified letters for delinquent water/sewer users will be mailed November 14th. Worked closely with Cliff on broken meter list. Worked closely with Mike for CHIPS submission and reimbursement. Working on delinquent tax list calculations. Prepped with the Union Attorney and compiled data and figures for Union negotiation meeting. Researched Library archives for David Bolevice pertaining to blue prints, floor plans, and site building plans pertaining to upcoming feasibility study. The Office will be closed on November 24th and 25th in observance of Thanksgiving. There will be no workshop on the 23rd. The abstract will be put together on the 21st and we ask if three trustees can stop in to review and sign.

Building Inspector Report: Given by Trustee Ostrander. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. From July-September: Tenancy CO issued 4, Tenancy Inspections 9, Rental Registration Issued 5, Vacant Buildings Registered 0, Building Permits 8, Construction Inspections 7, CO/CC issued 6, CO searches 5, NOV issued 8. (Cheffo Properties are not registered or inspected. All were issues 9/27/22. The property manager has spoken to me and picked up the applications). Complaints received/investigated 0. Zoning review/referral of new projects: No new projects.

Library Report: Given by Trustee Cropper, as submitted by Director Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **Building and Grounds:** Thanks to Nabal at the DPW for replace our American Flag on the exterior of the building and checking the status of the replacement window. **Services:** Virtual programs with the County Library Association are planned for monthly history talks with Lindenwald Historic site. History Webinar: Martin Van Buren's Politics of Slavery *November 14th, 7pm via zoom*. Habitat for Humanity webinars have been postponed to reconvene in January. Story time will begin this Thursday at 11 am with a sensory free play time at 10:45. We are keeping it flexible with the possibility of returning to two separate times for toddlers and preschoolers. We will have a Holiday Wrapping Station again in the Cultural Center starting Thanksgiving weekend through the week before Christmas. Annual Children's Ornament Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th. **Grants and Donations:** \$4,100 – Hover Foundation – Music grant to purchase instruments to loan, sound proof the meeting room, purchase the music lesson digital platform and have a musical program for kids. Rather than a music story hour, like originally proposed, we will have an afterschool drum/ rhythm group for elementary kids. All of these programs will begin in the New Year. A generous library supporter donated \$10,000 toward the feasibility study. They wish to remain anonymous. **Stats:** October in-person and virtual program attendance 285, October people in the library 680, October digital services (hoopla, Kanopy and OverDrive) 632. **Meetings/ trainings/ projects:** I will be attending a free conference in Baltimore, MD on November 1st and 2nd for library directors. While there Thea and I will be stopping at the Library of Congress in D.C. I applied and was accepted to their surplus book program that allows libraries to take free books to add to their collection. I have started a list of items to look out for. Let me know if you have topics/ items you think I should search for as well. **CCLA** – The group is exploring a Community BIG READ for the county in late Winter. We are investigating a possible grant from NY Heritage to support the program. The book mentioned as an option is The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, by Bryan Mealer and William Kamkwamba. It is available to multiple formats including adult, juvenile, picture book and as a Netflix movie. **MHLS** – I attended a Central Library committee meeting, a director's association meeting, and the annual MHLS meeting.

Community Center Report: Given by Trustee Cropper, as submitted by Director Veronezi. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. The center has been checked regularly during the month by Doug Cropper and Julia Veronezi. A rental took place on October 15th for a family party. The user was contacted about key return and the condition of the center after they vacated. The Conservation Group (George Brehm) will be using the center on Tuesdays at 5:30. Scouts are using the center on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6. Santa Claus Club will use the center for meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6 pm. Greener Pathways plans to start using the center again on Thursday afternoons. **Programs:** I am looking for *pop-up* programs applicable to all ages for Saturdays. The programs can be stand-alones. Hands on programs attract the most interest. Anyone interested in leading an activity please contact me. Thanks.

Police Report: Given by OIC Vern Doyle. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. For the month of October, we had 19 calls for service, 2 arrest, 77 property checks, 10 UTT's issued, and 17 V&T warnings. A discussion continues about parking and sidewalk laws and creating a flyer for Prospect Street alternate parking.

Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report: Given by Trustee Ostrander, as submitted by Grant Administrator S. Baker. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **BOA grant updates:** The monthly BOA Co-Chair standing meeting with Mayor Johnson and Trustee Ostrander and Barbara Sagal, Chair of the Watershed Advisory Committee was held on 10/25. Meeting was held as a Special Meeting including the Deputy Mayor.

Nomination of Village of Philmont Historic District updates: Daniel McEneny, Director, Division for Historic Preservation, Parks, Recreation, Historic Preservation had requested to attend the meeting regarding the nomination process of the Village of Philmont Historic District. Mr. McEneny opened the call by informing the attendees that his office had received several lengthy emails from the Chair of the Philmont Climate Smart Task Force. The majority of the 45 mins call-in was spent clarifying several misconceptions regarding the nomination process of the Historic District. Points of discussion included the following information: One vote per property owner is allowed to nominate the Historic District, regardless of how many properties are owned by a property owner in the District. State and Federal income tax-credits will be available to property owners if the nomination receives majority support by property owners with properties in the District to be listed on the NY State and National Registers of Historic Places. The differences between a local preservation commission (which Philmont does not have) in contrast to a listing on the NY State and National Registers of Historic Places which would only require property owners seeking preservation tax-credits to assist with renovations to apply to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Current provisions in the Philmont locally-

adopted NYStretch Code (sections R501.6 & C501.6) allow a property owner in the existing Village of Philmont Historic District to apply for energy code considerations when renovating an eligible District historic property. The code provisions require the property owner to submit documentation from SHPO or a licensed design professional demonstrating that compliance with that provision would threaten, degrade or destroy the historic form, fabric or function of the building. **BOA grant updates:** PBI reported the Draft of the RFP for the BOA Work Plan is in motion - ETA 11/29. **LWRP grant Watershed Management Plan updates:** The Watershed Advisory Committee, (WAC) consisting of the municipal participating towns of Claverack, Ghent, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz meeting was held on 10/12. Reported the RFP for the Watershed Management Plan was published on time to the State Contract Reporter website, Village of Philmont website, PBInc web site, and participating towns/ websites. Contractor proposals are due November 1st. Three WAC meetings set up in Zoom for the proposal selection review process for November 9, 16, and 23. Selection scoring chart to be emailed to WAC on November 1st with received proposal(s).

DPW Report – given by Mayor Johnson. They have been having trouble and working on the leafer. Hillsdale has also come to help and theirs broke down 3 times also. The Town of Ghent as came in with their big loader and 10-wheeler to get the leaves off of the streets. Hillsdale is repaired once again and they should be coming later this week to finish cleaning up. They will be working on the trucks getting them ready for snow and ice. The sand and salt have already been mixed. We should have plenty. At the water treatment plant, the new water disinfection system has been shut down for the year and cleaned up.

Climate Smart Taskforce: given by Thomas Paino. The Climate Smart Community Task Force last met on November 9th. Ideas for further distribution of the lightbulbs was discussed. The municipal building energy audit has been granted. The first task is to get two years of energy bills for the three buildings. The greenhouse gas emission inventory for municipal buildings and also a climate action plan has been approved as well. Energy data for all buildings will be needed along with streetlights, pumps, and mobile fleets. There will be a syllabus of climate action that will be reviewed by the Board. We will be participating in the county-wide Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaption Plan. Completing these actions will qualify the village for Bronze certification, which will result in a larger grant. A tour of the Valatie Micro-hydro facility is trying to be arranged. There will be a tour through local champions program at Wappingers Falls micro hydro facility. There was a meeting with the director of historical preservation in regards to meeting energy code and being in a historic district. An estimate will be provided for a logo. It would be used on a sign identifying the electric vehicle charging station. It is being worked on to get the sign on 217, a state road. The next meeting will be December 14, 2022.

Mayor Johnson: He reports that he attended a meeting with Doug and DSS for an update on their program where they would have places to send people. They are still working with the village. They will also be talking with Julie about programs for children. He also met with Doug and the gentleman that purchased Philmont Holdings. Time was also spent with the Union for labor negotiations.

Trustee Cropper: He reports that he spent some time with the DPW and thanks them for helping clean out the warehouse so they could rent the space to a non-profit for about 5-6 months. He also attended the BOA meeting and conference call about the historic district designation. He has been working with Larry for the Essig Trail and dock project. They ordered the materials and hopefully the dock should be repaired shortly. He also attended the workshop meeting. Met with Brian and the labor attorney and had the negotiations meeting. Other meetings attended were the DSS meeting and meeting with the landlords.

Trustee Detzel: Not present

Trustee Ostrander: He reports in addition to what Doug mentioned he had a lot of emails with Board members. Attended the BOA meeting, workshop meeting.

Fire Department Report

20 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 92. Total EMS calls for the year 78. Drills for the month 3, truck inspections 1, and 2 work details. Attended County Firefighters Convention past president dinner at Kozels on October 14th with 9 members. A nickel social fundraiser was held at the firehouse on October 15th with 13 members. Workplace violence/harassment training was held at the firehouse on October 17th with 21 members. Columbia County Firefighters convention quarterly meeting held on October 19th was attended in Ghent with 5 members. The annual Halloween parade and party with Mellenville was held at the fire house on October 29th with 14 members in attendance. Fire prevention detail at the Philmont Head Start on November 1st was attended with 4 members. Sub night was held on

November 4th with 10 members. There was a pancake breakfast fundraiser at the firehouse on November 13th with 8 members in attendance.

Trustee Gitterman: She reports that she attended the special meeting, workshop meeting and the planning board meeting. She coordinated with Mark Rountree in regards to the dock rebuild. She completed website updates. She also met with a representative from Laberge group with Robin Andrews in regards to forming the Comprehensive Plan Committee and spoke with potential committee members. The Community Day Committee meeting was also attended.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST provided to the members of the Board and the public

- 1) **Email from Robert Macfarlane dated 10/12/22 in regards to mail delivery**
- 2) **Email from Melissa Ogborne dated 10/29/22 in regards to speeding on Summit Street**
- 3) **Email from Danica Wolkiser dated 11/4/22 in regards to puddles in front of the post office**
- 4) **Letter from Patricia Race dated 11/7/22 in regards to water/sewer bill**

Motions and Resolutions-

Motion: to accept the bid, for the one-ton utility body truck in the amount of \$75,956.50 from DeNooyer Chevrolet, Inc; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to enforce the water turn off law and take action against delinquent water users; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to authorize the Mayor to sign the annual LOSAP agreement with Penflex; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to authorize the Mayor to sign the Self-Certification Forms for the work done on the Village of Philmont Waste Water Treatment Plant; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to rehire Monte Jennings for the position of Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer as a part time non benefited employee at the pay rate of \$16.00 per hour; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to credit account 1560, Eileen Ordu in the amount of \$518 for the sewer portion only of the October invoice due to a water leak; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to credit account 405, Leland Haywood in the amount of \$24 for the sewer portion only of the October invoice for 2,400 gallons for a pool fill. Credit requested by tenant Patricia Race; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to credit account 3876, Mark Beaumont in the amount of \$102.90 for the sewer portion only of the October invoice for 10,290 gallons for a pool fill; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nay

Unfinished Business and New Business:

Mayor Johnson requests thank you letter for the Superintendents of Ghent and Hillsdale for helping with leaf pickup.

Motion: to go to Executive Session to discuss contract union discussions, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to come out of Executive Session, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to adjourn –made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment 8:50

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica
Clerk/Treasurer