

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**May 19, 2020**

Present: Mayor Bruce Tucker, Deputy Mayor Blomquist, Trustee Kelly Ruby, Trustee Nate Mitchell, Village Attorney Walter Sevastian, Esq. and Jennifer DeYorgi Maher, Village Clerk-Treasurer. Trustee Rob Burns was not present.

**NOTE:** On March 7, 2020, in Executive Order No. 202.1, Governor Cuomo suspended certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law to permit a Village Board to meet and take actions authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access and authorizing such meeting to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. The Village will be activating a remote meeting platform for the Tuesday, May 19, 2020 Village Board meeting, which will enable residents to watch a livestream of the meeting on the “Village of Piermont” Facebook Page - in compliance with the Executive Order.

Please be advised that comments and/or questions on the proposed budget which will be read and addressed at the public hearing may be submitted via email to the Village Clerk no later than 1:00 pm on May 19, 2020, at the email address [clerk@piermont-ny.gov](mailto:clerk@piermont-ny.gov). The Village Board will also be monitoring the Facebook livestream feed, which will enable the public to submit questions during the meeting.

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

Mayor Bruce Tucker asked for a moment of silence for COVID-19 victims.

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

Trustee Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes for April 21, 2020. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist 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 #051920 in the amount of \$41,105.88. 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 informed the Board they are moving forward with Memorial Day park preparations. All employees were tested for COVID last week, and are awaiting results, but all are healthy.

**Police Department** – Chief Hurley informed the Board over the last two weeks they have issued 21 citations, 46 warnings (for masks and social distancing violations). There is still a lot of vehicular traffic coming into the Village on the weekend, but they are seeing more masks being worn. He recommends opening more parking lots at this point, including Lot D, Spruce Street and Drawbridge. Lastly, all officers are healthy.

**Building Department** - Building Inspector Charles Schaub informed the Board they are starting to get busy with permits and CO searches. Mayor Tucker asked about the tree removal on the trail as he received complaints about it. Building Inspector Schaub responded the tree removal company is going back to clean up the job site and they had a permit to remove the trees.

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

**Fire Department** – Chief Goswick, Jr. was not present.

**Item #4 - Old Business**

Village Clerk-Treasurer informed the Board she received opinions from the Planning Board regarding cellar Floor Area Ratio and Fee In Lieu of Park Land, which she forwarded to the Board. Village Attorney stated the next step of the Planning Board opinions is to send the local laws to the County with our SEQRA determination, then schedule public hearings at least 30 days from now. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated the FILOP was sent to the County and they approved in March. Mayor Tucker scheduled a public hearing June 2, 2020 for the Fee in Lieu of Parkland and the Cellar FAR public hearing is scheduled for July 14, 2020. Village Clerk-Treasurer sent the Insurance company the agreement for that the Grace Knowlton sculpture that it will temporarily be located at 100 Rockland Road until moved to its permanent location, she will advise when the endorsement is received. Tax bills have been received and will be sent out in the next couple days.

Village Attorney had no old business to discuss.

Mayor Tucker informed the Board the new ladder truck that we were anticipating being delivered late September/early October now has an anticipated delivery date of January 2021. Village Clerk-Treasurer stated we were set to go out to bid and close by June 15<sup>th</sup>, counsel advised that since everything was in place, the financing could be postponed to, possibly, September. If we know in July the truck is not going to be schedule in January, we could postpone with no additional fees. Mayor Tucker informed the Board that after D’Vine Pier was before the Board at the last meeting, Chief Hurley, Dan Goswick and Peter of the Chamber have been working on a plan to help the restaurants/businesses. D’Vine no longer needs the blocks at this time, but that are asking if the Village can paint a crosswalk from their front to the corner straight across. Tom Temple and DPW will take care of the crosswalk. Additionally, Mayor Tucker stated residents are beginning to ask about the basketball court on Piermont Avenue again. Mayor Tucker asked him to check on his quote, Building Inspector offered to get a second quote and Tom Temple reminded the Board he has a second quote from Tilcon.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Ruby had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Burns was not present.

Trustee Mitchell had no old business to discuss.

**Item# 5 New Business**

Village Clerk-Treasurer had no new business.

Mayor Tucker said the Board is encouraging Memorial Day ceremonies, but no more than 10 people in attendance. Deputy Mayor Blomquist stated the Fire Department is planning on doing the morning service with social distancing/masks with no gathering at Kenned Park. Instead of a parade, there will be a drive by of veterans and Gold Star families by the engines with flowers left on their porches. Mayor Tucker stated Town of Orangetown brought all of their employees back, but Town Hall is still closed, Village Attorney stated Nyack Village Hall is still closed to the public. Mayor Tucker would like to get some Village employees back on a regular basis in Phase One and eventually look to reopen. Tom Temple stated he ordered a plexiglass window for

the Clerk's office, and still is looking into how to accommodate plexiglass on the Court Clerk door/window. Building Inspector suggested plexiglass on the main door to both Departments so both offices were protected. Village Attorney asked if anyone talked to Judge about how they are going to handle Court with the amount of people coming in? Chief Hurley responded he was informed the State is starting a committee about Court interactions and he will advise Village Attorney of his findings. Village Attorney and the Board discussed this matter further.

Village Attorney informed the Board he received a plan from Trustee Mitchell of Confetti Restaurant proposing outdoor seating. Mayor Tucker stated they have not submitted a formal plan/request and he asked that the Chief Hurley, Dan Goswick and Peter of the Chamber who have been working on this submit one comprehensive plan for all restaurants, not individually.

Trustee Burns was not present.

Trustee Ruby had no new business to discuss.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no new business to discuss.

Trustee Mitchell received a request from Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance to give permission to a crew from town and the DEC to do a water chestnut removal in July in the millpond area. They are contacting RC water and soil for permission as well. The Board agreed.

**Item #6 Request from Resident Ivanya Alpert to place Pride Flags around the Village for June Pride Month**

Mayor Tucker made a motion to approve placement of Pride flags around the Village assuming Ms. Alpert will place them. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ruby and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #7 Discussion on donation offer from the Town of Orangetown to transfer Title of the Lower Erie Trail to the Village of Piermont**

Mayor Tucker informed the Board this property begins in Sparkill, eventually empties by the Dolores James property and is currently owned by the Town of Orangetown. He had a meeting with Assistant Village Attorney, Lino Sciarretta, Orangetown Supervisor Theresa Kenny and Town Attorney in which the Town indicated no issue transferring the deed to the Village. Mayor Tucker stated no maintenance is being done on this trail, it is difficult to access, and some Piermont Avenue residents encroach on this trail. Tom Temple stated there is a drainage ditch on S. Piermont Avenue near the Post Office which runs to Kipps Crossing which the Town maintains and is having a flooding issue at the Kipps Crossing end (which the Town is responsible for). Currently, when a tree falls on this property, the Town is responsible to clear it. If we take over this property, we are going to be responsible to maintain everything. He believes this is going to be a maintenance headache to take over this property. Mayor Tucker stated there is a lot on S. Piermont Avenue where cars currently park. Tom Temple stated that lot is also encroached on the track bed/trail and no one (neither the Town nor Village) maintains it. Tom Temple reiterated that it would take a considerable amount of work to clear this trail for a walking trail; clear cutting, maintaining, etc, manpower and money. Trustee Mitchell stated the trail doesn't feed into downtown, it stops at Dolores James' property. The Board discussed the Town property further as well as the Dolores James property. Mayor Tucker stated he will look into this further and we will revisit.

**Item #8 Review request from Piermont Oyster House and Grill Inc. to waive 30-day wait period for Liquor License**

Mayor Tucker made a motion to grant the 30-day wait period for Piermont Oyster House and Grill Inc. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #9 Discussion of issues pertaining to Village operations during the weekend of May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Chief Hurley suggested to lift the parking restrictions on Lot D and Spruce Street Lot and open Drawbridge for foot traffic. Mayor Tucker agreed. Tom Temple will remove applicable signs/barriers and cones will remain on Piermont Avenue and Ferdon Avenue.

**Item #10 Public Comment**

Mayor Tucker received more complaints about the crowds outside of the bike shop. Mayor Tucker asked Chief Hurley to speak to the owners and remind them of social distancing. Building Inspector Schaub stated he spoke to the owner, they don't allow anyone in the store, and it is mainly families that are picking up bikes outside, he didn't see an issue. Trustee Mitchell stated they received some photos from someone showing pallets placed in the Fire Lane as an area to stage/store/park bicycles, which is not acceptable. Chief Hurley will send an officer to speak to the owner.

**Item #11 Adjournment**

Trustee Mitchell made a motion at 7:45 pm to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

**Item #12 Executive Session to discuss personnel matter**

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:29pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to exit Executive Session at 7:45pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer DeYorgi Maher  
Clerk-Treasurer