

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2009 – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Clarence Speed, Trustees Brian Johnson, Barbara Sagal, Douglas Cropper, Robin Andrews, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris.

MOTION to approve minutes of the previous meeting made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Trustee Andrews, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #3, Water Abstract #3, Sewer Abstract #3, Library Abstract #3, T&A Abstract #3, Library Building Abstract #4, Summit Lake Abstract #3, Summits Heights Abstract #3) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Brian Wheeler asked if "brush pick-up" would resume. Trustee Johnson said that a schedule would be developed closer to the fall. Mr. Wheeler also asked why a "stop work order" sign has been put on the Mill on Summit Street at this point in time instead of when work began. The Mayor stated that the order was issued because the necessary permits were not acquired by the owner. He admitted not being aware of the situation at the beginning of the project...he was just pleased that the Mill was being repaired and renovated, but upon receiving complaints regarding the lack of permits, he instructed the building department to investigate the status of the project.

A group of residents from Richardson's Hall expressed concern about the lack of attention the crosswalk has been getting. They noted that cars are *not* stopping when someone is in the crosswalk and they fear that someone will be hurt. The Mayor stated that he has contacted Jack Hart with DOT on several occasions to have the crosswalk painted and Mr. Hart has assured him that we are "on the schedule" but he will contact them again. He will also (again) pass their concerns on to the police department so they can maintain a presence in the area. He noted that all crosswalks will be made more visible and will try to educate people about the rules related to the crosswalks. (He will also see if he can find out where the "little people" signs can be purchased). (The Mayor gave the residents of Richardson's Hall the right to "slap the Mayor" if the crosswalk situation isn't dealt with by next meeting!!-smile).

Clyde Colburn wanted to know why he has heard nothing regarding the sewage problem he brought to the board's attention last meeting (ongoing problem for sometime now). Mike Scheller was suppose to be working on the problem and keeping him informed, however he has not heard from Mr. Scheller or anyone else regarding the situation. He has been forced to disconnect his washer from the system and noted that if there were any plumbing problems arising from the situation, the Village would be receiving a bill. No one on the board disputed the fact that someone should have contacted him. It was noted that NY Rural Water was suppose to be putting a camera down in the area to indicate

where the problem was then the DPW would repair it, however, nothing has been done. He noted that he would *not* be at the next meeting as he felt it was a waste of his time. The Board agreed to handle the situation.

Representing the Philmont Fire Company, John Blaauw noted that there is still a “space” problem at the firehouse with the Rescue Squad and wanted to know what the status of the Rescue Squad move was. Trustee Sagal (also a member of the Rescue Squad) noted that they are still exploring options and when the economy went “south” everything came to a stand still. Mr. Blaauw noted that the situation has been ongoing for years, long before the problems with the economy and felt that the joint meetings may have to be restarted as it seems that nothing is progressing towards the Rescue Squad finding their own quarters.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:

Ongoing projects. Noted that there was potential interest from two cell tower carriers to place a tower at Forest Lake which would mean better cell reception for area residents and potential revenue for the village. He will investigate all possibilities.

CLERK/TREASURER MORRIS:

Water turn-off is scheduled for September 10, 2009 for those still owing their April, 2009 bill, and a list has been provided to the Village Board for review. Also, the village office will be closed on Monday, September 7th for the Labor Day holiday.

DPW/WATER/SEWER: Reports were given by Trustee Johnson. Copies are available in the village office for review.

POLICE REPORT: Report was given by OIC Doyle. A copy is available in the village office for review. He noted that with the assistance of the Columbia County Sheriff’s Department, the department has qualified to receive equipment through a grant to assist with interrogation techniques. He also noted that the officers in the department have been certified in Taser use. He reported that the village is sponsoring six recruits to the police academy which begins in September.

LIBRARY REPORT: Report given by Interim Director Karen Garafalo. A copy is available in the village office for review.

MAIN STREET COMMITTEE: Report given by Trustee Andrews. She noted that the last meeting was poorly attended. They are looking for volunteers for the October event.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Report given by Trustee Andrews. It was reported that Clara resigned to take a full time job and is moving out of the area and a new part-time coordinator will be hired (see motions). They are also looking for a program coordinator for an exercise program. It was also noted that there were problems with bees but the area has been treated and seems to be improving.

MAYOR SPEED: Noted that he has been in Ocean City for a week's vacation however has been keeping up with things via phone. Before he left, he checked the village reservoir and dam to make sure all was safe. The dam had been adjusted to the water flow and several Columbia County and State officials were there monitoring the situation. They were also directed to the "upper dam" which is privately owned where they assessed the situation and conducted a review. He also has attended meetings on Summit Heights, the water tower and promises to handle the "crosswalk" problem.

TRUSTEE CROPPER: Dealt with the "water fiasco". He felt the dam held up fine with the exception of only one small spot that was taken care of. He accompanied a contingent to the privately owned upper dam where they "borrowed" a boat (full of snakes) and toured the area. He noted that the end result was that the En Con Officer was to issue a ticket to the owner to encourage repair. He reported that all is fine at Forest Lake however due to the recent abundance of rain, the road leading to Forest Lake is in very poor shape. He praised the "Work Force Program" employees for doing a great job clearing the road of debris.

TRUSTEE SAGAL: She thanked Al Charron and Ron Decker for all their hard work in making the Fishing Derby a great success.

TRUSTEE ANDREWS: She also thanked Al and Ron and noted that they raised \$1000 for the event. She also reported that she is continuing to attend the Pine Haven meetings and feels that the discussions are going in a positive direction. She also reported that she has been working with the Work Force Program employees on many projects. She noted that the group of workers are very enthusiastic and energetic and have done a fantastic job. Certificates were presented to them at the fishing derby and the Village Board members will sponsor a Pizza Party for them on Thursday (their final day).

TRUSTEE JOHNSON: Reported on the flooding at the sewer plant and noted that the float system needs to be changed and the electrical system needs repair. He praised the efforts of the WWTP employees. He also reported that he worked with two employees of the Work Force Program and thanked them for their efforts. He also noted that he would make sure that Clyde Colburn's situation would be remedied.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST – COPIES MADE AVAILABE TO THE AUDIENCE

MOTIONS:

1. **MOTION** to enforce the water turn-off law, with turn-off scheduled for September 10, 2009 for those still owing their April, 2009 bill made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to appoint Michelle J. Benson as a Substitute Program Coordinator for the Philmont Community Center for between 0 and 12 hours a month at a rate of \$10.00/hour made by Trustee Andrews, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

3. **MOTION** to extend time limitations to October 2009 for the Summit Heights Phase 2A (only) “Completion of Infrastructure” made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

Summit Heights time extension was discussed (see motions).

The Clerk thanked the fire company for “coming to her rescue” and pumping out her cellar during the recent storms.

MOTION to adjourn in memory of Ellen Rhodes (a moment of silence was observed) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris
Clerk/Treasurer
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT