

VILLAGE OF CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 12, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:40 P.M., at 325 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mayor Joseph J. Gross
Trustee Barbara J. Gosda
Trustee Mark J. Edsall
Trustee Richard Gioia

Absent was: Trustee Douglas Vatter

Also present were: Water Superintendent Robert June, Deputy Village Attorney Jeffrey Sculley, and Village Clerk Jeanne Mahoney.

ETHIC BOARD RE-APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Gross stated that members of the Ethics Board, originally appointed on January 17, 2009, must be re-appointed because they did not receive/take the Oath of Office within the thirty (30) day requirement.

Trustee Gioia made a motion to re-appoint Anne Duignan (1 year term), Elizabeth Hellwege (2 year term), and Thomas Bailey (3 year term) which was seconded by Trustee Edsall and carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays. Further Trustee Gioia made a motion to set three (3) year renewal terms for Ethics Board members, to be staggered each January, which was seconded by Trustee Edsall and carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

PERMA/TRANSITIONAL DUTY POLICY

Trustee Gosda stated she recently attended a PERMA workshop on “Slips, Trips, and Falls” which addressed employee safety in the workplace. It also addressed “transitional duty” for employees injured on the job to reduce the cost of worker compensation claims. Mrs. Gosda would like the Village Board to “revisit” a draft transitional duty policy because of its benefits to the employee and the Village departments.

After some discussion, Deputy Attorney Sculley was asked to send the current draft policy, including a “sunset date” clause, to the CSEA representative and Village Department Heads for review.

HALLOWEEN CURFEW DISCUSSION

Discussion took place regarding a curfew on Halloween night. Mayor Gross stated he will take the comments into consideration in his decision.

DEER MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Deputy Village Attorney Sculley stated that he has been reviewing the Villages' local discharge law and whether it can be "preempted" as a NYS DEC opinion implies. He anticipates a formal opinion from his office will be ready time for the regular meeting on October 19th.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

A letter received earlier this year from the NYS Office of Real Property Services regarding consolidation of assessment units between Towns and Villages prompted Mayor Gross to question the benefits of ceding with the Town of Cornwall. He asked Board of Assessment Review (BAR) Member Susan Ostrander to gather information and report back to the Village Board.

Ms. Ostrander gave a brief presentation to the Village Board about the history of property assessment in the Village. She stated the Village has been an assessing unit since 1978. Each year, the Village receives a copy of the assessment roll from the Town of Cornwall free of charge. The Assessor (Mayor) then has the authority to make changes to the roll dependent upon building permits and certificates of occupancies filed between March 1st and October 1st. The cost to the Village to maintain this status is minimal. In addition, each year the BAR holds a "grievance day" providing Village property owners the opportunity to grieve their property assessment(s). It is her opinion that the benefits to Village taxpayers by maintaining a separate assessing unit in the Village, outweighs the negatives.

The Mayor and Board members thanked Ms. Ostrander and Thomas Petersen for the experience and knowledge they bring each year to the BAR.

CAR WASHES

Trustee Edsall made a motion authorizing the Village Clerk to approve requests for car washes at the Village Hall parking lot in accordance with the following conditions:

1. An adult is present at all times.
2. The organization is a local non-profit (Cornwall and Cornwall-on-Hudson only).
3. The organization agrees to use bio-degradable products and bring hoses, buckets, etc.
4. The area is completely cleaned by organization at the end of the car wash event.
5. Only one car wash per organization per year is permitted.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gioia and carried by a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays.

RIVERFRONT

Discussion took place regarding the existing group use policy, parking of busses, and parking tickets. The group use policy is working out well, and the Board agreed to consider changes to riverfront rules and regulations regarding bus parking. In addition, they will consider offering people who receive a parking ticket the opportunity to turn it into the Village Clerk's Office for a valid sticker at a fee to be determined.

Trustee Gioia displayed the new bank bags that will be provided to local businesses in the Town and Village to sell daily parking passes on weekends and holidays.

BLACK ROCK PLANT – FEASIBILITY STUDY HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER

Trustee Gioia stated that the Board has received the feasibility study performed by Windsor Machinery. The study shows the capacity for power from water pressure is diminished by the 100 year old cast iron pipe feeding water from the dams to the plant and two (2) pressure reducing valves installed along that water line.

Discussion followed regarding joining this project with Black Rock Forest's project for funding purposes.

BLACK ROCK REPLACEMENT PUMPS

Water Superintendent June stated that he has experienced difficulty locating replacement valves through Siemens Technologies. He has found a supplier in Indiana that can supply the parts and delivery is expected within the next two (2) weeks.

CODE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

Trustee Gosda met with Arlene Roberts, Secretary to the DPW Superintendent, Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, Planning and Zoning Boards regarding the permit process. She found that Ms. Roberts has been "inconsistent" in charging/collecting building permit renewal fees. The fee schedule adopted by the Village Board in 2006 is not specific on renewal fees. She feels that Ms. Roberts did not receive sufficient administrative assistance/training to handle these matters, and hopes that will be addressed when a new building inspector/code enforcement officer is selected.

In addition, Ms. Roberts has many outstanding certificates of occupancy and certificates of compliance that have not been paid for by building permit holders. She spends untold hours making phone calls and sending reminder notices. Mrs. Gosda would like the Board to address this problem to streamline that process.

Having concluded the business set before them, Trustee Edsall moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters in the Water Department and Police Department, as well as a litigation matter, and ongoing negotiations with McClaren Engineers which was seconded by Trustee Vatter and upon a vote of 5 Ayes and 0 Nays the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.