

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 5, 2020

Present: Mayor Bruce Tucker, Deputy Mayor Blomquist, Trustee Rob Burns, Trustee Kelly Ruby, Trustee Nate Mitchell, Village Attorney Walter Sevastian, Esq. and Jennifer DeYorgi Maher, Village Clerk-Treasurer.

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 5, 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 5, 2020, at the email address 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 14, 2020. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist 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 #050521 in the amount of \$178,667.68. 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 he turned in his April report. He phased workers back in mid-April to a couple days a week and will continue to keep a reduced staff until May 15th at which point he will reevaluate. They had 20 tons of bulk and yard waste on the April 28th bulk pick up. April recycling was the highest month ever at 33.54 tons and garbage went down one ton since last month.

Police Department – Chief Hurley informed the Board they had 187 calls for service over the last two weeks with 56 violations issued. He also has additional officers scheduled on the weekends and foot patrols have helped. Officers who wanted antibody testing done are getting it done this week. They are delivering masks to all residents over 60.

Building Department - Building Inspector Charles Schaub was not present.

Parks Department – Dan Sherman was not present.

Fire Department – Chief Goswick, Jr. advised the Board all members are back and healthy. They had 2 COVID calls in the last 2 weeks, which has dropped significantly. They had a total of 89 calls since March 1st, which they would normally do in 6 months. Marine Units are in operation. They received 500 gowns and 300 masks and will give the PD gowns to use as needed. The Department also has weekly COVID-19 update meetings. Regarding the possible purchase of a training container for the end of the Pier, he obtained a second quote for fencing, \$8,358 compared to the previous almost \$13,000 quote. The fence will enclose the channel markers, chains, anchors, trailers, etc. He reminded the Board they gave him permission to purchase the container at a previous meeting. He obtained a \$6,100 quote for a trailer with the certified welding complete. After payment for these items and one training bill, \$113 will remain in the training/travel line. Mayor Tucker is in favor of this project, but suggests we revisit after this crisis and do it the right way, with a site plan and proper approvals from DEC and Army Corp of Engineers, if needed and also believes this is a Capital project. Chief Goswick agreed but stated his concerns for the Department not having training for the past three months and how that looks for the future. Village Attorney stated a SEQRA review will probably need to be done. Chief Goswick will forward the specs to the Board. Mayor Tucker thanked Chief and the Fire Department for all that they are doing.

Item #4 - Old Business

Village Clerk-Treasurer informed the Board of Pier permit holder concerns of not being able to fully use their passes during the crisis and suggested the Board need to look at refunds or next year credit. Mayor Tucker stated this will be looked at when this crisis is over. She will also be refunding event fees for Gran Fondo and a couple pavilion rental fees as they are not moving forward.

Village Attorney had no old business to discuss.

Mayor Tucker had no old business to discuss.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist had no old business to discuss.

Trustee Ruby 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 informed the Board the GASBY report is complete, and she is waiting for the 2019 audit from Dave Wemmer now that that is complete.

Mayor Tucker stated Joe Serra wanted to address the Board about the Farmer's market. Joe Serra informed the Board the Farmer's Market is to open this weekend per their Special Permit. They are usually at M&T Bank, but by request they are temporarily moving to Flywheel Park to better manage social distancing, traffic, monitoring, etc. He has permission from Phil Griffin, vendors will park along the road in Flywheel Park and patrons in M&T lot. The Board and Mr. Serra discussed. Trustee Burns expressed his concerns with cars coming into the Village. Mayor Tucker and Trustee Ruby believe it would be good to open for residents to buy fresh produce. Mayor Tucker made a motion to approve the Farmer's Market move from M&T Bank to Flywheel Park. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ruby and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Village Attorney had no new business to discuss.

Trustee Burns had no new business to discuss.

Trustee Ruby 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 Request from D’Vine Pie for additional outside seating and barricade

Doug Stone for D’Vine Pie was before the Board requesting additional outside seating, which will give up the half parking space outside the restaurant and have barriers put up allowing them to put up more tables outside, as they believe they will not survive on what they are approved for now. Mayor Tucker asked with tables required to be 6 feet apart, how many tables will that be? Mr. Stone responded currently two to three, but with the new configuration, 6 to 8 tables for two. Their landlord has also agreed to remove the garbage/recycling area to the right of their building to give them more space. Trustee Mitchell asked if they would still have tables inside and what their total capacity would be? Mr. Stone responded they would still have indoor seating according to State allowance, but not more than 50% of what they are approved for. Trustee Burns stated his concerns of that intersection and asked what they are suggesting for barricades? Mr. Stone stated he is not planning to install barricades; he wants the Village to and asked they be nicer than they were during the traffic study. Mayor Tucker and Tom Temple agreed that what was there during the traffic study was temporary and we do not have permanent barriers on hand. Tom Temple further stated his concerns of that intersection and believes inviting pedestrians/visitors into a traffic lane is a liability waiting to happen. But, if this project were to move forward, he suggests 34-inch high water barriers (~\$500/piece) and this would require three barriers. Tom Temple will ask Town of Orangetown if they have barricades to lend, per Mayor Tucker’s request.

Village Attorney stated this request would be an amendment to their Special Permit and what they need to lay out exactly where those seats would be, and it might not affect their seating. Village Attorney discussed changes the Board may consider for all restaurants when we begin to reopen and stated if requests are made to move into the public right of way, all businesses may then want the same. Mr. Stone and Village Attorney discussed further. Mr. Stone stated if their request is not approved, their business will fail. Mayor Tucker stated he will ask Walter Cain if the granite blocks on his property can be used for this purpose. Trustee Mitchell asked Tom Temple if he could mark the street where the minimum lane width would be. Tom Temple will do same, and he further stated minimum width is 10feet, and this will be close.

Item #7 Resolution to adopt 2020 Adjusted Base Proportions

Village Clerk-Treasurer stated these are the adjusted base propositions from last year that applied to this year.

Deputy Mayor Blomquist made a motion to adopt 2020 Adjusted Base Proportions. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #8 Resolution to adopt the 2020 Tax Warrant

Village Clerk-Treasurer stated this authorizes to print tax bills, accept the taxes until July 1st without penalty and after July 1st they start accruing a 5% penalty.

Trustee Burns made a motion to adopt the 2020 Tax Warrant in the amount of \$4,929,679.00. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #9 Review proposal from Tetra Tech for Community Rating System (CRS) Program Technical Assistance

Trustee Mitchell stated this company did the RC Hazard Mitigation Plan and is familiar with Piermont and can help finish this program they've been working on for 5 years. This is essentially a discount program for property owners with NFIP flood insurance to receive discounts based on administrative tasks the community has been certified to do, provides direct financial relief to people with flood insurance and will pay for itself over time.

Trustee Mitchell made a motion to accept the proposal from Tetra Tech for Community Rating System (CRS) Program Technical Assistance. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Blomquist and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Item #10 Public Comment

Peter (Piermont Chamber President) via email – expressed his concerns with the parking lots continuing to remain closed to outside residents as that may discourage people to come to the Village and shop and spend money in the Village. Mayor Tucker stated the Board decided at the meeting yesterday to leave the Municipal lots resident parking only for one more week.

Item #11 Adjournment

Trustee Burns made a motion at 7:51 pm to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mitchell and so carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer DeYorgi Maher
Clerk-Treasurer