

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: October 11, 2022

Present Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker, and OIC Vernon Doyle

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order 7:00pm

Motion: to approve the minutes from the 9/12/22 Board Meeting; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2022 Special Board Meeting; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

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

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the September 28th and October 11th Abstracts; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests

H. Williams-After wrestling with ecological issues his whole life he has found that there is not one solution to anything, its complex and solutions are diverse. He has always used as little as possible gas, propane, diesel, firewood and insulated their house. He doesn't need to be told to do so. The reason was for cost and love of the earth.

H. Bail- She has spent most of her adult life in agriculture. She is concerned about seeing good farmland plastered with solar panels. This will take up farmland so it can't soak up carbon as well as producing food. How much energy does it take to build solar panels and how are they recycled? She cannot see how turning away from fossil fuels so quickly can help the average person. Where will all of the electricity come from?

T. Mayer-Her request is to the green task force to inform residents of potential proposals. A discussion continues about ways to stay up to date.

T. Gurbo-Depending on one energy source would put the residents at risk. Solar panels can catch fire. They are very vulnerable to pebbles from the road and hail from the sky. Solar panels and windmills have a negative impact on the environment. Many residents would like the climate task force to be inclusive and a place to be able to discuss ideas to protect the natural environment.

W. Gurbo-Thanks members of the board that see through the resolution and stood up for the residents.

P. Johnson- Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress status update: Philmont is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. They have also discussed a lot about small businesses and how to bring them in and the importance of fiber optic cable and free wifi in the Main Street areas. Housing affordability in relationship to small businesses has also been discussed. The critical thing is to have people come here and to see that they can live and work in an environment that is conducive to the type of life they want to live. Emphasis has been placed on events that attract tourism. Next, he speaks about local law 1 2020. In order to get grants they need solid data. They need to know how many structures burned down in a year, how many people have been displaced in a year, how many rental properties, and how people live in the rental properties. That is why he recommended some revisions and fees reviewed.

C. Roe-When something is deemed a climate emergency that creates a feeling of need to rush into something. She asks that we wont rush into something. We are a small town and have time to ask questions and look at things before signing away rights. There are always unforeseen consequences of any new change and when you are narrowing choices it doesn't sound like a smart thing. We want the choice to have a relationship with somebody local to buy propane or whatever is chosen to use so they know they have what they need and it won't be turned off.

P. Doyle-He downloaded the Climate act and have been reading through it and the overview as well. Electric companies can use 70% renewables and 30% fossil fuels as a goal. They are going to require that everything is wired electric and everything be electric. The electric company doesn't have to go to the extreme that customer have to. This has to be our choice and the will of the village. This is about quality of life.

E. Ordu -She is happy to have seen members of the Board reject the plan to forbid new construction in Philmont from being heated or serviced by fuel that requires on-site combustion, i.e.: propane or gas. We all know the electricity goes out every winter sometimes for days at a time. When this happens families with electric heat and electric stoves are out of luck. The plan to put so many more people on the electric grid is dangerous. Philmont hasn't scratched the surface when it comes to brainstorming ways to reduce and conserve energy.

Fuel and Propane Bid Opening

Bids were received as follows:

Fuel Oil Bid. Herrington Fuels, \$3.71/gallon fixed. Their supplier is Sprague Energy and Dennis K. Burke. Service and Maintenance: \$170 for cleanings and parts, \$140 for service call and parts, additional hours \$85.00 hour

Propane Bid. Herrington Fuels, \$1.75/gallon fixed. Their supplier is NGL Wholesaler and Kiros Energy. Service and Maintenance: \$170 for cleanings and parts, \$140 for service call and parts, additional hours \$85.00 hour

Attorney Fitzsimmons -not present

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Water / Sewer bills were mailed out on October 1st and are due by October 31st without penalty. Worked closely with Bob Patterson, Rob Fitzsimmons, Bond Counsel Attorney John Mineaux, and Don MacCormack from the Bank of Greene County to obtain a BOND for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Worked closely with Ed for bill coding and salt order. Worked closely with Cliff for water reading, past issues and broken meter list. Worked closely with Mike for CHIPS reimbursement. Attended the Special Meeting and Union Negotiations. We had multiple final readings and tax info for closings. Set up an account and ordered the Leafer Hose for DPW. Calculations for the Union Attorney. Communicated with DeNoyer for the truck purchase. Sent out delinquent tax reminders. The Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 8nd for Election Day. The office will also be closed on Friday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.

Building Inspector Report: Not given to this office.

Library Report: Not given to this office.

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. George Brehm has replaced the brick molding by the door and painted the door's exterior. The center was used as a refuge following the Sept. 26 fire. Over 20 people were at the center either as victims or assistants. Thanks to Jess Cropper-Alt, Deb Grau, Melinda Grau and Brandi Johnson providing needed assistance. Thanks also to Melinda Grau's children for donating toys within an hour to the children at the center and to Sue Oles for being on standby. A time like that one really demonstrates the need for the community center. The center is going to be rented in the beginning of October for a birthday party. Santa Claus Club will use the center for a meeting in October. Programs: Program options continue to be explored. Cub Scouts are meeting the 2nd and 4th Wed. evenings. Greener Pathways will resume use of the center now that colder weather is here.

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 September, we had 17 calls for service, 1 arrest, 78 property checks, 14 UTT's issued, and 37 V&T warnings. Participated in two Columbia County stop DWI campaigns for the month. More are scheduled for the future. Worked on parking issues and speeding on Summit.

Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report: Given 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 was held 8/30. Barbara Sagal, Chair of the Watershed Advisory Committee, could

not attend. PBI reported the Draft of the RFP for the BOA Work Plan is in motion. **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 8/10. Summary Notes were approved by DOS and sent to Village webmaster. PBI & WAC made revisions to the Draft of the RFP to hire a Watershed Management Plan consultant. Revisions to the Draft were approved by the DOS on 9/23/22. Draft of the RFP were provided to the Mayor and Trustee Ostrander, the Clerk, and to Village attorney, Rob Fitzsimmons on 8/30. Request(s) to Village attorney have been submitted for Village to add any forms and or requirements for Procurement policies to the Draft RFP. Until these are received the RFP cannot be finalized for publication. The plan is for the Village to publish the final RFP on the State Contract Reporter in late September to receive proposals. Amendment of the LWRP Work Plan & Budget Amendment was received by the Village from the DOS and executed by the Mayor on 8/16. The fully executed Amendment was received in return from the DOS on 8/18. The Amended Work Plan & Budget was emailed to the Village webmaster to upload on the village website. **Nomination of Village of Philmont Historic District updates:** The presentation of Philmont's History is scheduled to be held in the Village Hall on September 11 at 2:00pm. Matt Kierstead, Milestone Heritage Consulting, will present a PowerPoint and engage questions. All are welcome!

DPW Report – given by Ed Brabender. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Chip sealing was done on Martindale Rd, Railroad Ave, Fox Hill, Columbia Ave, Eagle St., and Overlook Ct. They located a drainage pipe on lower Ark St. that had been buried for years, it's now working excellent. Brush was cut back on Overlook Ct. and all streets that were chip sealed. Grass and brush were cut back on several curves and corners. Several catch basins were cleaned. Brush was cut by the dam for better visibility coming down Summit. Dead trees were cut and removed at the Community Center. All village property was cut, mowed, and string trimmed. Several driveways were repaired, due to the height of the chip sealing, with blacktop and gravel. Stone was swept on Martindale Rd for the state to paint center and fog lines. All roads that were chip sealed were swept. Sand and salt were mixed and ordered 100 tons of salt and 50 tons of sand. Tires on the mower were repaired and the bench grinder was repaired. The sweeper hopper gait was repaired. Truck 2 is being worked on to get ready for leaf season. The backhoe was fixed. A cracked fuel line on truck 22 was repaired. The oil was changed on truck 50. Water sample were taken for DEC and Health Dept, all passed. Baldwin hauled 13,000 gallons of sludge to Albany. Water meters were read and several were repaired. They are getting ready to winterize the disinfection tank.

Climate Smart Taskforce- given by Thomas Paino. For the NYSEDA grant for \$10,000: The village is getting the grant to go towards the energy audit for municipal buildings. The Village Hall, Waste Treatment Plant and the Community Center will be audited. The cost is \$3400 per building. There is some previous grant money to pay for the amount over \$10,000. This will collect data to find out what the energy use is and opens the door for other possible grants. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Planning: Columbia County has signed on to this program, this opens it up to municipalities at no charge. Its highly recommended that Philmont completes their own assessment. Work is being done to get a sign to identify the electric vehicle charging station to be put on Main Street so people can find them. The county will pay for the sign.

Mayor Johnson: He starts by talking about the fire. He was unable to be here while it was going on. Everything was in motion by the time he got here and everything was being handled well. The Community Center was open, there was food for the victims, the people were happy and kids were playing. When the Red Cross got there, they said it was wonderful and couldn't say enough good things about the village. There was a meeting with the Library. In order to do something with the building they need a feasibility study done. It needs to be done to get funding. After the study is done the community will be involved in what they want for the library. He has been in touch with Laberge for the water tower painting proposal. Tighe and Bond will be getting the contract. We will have to hire an independent inspector. He also helped the office with getting a truck. He also attended the Union Negotiations meeting.

Trustee Cropper: He reports he attended the negotiations meeting with the Union. He also attended a Climate Smart Webinar with Debra and the workshop meeting. He filled in for the Mayor while he was away. He also checked the properties. He thanks Julie for coming out and opening the Community Center for the fire victims. Deb Grau and Melinda Grau helped with food and getting the kids toys. Later on, Jess Cropper-Alt, Brandy Johnson and Brian came and stayed until the end so everyone could go home. Larry checked in and made sure everything was ok. Sue Oles on Main St also offered her services. He also thanks the Red Cross.

Trustee Detzel: He reports he continued to work on Patterns for Progress. The village park audit was completed and there will be a report coming out soon. He had lots of meetings and conversations in regards to the Library. He also adds that the fire department is looking for members.

Trustee Ostrander: Not present

Fire Department Report

13 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 80. Total EMS calls for the year 70. Drills for the month 2, and 1 truck inspection. Fit testing for interior firefighters was held on September 22nd at the firehouse with 14 members. A Recruitment photo shoot was held at the Firehouse on September 22nd with 18 members. Annual OSHA training was held at the Firehouse on September 20th, 27th and October 4th with 17 members.

Trustee Gitterman: She reports she attended the webinar on climate vulnerability and resilience. She also drafted the resolutions for Philmont. She attended the climate smart task force meeting. She also completed other website updates. She attended the special meeting and board workshop meeting.

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

- 1) **Email from Robert Macfarlane dated 9/13/22 in regards to Historic Registry**
- 2) **Letter from Eileen Ordu dated 10/04/22 in regards to water/sewer bill.**
- 3) **Letter from Peter Johnson dated 10/03/22 in regards to Residential Rental Property Registration and Inspection**

Motions and Resolutions-

Motion: to accept the bid, of No. 2 Fuel Oil, Service, and Maintenance for the Village of Philmont Municipal Building, Library and Community Center from Herrington Fuels Inc.; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to accept the bid, for the furnishing of Propane, Service, and Maintenance for the Village of Philmont Municipal Building, Library, Water Tower Building and DPW Garage from Herrington Fuels, Inc.; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to set the annual Village Elections for **Tuesday, March 21, 2023** from noon to 9:00 pm in the Village Hall to elect two (2) Trustees each for a two-year term and one (1) Mayor for a two-year term; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to credit account 3210, Elise Russek in the amount of \$674 for the sewer portion only of the October invoice due to a water leak; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to put out for bid a one-ton utility body truck to replace the 2009 GMC Sierra pickup used by the Village Water, Sewer and DPW; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to appoint Charlene Jennings to the Village of Philmont Volunteer Fire Department as a Fire Police member; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to contract with Tighe and Bond for engineering of the painting of the water tower; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to reapprove the Sponsorship for Nicolas C. Karkabe to attend the Zone 14 law Enforcement Academy due to last years class being cancelled due to Covid; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to contract with Host Tree Service for the removal of the tree behind the Library; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Resolution No. 8-

**VILLAGE OF PHILMONT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Authorization for the Village of Philmont to Accept Technical Assistance Being Offered by CDRPC to Develop a Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

At a meeting of the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Philmont, Columbia County, New York, duly held on the 11th day of October, 2022, at the Village Hall, 124 Main Street, Philmont, New York, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: Trustee Detzel;
Seconded by: Trustee Gitterman.

WHEREAS, the Village of Philmont pledged to **take part in the NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Certification Program** that may include preparation of a Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan; and

WHEREAS, free technical assistance is available to support the development of these documents (PE7 Action: Climate Vulnerability Assessment and PE7 Action: Climate Adaptation Plan) from Cornell Cooperative Extension on behalf of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) through a NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Coordinator Services contract; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution 347-2022 on August 11, 2022 to accept this technical assistance for a county plan; and

WHEREAS, the County CSC Coordinator in collaboration with Columbia County Climate Smart Communities Task Force will provide an opportunity to every municipality in the county to formally participate in the planning to create efficiencies, reduce redundancies, and increase coordination across the County; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Philmont will **appoint a task force and lead** for the Climate Adaptation Process; and

WHEREAS, the municipality will provide an **opportunity for public input and comment** on the draft report; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Philmont task force will present a summary of the vulnerability results and adaptation plan to the Board for consideration of adoption;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board hereby undertake the Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Municipal Board authorizes submission of these documents to the NYS DEC Office for Climate Change for consideration of points toward Climate Smart Communities certification for the Village of Philmont.

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Board members voted "Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

Trustee Detzel;
Trustee Gitterman; and
Trustee Cropper.

The following Board members voted "No" in opposition thereto:

None

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Village Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Mayor of the Village of Philmont.

Dated: October 11, 2022

Jessica Thomas, Village Clerk
Village of Philmont

Resolution No. 9-

**VILLAGE OF PHILMONT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Authorization for the Village of Philmont to Undertake a Village of Philmont, Two-Year Government Operation Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Government Operations Climate Action Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

At a meeting of the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Philmont, Columbia County, New York, duly held on the 11th day of October, 2022, at the Village Hall, 124 Main Street, Philmont, New York, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: Trustee Gitterman;
Seconded by: Trustee Detzel.

WHEREAS, the Village of Philmont pledged to **take part in the NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities Certification Program** that includes the preparation of a Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report and Government Operations Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, these publications are developed using two years data with no cost assistance from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) through a NYS DEC Climate Leadership Coordinator Services grant toward completion of the following action items toward Climate Smart Communities certification:

- 1) Pledge Element 2.1- Develop a Government Operations Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory; and
- 2) Pledge Element 2.5- Develop a Government Operations Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Smart Task Force, comprised of town officials and environmental volunteer community leaders, will collaborate with CDRPC in the development of these publications, reviewed drafts, and provide valuable feedback on iterations that result in final draft; and

WHEREAS, the task force will present a summary of the inventory results, target reduction plan and components of the draft government operations climate action plan to the Board of Trustees regular meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Trustees hereby undertake the **two year Government Operations Greenhouse Emission Inventory Report** and the **Government Operations Climate Action Plan**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Village Trustees authorize submission of these documents to the NYS DEC Office for Climate Change for consideration of points toward Climate Smart Communities certification for the Village of Philmont.

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Board members voted "Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

Trustee Gitterman;
Trustee Detzel; and
Trustee Cropper.

The following Board members voted "No" in opposition thereto:
None

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Village Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Mayor of the Village of Philmont.

Dated: October 11, 2022

Jessica Thomas, Village Clerk
Village of Philmont

Unfinished Business and New Business

Trustee Gitterman mentions that the Community Day Committee met for the first time. They took care of elections and will be meeting again on Tuesday November 8th at 7pm.

MOTION to go to Executive Session to contractual negotiations, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to come out of Executive Session, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

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

Adjournment 9:25

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica
Clerk/Treasurer