

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 5, 2019**

Present: Mayor Bruce Tucker, Deputy Mayor Blomquist, Trustee Ivanya Alpert, 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.

Trustee Rob Burns was not present.

Item #1 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Trustee Alpert made a motion to approve the minutes for February 7, 2019 and February 19, 2019. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #2 – Approval of Warrant

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to approve Warrant #030519 in the amount of \$32,056.53. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #3 – Department Reports

Department of Public Works - Highway Superintendent Tom Temple was not present.

Police Department – Chief Michael O’Shea informed the Board that the training of bartenders will hopefully start soon. They are going to start the grant in April because they already seeing an increase in traffic on 9W. They started commercial vehicle checks and it went well. They took a truck off the road with no brakes. They will hopefully do that once a month. PAL is going well. Basketball is going, and everyone likes that. Golf will start, and they will they are going to try and start baseball again. Every year the County gives them sales tax money for police equipment and they found that a 5-year replacement plan works well because it cuts down on repairs. The car runs 24 hours and they rotate them, this way they don’t burn them all out at once. Chief Hardy spoke about getting a car for the EMT unit to get people in and asked about PD Car 375, which is the car that is supposed to be cycled out. They sent a letter to the Board asking to have that car to be transferred to the Fire Department. Chief O’Shea stated it is a safety issue also, so they have lights. Chief Hardy stated they have EMTs that live outside the community and to keep the ambulance rolling and get EMTs to the scene, they take this vehicle to their home when they are on duty for that night, they will respond to the scene. It cuts their response time down. After 4 minutes now and they don’t get a response, there is a 4-minute rule and they siren will go again. This way the EMT on duty will call and say they are in and it will stop the clock and the crew can call and meet them on scene and the response time will be a lot better.

Mayor Tucker asked if the vehicle will be parked somewhere and utilized on calls or will somebody drive around in it?

Chief Hardy stated the EMT that is on-call will leave their personal vehicle at the firehouse and take this vehicle home that evening for the shift. The rest of the time it will be at the station house. It is only meant for EMTs. If one of their vehicles go down, they an utilize that as a backup. It will be State certified as an EMS fly car. It will carry a defibrillator and everything for an accident on board.

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Mayor Tucker stated typically, in the past, these cars get surpluses onto Auctions International and the Village recoups the money. He asked Chief Hardy what he thinks the value of this vehicle is?

Chief Hardy stated probably \$7,000 or \$8,000 maybe more. This would be a tremendous help to them.

Trustee Alpert asked if the issue is that they need the equipment that is already on/in the vehicle?

Chief Hardy stated the equipment will stay on the vehicle, crash bag, defibrillator, back board, almost anything they need to handle a call.

Chief O'Shea stated now if a car goes down they will also have an extra car.

Mayor Tucker stated he has no problem with it.

Village Attorney stated this vehicle will be decommissioned for Police purposes and reassigned to the Fire Department.

Trustee Mitchell made a motion to decommission Piermont Police vehicle 375 for police purposes and reassign the vehicle to the Piermont Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Mayor Tucker read the following letter into the record:

Dear Chief O'Shea,

Life in Piermont is greatly enhanced by the dedication, kindness and expertise of our law enforcement team. As the Executive Director of Victims Assistance Services in Westchester County, experiencing on a day to day basis the tragedy and damage of crime I am always grateful for the safety and well-being I feel as a resident of Piermont.

Today I would like to express my thanks to Detective Boutros and Officer Trois [Troy] who very kindly assisted me when I was stranded in the Village on my way to my job helping victims of crime. Both of these men assisted me with my flat tire; this may seem mundane in regard to the many crimes that are committed and affect peoples lives, but always knowing that our police force is available provides a deep sense of safety. I have lived alone in Piermont for 11 years and have a true appreciation for you and your team.

I would also like to thank Sylvia Carbonell for her kind assistance and generosity of spirit.

I send my best wishes to you and the entire Piermont Police team for everything you do for our lovely village. I am enclosing a small contribution as an expression of my appreciation.

Karel Amaranth
Orchard Terrace, Piermont

Mayor Tucker thanked the Chief and the officers. Chief O'Shea stated she was very nice, and he put a copy of the letter in their personnel files.

Building Department - Building Inspector Charles Schaub was not present.

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Parks Department – Dan Sherman informed the Board Trustee Mitchell informed him a proposal had been emailed to the Board to investigate the volunteer removal of a portion on invasive weeds and vines on first 90-feet inside the Ferry Road gate on the Northside. The vides would be dug out by hand, not by pesticides and the time to do that is soon. The proposal was sent in by Glen Sungela. We will see when it is done if there is room for new plants. In Sylvia’s grant proposal for the Pier, she said there was nearly \$35,000 for planting on the Pier. Glen volunteered to do this himself, but Dan will email his volunteers and see if they can get them out to help them as well. Dan introduced Andrea Sherman to the Board. She is with the Dog Park. On June 30th they are going to hold an event, “Paws on the Pier” at the Goswick Pavilion and have a dog parade and some vendors. Their co-sponsor is Hi-Tor Animal Shelter. They mainly raise awareness for the Dog Park to know that it exists. They had a successful donation drive. The profits will be shared with Hi-Tor. They are requesting the \$300 fee be waived to rent the Goswick Pavilion.

Chief O’Shea stated the Pier is closed to vehicles that day, but he stated the Board would have to waive the regulation of no animals at the Pavilion.

Village Clerk-Treasurer stated she gave them a Special Events Application and a rental agreement for the Goswick Pavilion.

Mayor Tucker stated they need to write a check for \$300. As he told the Chamber of Commerce, when it comes to any sort of Economic Development, they are not sure what that line is going to be and we won’t know until we finalize next years budget by mid-April.

Andrea Sherman stated this event will be hosted by Piermont Dog Run and co-sponsored by Hi-Tor Animal Shelter.

Village Attorney asked if anyone was going to insure anyone?

Andrea Sherman asked if dogs in the Dog Run would be part of the Village’s liability since it is Village Property?

Village Attorney stated he is asking for the event. If there is an insurance certificate to be had, we need it. This is separate than just the Dog Run. Subject to completion of the application and provision of necessary insurance.

Dan Sherman stated maybe Hi-Tor’s insurance will be fine. Village Attorney stated it will cover the event?

Andrea Sherman stated if they are completely sharing it and collaborating with them. A number a Towns have dog walks and she will see how they handle it. They have never had an incident in 7 years.

Mayor Tucker asked them to get Hi-Tor’s insurance and the completed application to the Village Clerk-Treasurer.

Fire Department – Chief Don Hardy requested the Board to write a letter to our Senators to support a Bill that is called a “Fair Play Bill” which will allow the EMS services to soft bill, so we can collect some money back from the insurance companies. Currently, the volunteer’s services in the State of New York do not do that. We are not a community ambulance and they are getting a lot of push back from the paid ambulance corps on this.

Mayor Tucker stated this is going before the State Senate and Assembly, so we would send a letter to Jaffe and Carlucci.

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Chief Hardy stated we are looking at between \$600-\$700 per call. Last year there were 190 call the year before that were 240 calls. Hopefully they can recoup some of that money back.

Trustee Mitchell made a motion authorizing the Board to send a letter to State Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffe and Senator David Carlucci and Governor Cuomo supporting the Fair Play Bills that are coming up in both the State Assembly and State Senate. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Chief Hardy stated he spoke with Ray Lennon about the Lighthouse. In their meeting, which also included Trustee Mitchell and Gerry Ables from Goosetown, they came up with the idea of a future siren separate from the lighthouse because it would not look correct. It would be on a pole 15-20 feet from the lighthouse itself. There are no electric lines because it is solar powered. The siren itself works on batteries. It doesn't require the power they have going to it now. In the original proposal it was to be in the lighthouse. The pancakes on the siren do not aesthetically look right. They believe the free-standing siren is for them. It has everything they need. They need the Village Engineer to show them where they propose to put this that the soil will hold this size. He asked the Board to bring in the Village Engineer to help them with this part.

Mayor Tucker asked Ray Lennon if he was okay with this?

Ray Lennon stated they had an extensive meeting yesterday and aside from the Chief and Fire Department's concerns is liability from their standpoint if it is contained in the lighthouse. The Fire Department does not feel obligated to meet the necessary undo liability of having this 60-foot pole within the confines of the lighthouse and wind load must be factored into it. Understandably, things need to be factored in during a storm surge. They are still going to go into this with the Fire Department and the electrical equipment will still be housed within the lighthouse, but the siren pole itself, they feel would be better for both parties if it they were two freestanding structures.

Mayor Tucker stated it sounds like a good plan.

Trustee Mitchell made a motion to allow the Village Engineer to look at the proposed site. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alpert and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #4 - Old Business

Village Clerk-Treasurer stated she received an email from Tammy and Peter Kuiper about a Zoning Board meeting that had previously occurred, regarding 680 Piermont Avenue. It was also sent to Usha Wright. Katie Stoeckeler came to the Clerk's office, does yoga and asked permission to do yoga in Parelli Park 3-4 days a week for 45-75 minutes with a minimum of 4 people and a maximum of 20 people. Village Attorney stated you cannot do business out of a Park, a park is a public forum and if you want to open that door, you are going to have a lot of businesses in the park. Mayor Tucker suggested she go to Phil and see if Flywheel Park is available? Village Clerk-Treasurer will contact her. Lastly, the Board had previously approved the consolidation of the old dormant M&T Bank Accounts and she is now requesting a resolution from the Board to allow her to close the dormant accounts and put the money into the M&T Operating Account. Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion for Village Clerk-Treasurer to close the dormant accounts at M&T Bank and deposit said funds into the Village M&T Operating Account. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Village Attorney stated he spoke to Tom Temple about the scope of our pick up regarding our mandatory recycling law. Scheduled a public hearing for Mandatory Recycling Law on April 2, 2019 at 8:00 pm.

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Mayor Tucker stated the Board had previously approved to move up to \$500,000 into NYCLASS. We just closed on a BAN for \$744,000 and he suggested we increase that amount to up to \$1,000,000 which doesn't necessarily mean we are going to put that much money in there, but we have the option. Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to increase the amount we put into NYCLASS up to \$1,000,000. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Mayor Tucker asked what is happening with the Boat Ramp? We received the DEC Permit, are we ready to move forward? Village Clerk-Treasurer stated she was waiting to hear back from Ken DeGennaro to see if the plans he submitted to the DEC and the plans he submitted to NY Thruway match and that there are no problems with that. Other than that, she believes Tommy has to order the materials and wait for the weather to break. Mayor Tucker stated he just wants to make sure we are going to get paid for it. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated she thought it would be wise to re-submit the paperwork again because what has happened recently is paperwork was submitted, the job was done, and they are coming back to her for other pieces of information, or MWBE waivers weren't good enough and it has been a little bit of a problem and it has been a little bit of a problem now. Mayor Tucker asked if Ken got ahold of her? Village Clerk-Treasurer stated no. Mayor Tucker asked that she follow-up with him.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Alpert stated the discussed the Main Street parking again at the Traffic Committee and discussed with the Chamber of Commerce. The Traffic Committee has recommended to do 4 spots 15-minute parking and 4 spots 2-hour parking and have 2 signs. Mayor Tucker stated 4 of the current 15-minute parking spots would be converted to 2-hour parking. Village Attorney stated we have to add the specific spots to the code and asked for a drawing to be emailed to him. He has to look on the drawing and amend the code, which we will need a public hearing for. Trustee Alpert made a motion to schedule a public hearing on April 2, 2019 at 7:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. A resident asked where these spots would be. Mayor Tucker stated the 4, 2-hour spots will be converted from the current 15-minute spots in front of the wine shop and hair salon and the other 15-minute spots will remain. Trustee Alpert stated the reason for not splitting them up was signage.

Trustee Burns was not present.

Trustee Mitchell had no old business to discuss.

Richard Esnard informed the Board himself and Lola attend the Orangetown Town Board meeting on February 26th concerning the site work to be done on the Erie Path, installation of the electrical box and signage. They approved it. Since they now have all of the approvals, he would like the Board to direct the DPW to get started right away as there is a lot of work to be done. Mayor Tucker asked Trustee Mitchell to reach out to Highway Superintendent Tom Temple regarding same. Trustee Mitchell asked if Tom Temple knows the scope of work that has to be done at the site? Richard Esnard stated yes, he has discussed with Tom Temple and they have met at the site.

Item# 5 New Business

Village Clerk-Treasurer informed the Board we went to closing on the BAN as mentioned in Old Business, which will mature in December 2019 and run with the other BAN that we had and now everything will be together and will not be split.

Village Attorney had no new business to discuss.

Trustee Burns was not present.

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Mayor Tucker stated Verizon has a portion of the Lamont building on the Pier and still maintains some sort of a unit there. Trustee Mitchell stated he thinks there is a cable there. Mayor Tucker asked if we get rent for that? Village Attorney stated he does not know, but they do have an easement to run their cable there, but he doesn't know about the actual physical structure. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated we do not get rent to her knowledge. Deputy Mayor Blomquist will call his contact and inquire. Village Attorney will also look into this. Trustee Mitchell stated he knows they have space, but not sure how they have it.

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:

None.

Item #7 Resolution requesting the NYS DOT to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of NYS Route 9W and Broadway

Mayor Tucker stated about a month ago he had a meeting with Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffe and asked for her help in getting a study done because of the excessive amount of accidents at the corner of Broadway and 9W to see about getting a traffic light. Last week he got a call from NYS DOT saying they will do a study, but they need a resolution from the Board first asking them to do the study. They assured is the study will be done.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to authorize NYS Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic study at the Broadway and 9W. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #8 Presentation by Daniel Spitzer to propose a "Project to improve the appearance of Village Hall with photographs donated by local artists."

Daniel Spitzer asked permission from the Board to install the pictures he brought and install them in the Southeast corner and maybe put another piece of molding, which he has all the hardware to do (it will be removable, so there will not be any damage to Village Hall). He would also like to ask other local artists to do similar, such as Sally Savage, Betsey Franco Feeney, etc. It would be nice to decorate Village Hall. He is asking for permission for himself and suggested the Board to have PPAC to take this on as a project and beautify.

Mayor Tucker stated he thinks this is a good idea. They do not need the Boards permission to go to PPAC as they will come to the Board with their decision.

Dan Sherman stated Trustee Burns had been championing a project since last April and it has just been a little slow in coming in which he asked that he design a panel for four spots in Village Hall that are 36" x 48". It started with Sally Savage's collection but evolved from there. They are trying to perfect it and make them more historic. He showed the Board samples. One panel is the Purple Rose of Cairo, one on disasters, one on early Piermont buildings. They are already designed and planned for Village Hall.

Mayor Tucker stated he believes there is a pretty good consensus from the Board that they would like to see Village Hall spruced up a bit with photos and vignettes. Since we do have a commission, let the commission decide and come to the Board with the recommendation.

Dan Sherman stated he thought the plan was that the four he discussed were to be fairly permanent and the exhibits might be things that change. So, that will be talked about at the next PPAC meeting.

Item #9 Review special Application from Piermont Civic Association for the Summer Concert Series and Lobsterfest. Review request for Economic Development Funds

Mayor Tucker stated they have submitted a request for four summer concerts and a Lobsterfest. Chief stated Lobsterfest will not be a problem because if it gets congested, they will close Paradise at Ferry Road. The concerts are also not a problem. Chief O'Shea stated both events are low impact events and no problem.

Trustee Mitchell made a motion to approve Piermont Civic Association Concert Series and Lobsterfest. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alpert and so carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays. Mayor Tucker recused himself.

Mayor Tucker stated as soon as we decide what our Economic Line is going to be, we will decide at that point, which we should know by the middle of April.

Item #10 Resolution to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Intermunicipal Shared Services and Collaboration Agreement with the County of Rockland

Village Attorney stated Mayor Tucker sent him this to review. Rockland County came up with the idea to have a shared service where all the various highway departments throughout the County would have a list of all the equipment and make it available for cross renting out between entities, if the local entity agrees to do so. The County also has a list of other equipment that they would have available as well, for example, they are building a new garage and the Village would have space to store salt there and then the Village could save money on the purchase of that item. This would entail the Board passing a resolution to enter into this shared services agreement and Tom Temple giving them a list of equipment we have and if someone saw something on the list that they wanted, they would have to ask him if it was okay. Village Attorney sent this agreement to Tom Temple for review and he sent him back a list of equipment. Village Attorney recommends that the Board moves forward with this.

Trustee Alpert made a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Intermunicipal Shared Services and Collaboration Agreement with the County of Rockland. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #11 Review Tax Assessor's Notice of Grievance Determination Letters

Trustee Mitchell made a motion to approve the Board's decision of their review of Tax Assessor's Notice of Grievance Determination Letters. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alpert and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #12 Public Comment

Arthur LePore, Confetti Restaurant - He stated at the last meeting he asked the Board to find out who the merchants were going to be at the Farmer's Market and what they were going to be selling and what times there were going to be opening and closing?

Mayor Tucker stated we never agreed to start looking into who the vendors are at the Farmer's Market.

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Village Attorney stated the Village gives a Special Permit for the use of space, they do not regulate what someone sells. Part of the decision, whether you give someone a permit for something like a farmer's market, is if someone came and said they don't want them there because they were going to compete with their business, that would be something the Board could consider granting the permit. If they grant the permit, they are not going to control what someone does. They license the use, not what someone does.

Mr. LePore stated there is a difference between a vegetable market and a prepared foods market where people will be eating prepared foods around the park. He said there is a caterer on his list, hot dogs, hamburgers and these are all things that he sells.

Mayor Tucker asked him if he has had conversations with the perspective applicant?

Mr. LePore stated he has.

Joe Serra stated he has not.

Trustee Alpert stated there is a public hearing coming up on this, correct?

Village Attorney stated when someone comes in and applies for a special permit, there must be a public hearing, it is referred to the Planning Board and a public hearing before the Board of Trustees.

Daniel Spitzer advised Mr. LePore this application will be heard before the Planning Board on March 11, 2019 if he would like the opportunity to voice his concerns at the level of the Planning Board, they would be happy to listen.

Bob Samuels – He has asked the manager on M&T Bank for years to put curb-cuts. He suggests the Board write a letter to M&T Bank regarding the curb cuts. Mayor Tucker stated he did write a letter. Mr. Samuels stated they are using salt again on the Pier road he thought we stopped doing that. It is a waste of salt and is very bad for all the dogs out there. There seems to be no reason. He requests that we stop putting salt out there. Mayor Tucker asked if this has been discussed in the past? Mr. Samuels stated yes, they stopped doing it for a while.

Trustee Alpert asked if they put gravel down instead. Mr. Samuels stated no, they just plow it. He said so what if there is a little snow on the ground, it might slow people down.

Mr. Samuels stated the gate downstairs is like a gate from Alcatraz. It is very ugly and is difficult for anyone in a wheelchair to open. He suggested we look into improving that.

Mayor Tucker stated he has been in touch with the Manager at M&T Bank about the curb cuts and he continues to email his higher ups and they are both working on trying to get that resolved.

Karen Brown – She is hearing impaired and wears hearing aids and sits in the front row. She cannot hear anyone on the Board except Bruce. She asked if they are using microphones.

The Board confirmed they are all wearing microphones. Betsey Franco Feeney stated she couldn't hear Village Clerk-Treasurer, who stated she didn't have her microphone on.

Trustee Alpert stated they can make an effort to speak louder.

Ms. Brown asked the Board to be considerate and speak louder as they would like to hear what is going on.

Item #13 Adjournment

Trustee Mitchell made a motion at 8:32pm to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer DeYorgi
Clerk-Treasurer