

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
February 19, 2019**

Present: Mayor Bruce Tucker, Deputy Mayor Blomquist, Trustee Ivanya Alpert, Trustee Rob Burns, Trustee Nate Mitchell, 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 Burns made a motion to approve the minutes for February 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alpert and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #2 – Approval of Warrant**

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to approve Warrant #021919 in the amount of \$104,628.07 and an electronic check payment to NYS Insurance Fund on 2/19/19 in the amount of \$5,397.04 for a grand total of \$110,025.11. 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 informed the Board they finally received their Holder tractor back from the dealer in Albany after 7 months. They used it the last snow storm and it is running well. He also applied for another round of CHIPS for a March 15 payment, so we should be getting \$56,158.00 as of March 15<sup>th</sup> for the last round of road resurfacing from Hudson Terrace and the end of the Pier.

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

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

**Parks Department** – Dan Sherman was not present.

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

**Item #4 - Old Business**

Village Clerk-Treasurer had no old business to discuss.

Village Attorney stated he still needs to provide the Board with the recycling law.

Mayor Tucker had no old business to discuss.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Alpert had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Burns had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Mitchell had no old business to discuss.

**Item# 5 New Business**

Village Clerk-Treasurer had no new business to discuss.

Village Attorney had no new business to discuss.

Trustee Burns had no new business to discuss.

Mayor Tucker asked if we heard from the DEC about the boat ramp? Tom Temple stated no.

Trustee Alpert had no new business to discuss

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no new business to discuss

Trustee Mitchell had no new business to discuss.

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

Village Clerk-Treasurer stated we are trying to schedule the budget meetings and she will put another schedule together and get it to the Board.

**Item #7 Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Intermunicipal Shared Services and Collaboration Agreement with the County of Rockland**

Village Attorney asked for more time for to review this.

Mayor Tucker moved this to the March 5, 2019 agenda.

**Item #8 Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Rockland County STOP-DWI Program**

Mayor Tucker stated this is a program where DWI funds are shared with County police departments. In 2018 our police department made 13 arrests, therefore we get \$1,608.92. We want to participate with this program. Trustee Burns made a motion to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Rockland County STOP-DWI Program. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #9 Review request from the Piermont Chamber of Commerce to hold their annual Bastille Day on Saturday, July 13, 2019, Art in the Park on Sunday, September 22, 2019 and the Holiday Festival on Sunday, December 1, 2019. Review request for Economic Development Funds.**

Laura Straus stated this is their 10<sup>th</sup> year holding Bastille Day. She thanked the Board on behalf of the Chamber for giving them the opportunity to come before the Board and ask for help from the economic development line. It is a huge relief for the Chamber in terms of being able to keep going.

Mayor Tucker stated Chief O'Shea and the Board reviewed the applications. They approved the events and classified Bastille Day and Art in the Park as major events and Holiday Festival as a minor event. They have permission to go ahead and make their plans. In terms of economic

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development, we are just entering budget season and we are not sure how much is going to be available for economic development.

Laura Straus stated usually it was \$15,000 a year, but it might be different this year?

Mayor Tucker stated it may be, yes. We finalize our budget by May 1, 2019. We should have an answer by mid-April for how much will be in the line and what we could give. He believes we can do something, is the general feeling, we are just not sure how much yet.

Laura Straus stated Art in the Park has never been classified as a major event. Mayor Tucker stated last year proved otherwise, according to Chief O'Shea. Laura Straus stated they will ask for help this year with that event as well if there are additional costs. Mayor Tucker reminded them about bathrooms. Laura Straus stated they already budgeted for port-a-potties and they will have them at both events. Mayor Tucker stated the port-a-potties were by the Community Garden for Bastille Day, they might consider moving them closer. Laura Straus stated they can let her know where they want the port-a-johns and they will place them there. Laura stated they got another grant from Rockland Tourism for Art in the Park, which they will use for promotion, so they are excited.

Mayor Tucker stated what they are looking at for the budget this year, because of the salt, any tax increases to the residents will really hurt because of the loss of the deduction. Last year we got the increase under 2% and this year we are trying to get that down from there.

Laura Straus stated the economic development line is new. She wasn't sure if we have actually spent the \$15,000 that was allocated over that time frame.

Mayor Tucker stated at this point, considering the McHugh Run, he believes that will tap out the remaining funds for this budget year.

Village Clerk-Treasurer stated their money doesn't get carried over from year to year.

Farah Abramson asked what the time frame is because they need to contact possible sponsors. Without economic development to cover the cost of closing the street to police and DPW, they will not be able to do it. So, they need to know before they take money from people.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist stated we should they should know by mid-April.

**Item #10 Public Comment**

**Arthur LePore, Confetti Restaurant** - Informed the Board he was very happy with the way the market was running before. They seem to be doing a good job. He has concerns about the new market wondering if they are doing the same hours and what their products will be? Farmers market should be fresh produce, fruits, vegetables NOT ready to eat meals, grab and go style, i.e. coffee, sandwiches, ice cream, picnic foods to be eaten in the park. Is this a farmer's market or a food court? As a tenant in Flywheel Park a portion of his rent pays to clean the park and remove the garbage, as well as the other tenants that are responsible to maintain the park. The reason why he is concerned about these issues is because it's a 5-month busy season and a long, slow 7-month winter. Besides the Souk, everybody is an outside vendor. He has always allowed people to use their restrooms which is no benefit to him. Half of the vendors and market shoppers are parking behind the restaurant for most of the day. Parking has changed. The new owners of Gerhart's are not allowing parking in their lot as of now. The parking in the town municipal lot by the library is for guests or is it for commercial use because the trucks from the market park there. We have been hearing about addressing parking for the last 3 years. The parking in the Piermont Plaza in the patch of grass was to be used as a parking lot, what is the status of that?

Mayor Tucker asked if the parking and congestion in that area his concern?

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Arthur stated parking is the issue. He is not sure what The Souk intends to do. Is he going to expand, what is he going to sell?

Mayor Tucker stated he has an agreement with M&T Bank.

Arthur asked if they are going to tell him what he can and can't sell?

Mayor Tucker stated he isn't going to tell him.

Village Attorney stated there is a public hearing on March 19, 2019 for the special permit to operate a farmer's market in the M&T parking lot. He is getting referred to the Planning Board before that, so he can tell the Planning Board what he has in mind and the Planning Board can give a recommendation to this Board. If you look at what the Building Department has on file in terms of his application, he does outline some of what he plans to do there. There will be more questions of him at the public hearing of what he plans to do as far as hours of operation, traffic, details of proposed use of parcel of land.

Arthur stated he will be the only person taking business away from other businesses who will be struggling for weeks.

Mayor Tucker asked if this is a new concern, or if this has been a concern for a while?

Arthur stated he doesn't believe the market affected them that much because people would come and do their shopping and leave town. If he is going to sell something that is going to affect the businesses that are paying higher rent and he is going to have the best months of the year and they are struggling during the rest of the months, that is not fair to the long-term tenants.

Village Attorney stated these are questions to ask at the public hearing.

Arthur stated he hopes he has the support of this Board that Mr. Serra understands this. He doesn't pay the rent like they pay. Village Attorney stated he doesn't pay any rent.

**Joe Serra** – Informed the Board, in response to Arthur, his market will be a farmer's market, not any different than the farmers market that was there before. He doesn't think the number of prepared food will be any different. It will be the same idea. Residents in this community want a farmer's market. The Chamber of Commerce members voiced that if the farmers market moved to Goswick Pavilion they would lose business. Their goal is to be a more Piermont centric market, so restaurants will have an opportunity to participate. They do not want to bring in vendors that directly compete. When he presented a couple weeks ago he used Confetti as an example and said that is someone came to him and wanted to sell gelato, he wouldn't do that. And if someone came to sell coffee, he wouldn't do that since Bunbury is down the street.

**Item #11 Adjournment**

Trustee Burns made a motion at 7:53pm to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer DeYorgi  
Clerk-Treasurer