

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
March 6, 2018

Present: Mayor Bruce Tucker, Deputy Mayor Mark Blomquist, Trustee Ivanya Alpert, Trustee Rob Burns, Trustee Lisa DeFeciani, Walter Sevastian, Esq.-Village Attorney and Jennifer DeYorgi-Village Clerk-Treasurer.

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

**Item #1 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Trustee DeFeciani made a motion to approve the minutes for February 20, 2018. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Trustee Burns abstained as he was not present on February 20, 2018.

**Item #2 – Approval of Warrant**

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to approve Warrant #030618 in the amount of \$202,161.16. The motion was seconded by Trustee Burns and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #3 – Department Reports**

**Department of Public Works -** Highway Superintendent Tom Temple was not present due to the impending storm.

**Building Department** – Building Inspector Charles Schaub was not present.

**Police Department** – Chief O’Shea was not present.

**Parks Department** – Dan Sherman, Chairman of the Parks Department was present and had nothing to report to the Village Board.

**Fire Department** – Chief Don Hardy was not present.

**Item #4 - Old Business**

Village Attorney

Mayor Tucker stated, in regard to the bridge parts, we are still waiting for a picture of what it would cost the Village to do and whether it is even feasible. Trustee Burns stated the area of where they are contemplating putting it took quite a hit during the storm last week, waves were coming over the railing onto the walkway and plants and close to the buildings, so whatever we can do to get the concrete from the bridge would be very important. Mayor Tucker stated Altice called him again. Village Attorney stated we have to renew our franchise agreement with them and he told them we would probably have a public hearing in April. He has been going back and forth with them with no major changes from the last agreement. At the March 20, 2018 meeting he believes he should have a draft before the Board and ready to schedule a public hearing.

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Trustee Burns asked, since Chief O'Shea isn't here, are they putting off the Northshore Walkway times discussion? Village Attorney stated they are meeting with the HOA on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Burns stated the Mayor and himself met with Sally Savage today, she is planning to put up four photo arrays in Village Hall, two on each side, of Piermont. Dan has offered to scan her pictures in with the library. With the panels and time for Sally to do it and use of the pictures, Trustee Burns made a motion to authorize \$1,500 for that project (about \$800 is for the frames, some is for Sally's time and the rest is for her pictures). Those pictures will then be scanned by Dan and be available at the Library. Trustee DeFeciani asked what we budgeted for and where is was coming from? Trustee Burns and Mayor Tucker stated they were talking about the Economic Development Fund line as they believe there is still some money in there. The motion was seconded by Trustee DeFeciani and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Trustee DeFeciani had no old business to discuss.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist stated he is supposed to be meeting with Senator Carlucci in Albany next week regarding additional funding for the pier.

Trustee Alpert had no old business to discuss.

Village Clerk Treasurer had no old business to discuss.

### **Item# 5 New Business**

Mayor Tucker stated he received an email from Larry Vail from the Sparkill Creek Alliance. He asked Larry to come to the meeting tonight. Apparently, they had filed for a grant to study the creek a couple years ago and did not get the grant. Mr. Vail confirmed they did not get that grant, but it is now the same one being offered by the DEC again. Mayor Tucker had a copy of the original agreement Chris Sanders had signed in 2016. Larry Vail stated Town of Orangetown is applying for the \$100,000 to \$110,000 grant to have some consultants do a planning a flood mitigation assessment. This is for the Sparkill watershed and to look for opportunities to have flood control. The idea is to identify places where effective flood control can happen. One of the requirements of the DEC has is that is should run between multiple municipalities and the Village of Piermont's approval or encouragement is almost critical for even applying for this grant. The consultants will be glad to come here and talk to the Village. A lot of the problems are upstream. This is due next week. Trustee DeFeciani stated she would like the Piermont Waterfront Resiliency Commission to be involved somehow. Larry Vail stated Margaret Grace is on the Alliance and he will let the Village and Commission know if they get the grant. Trustee DeFeciani made a motion to submit a letter of support for the grant to study the Sparkill Creek Watershed and Flood Mitigation Assessment. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Village Clerk-Treasurer received a Special Event Application for the Jimmy Hauburger Foundation, they asked to be on the March 20, 2018 agenda to have their event approved for Saturday, June 2, 2018.

Trustee Alpert had no new business to discuss.

Trustee DeFeciani had no new business to discuss.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no new business to discuss.

Trustee Burns had no new business to discuss.

### **Item #6 Other Non-Agenda Items:**

None.

**Item #7 Presentation of the final draft LWRP for review by Board of Trustees. Submission by consultants of full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to SEORA. Resolution to establish Village Board as the Lead Agency for this Type 1 action, authorize the circulation of the EAF and draft LWRP to adjacent municipalities and Rockland County and set a public hearing on the draft LWRP**

The Village Clerk-Treasurer stated she received a call from Sylvia Welch this morning advising that they were not prepared tonight as she is still waiting to hear from the Department of State and the DEC. She requested this agenda item be moved to March 20, 2018.

**Item #8 8:00pm Continuation of Public Hearing T-Mobile**

Village Attorney stated the Board requested the applicant revisit the proposed design. It was on for the last meeting in February, and the applicant wrote a letter asking it be continued as they were working on a the design. It was scheduled for tonight, the applicant wrote another letter saying they are still working on the design and requested it to be put over to March 20, 2018.

Trustee Burns made a motion to hold over the public hearing to March 20, 2018. The motion was seconded by Trustee DeFeciani and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #9 Review request for permission to remove electric poles from Ferry Road**

George Fanshawe, 520 Gair Street, is with a group that has an application in with Orange & Rockland to have the pole line removed. They are requesting the Village to grant a right of way to extend an underground line from the edge of the HOA property to the first pole, which is on Village property. There are two things for the right of way, one is the new underground, which is a couple hundred feet, and two is the removal of the poles. The 11 poles right after you come onto Ferry Road by the Ballfield would remain. The 11 poles that go out almost past the monument would come down and would get refeed underground from Gair Street. They have an approved application they are in the process of with Orange and Rockland. They are in the design phase of the application process. The next item would be the granted right of way so O&R can come onto the property. Trustee DeFeciani asked if this was a temporary right of way, not an easement? Village Attorney stated this would be permanent easement, they are putting wires underground. He asked if O&R is going to pay for that? Mr. Fanshawe stated the group he has with him tonight is funding it. Village Attorney stated if the Board is inclined to support the project, he can call Matthew Schwartz at O&R and discuss this with him. Trustee Burns went over it with Daniel Spitzer and representatives of the group. It will enhance the look of Ferry Road without the poles. He has been advised that of all the wires up there, there is only one live wire. He believes it is going to have the blessing of the association as well. There is very little of the Village's land that it has to cross to pick up another source of energy. His only question is the meter. George Fanshawe stated there are only 3 meters out there now and they will all stay. This is just getting refeed through an underground. Trustee Burns stated this is also the area where we are raising Ferry Road. Mayor Tucker asked if there are telephone lines on the poles? Mr. Fanshawe stated there are telephone lines and they hadn't been used, but he believes that part of the project, they are installing another empty conduit. Trustee DeFeciani asked Orange and Rockland will make sure none of the services are disrupted? Mr. Fanshawe stated they are just asking that they can come on the property, excavate and put underground wires in. Trustee Burns asked if this goes to the Planning Board? Mr. Fanshawe stated there are no permits required, only an Orange and Rockland required. Trustee DeFeciani asked if there was grant money available for the flood mitigation and the flooding out there and those poles are always in danger of getting wiped out. Mr. Fanshawe stated where the lines are getting installed now is higher ground. Mayor Tucker stated he can forward this to Sylvia. Trustee DeFeciani believes we should take

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Village Attorneys suggestion and allow him permission to speak to their attorney and continue the discussion of what the easement would entail and the legal aspects for the Village.

Danny Herzberg, 518 Gair Street stated it has been quite an undertaking to get 10 people together to do this. They have been looking at these ugly poles since 1998. Orange & Rockland is waiting for the waiver from the Village. This is the final step they need. If everything goes well, the job will be done by June or July. He thanked the Board.

Mark Doroff, 517 Gair Street, lives on Gair Street stated they are a neighborhood representing a proposal they are all very happy to come together to endorse and come up with the funding to do it. He further stated this is a huge plus for the Village, everyone goes down the Pier road.

Mayor Tucker stated we have a grant to raise Ferry Road. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated they were waiting for mid-March, but the weather might have sent it back. Mayor Tucker said he will speak to Sylvia Welch about any possible grants.

**Item #10 Review proposal for new road between Ohio and Gair Street**

Mayor Tucker gave the Board a map of the proposal. The proposal is to essentially make Ohio Street a one-way street into the Patch. Because of the increase traffic with 14 & Hudson being as successful as they are, there is more traffic in the Patch area, causing Ohio and Gair traffic competing into a 5-way intersection with Tate and Piermont Avenue. Even though there have not been accidents at that intersection, by making Ohio a one-way in, it will allow us to pick up some parking spaces on the way in. He was out there with Chief O'Shea today and they figure they can add 5-6 parallel parking spaces. We then need a way to get people out of the patch. Then we propose a 25-foot tie in between Ohio and Gair. There is an elevation difference, so Ken would have to look at the property and tell us what could be done and then that street could be a two-way or a one-way out of the Patch, connecting Liberty to Gair. It would come out onto the connection street in front of the Library. It creates a good traffic pattern and another entrance into the Patch area.

Adele LaTourette, resident of the Patch stated the slanted parking blinds you and cars parking at 14 & Hudson blind you and it is an accident waiting to happen. She suggested making Ladik a one-way going out. She is concerned with the people speeding onto Ladik thinking they are going onto the Pier and there is nowhere for them to go. She suggested this really needs to be studied.

Thomas Seganik, resident stated this is the last Village residential area in the Village that hasn't been exploited by the condos and everything else. This will be a thruway. People will be coming down, using their street to go to the Pier. Mayor Tucker stated they do that now on Ohio Street. It is going to cause a lot more traffic down to the Patch and he is against it.

Trustee Alpert asked if we can have an engineer look at this with us and have a study of people in the community?

Trustee DeFeciani stated this is the first time she is seeing this plan as a member of the Board. It is not a plan from drawn up by an engineer, it is a plan drawn up by Mayor Tucker. It is an issue that is being brought to their attention that they then need to come together and look at, study further, meet with the police, DPW, Fire Department, residents and our Village Engineer to look at that the area to come up with, maybe, several possible solutions to make it a safer intersection.

Trustee Burns stated in regard to the diagonal parking, they spoke to the Chief O'Shea and there was a recommendation to only have compact cars in those first two spots.

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Resident stated that was a good year ago because he wrote a letter to the former Mayor and to the Chief because it is impossible to make that right turn coming out of Gair with the diagonal parking. What he suggested, which hasn't been done yet, is a mirror across the street so you could see cars coming either direction. Trustee Burns stated they would take it up with the Chief.

Steve Silverberg suggested when an engineer looks at this, they need to look at when you are coming up the street from the Library because there is a curve there and you are talking about creating a further intersection and that could be problematic for site lines. Mayor Tucker stated he was out there with the Chief and it is not as bad as one might think. Steve Silberberg asked who owns the property that the proposed road will go through? Mayor Tucker stated we believe it is Village owned. Steve Silverberg suggested that should be confirmed as it is a hodgepodge of who owns what in that area. Mayor Tucker stated that if it turns out this is Phil's property, he already showed this plan to him and he loves it.

Bill Cohut, he believes two-way traffic coming out of Gair is an issue and if that was made a one-way it will alleviate a lot of congestion. People coming from the condos think they have the ultimate right of way and don't even know there is anyone coming out of Ohio or when they are entering Gair, are oblivious to anyone other than Gair Street. A police presence there would be good for people coming in and out of Gair. Trustee Alpert stated there is also a school bus crossing there and the police were going during school bus hours. She stated this idea came from a resident, her husband, as it is not safe, not about increasing parking and this is the first step in brainstorming.

Village Attorney stated for any public works projects, such as constructing a roadway, you have to deal with the engineer on feasibility, cost and budgeting. But when it deals with traffic, there are people who study this. In his experience, getting an objective expert in here is important. There are objective standards they apply. This seems right for a traffic engineer to look at to come up with the best solutions.

Resident stated he believes one-way to reduce some of the traffic at that intersection is to fix the potholes by Confetti's because that is an easy way out for the Gair Street residents to go out through Gair Street. Risking blowing your tires going over there, it is easier to go straight, then down Piermont Avenue. Mayor Tucker stated that is owned by Piermont Plaza Realty. Village Attorney stated they could be sited for property maintenance.

Trustee Alpert asked if we could get a traffic engineer to look at this?

Village Attorney stated we should talk to the Village Engineer and he will give the Board some suggestions. There are guys that work in Rockland County, Harry Baker, Mike Galante and that is what they do. He suggested having the Village Clerk-Treasurer obtain quotes per our procurement policy.

Mayor Tucker will speak to the Village Engineer to see if this is even feasible.

**Item #11 Review Tax Assessor Grievance recommendations**

Trustee Burns made a motion to accept the Tax Assessor Grievance recommendations grievance. The motion was seconded by Trustee Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #12 Public Comment**

Carol Cameron, 549 Piermont Ave., wondered if it was possible to install a sea-wall by Parelli Park from the corner of where the sea-wall ends and go all the way across. As of the storm last week, the water came up and over the boardwalk, down into the park and then flooded the River

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Lot. If that is impossible, the other solution may be to dredge the beach out in the corner by Joan Gussow's house. The beach is the same level as the boardwalk. Over the years, the beach has gotten higher and higher and eventually will be the level with Parelli Park and the water will flow over. Is it possible to dredge the sand out? Trustee DeFeciani stated the Waterfront Resiliency Commission is looking at several ways to prevent flooding in the Village and they have several alternative designs that were developed by the Cornell Adaptive Design Studio and they are going to be working with the DEC moving forward to see if they can put together a master plan for the Village, some of the plans will be posted on the website soon. One plan is a jetty blocking the waves from coming into Parelli. Carol Cameron stated there is already a jetty out there that is not doing anything. Trustee DeFeciani stated the designs that are being looked at are going to be look at more closely with the DEC. Originally when the taskforce looked into putting a seawall in that area, the cost was so expensive. They are looking at alternative designs to prevent flooding in that specific area. Carol Cameron asked what their time frame is? This has been going on for years and years. Trustee Burns stated part of the problem is, the taskforce and commission can design everything, but we are talking millions of dollars and unless we can get funding for it, it is not going to get done. Sylvia Welch has been working very hard to get funding and since we were one of the initial ones to have their resiliency task force and the LWRP, the feeling is they might be able to get funding so that we can be used as an example for people for what they do. We have been working before, during and after Sandy, but we still have to get the funding. Trustee DeFeciani stated the harsh reality of flooding is that some of the plans might be that we have to retreat some of the areas away from the waterfront that there is not going to be a way to protect from flooding with sea-level rise. These are all things we are looking at and trying to figure out what is the best course of action. Trustee Burns stated every single thing we do has repercussions and if we don't get the money for it, there is nothing we can do. Carol Cameron stated she is not saying a fixed wall around Piermont, just this one portion. Mayor Tucker stated we see a lot of areas all around the Village that flood and we are aware of all these problems. Even just to fix the one thing, we would need assistance. Carol Cameron stated there wouldn't need to be a wall, just take the sand away from the beach and put it back where it came from.

**Item #13 Adjournment**

Trustee Burns made a motion at 8:35pm to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee DeFeciani and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer DeYorgi  
Clerk-Treasurer