

VILLAGE OF CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 14, 2013

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:00 P.M., at 325 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mayor Brendan G. Coyne  
Trustee James P. Kane  
Trustee Peter Russell

Absent were: Deputy Mayor Mark J. Edsall and Trustee David Carnright

Also present was: Village Clerk Jeanne Mahoney

Mayor Coyne moved to adjourn the meeting into an “information” session in order to discuss the Village’s 2013-2014 general insurance policy renewal and related matters with Owen McKane of The McKane Group and Robert Dewit of Dewit Insurance. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kane and carried upon a vote of 3 Ayes and 0 Nays.

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was reconvened at 7:00 P.M., with the Pledge of Allegiance, at 325 Hudson St., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mayor Brendan G. Coyne  
Deputy Mark J. Edsall  
Trustee James P. Kane  
Trustee Peter Russell  
Trustee David Carnright

Also present were: DPW Superintendent David Halvorsen, Police Chief Steven Dixon, Storm King Engine Co. #2 Fire Chief Robby Vought, Code Enforcement Officer Ben Maggio, and Village Clerk Jeanne Mahoney

Absent was: Water Superintendent Robert June (father is seriously ill)

Mayor Coyne announced that there is a binder on the back table for anyone interested in looking at the draft budget and meeting-related documents that will be discussed this evening.

A moment of silence was observed for Michael Lug, a 20+ year veteran of our Police Department and a 40+ year teacher in the Cornwall Central School District. He was well-loved and well-respected in our community.

## PUBLIC HEARING 2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

Proof of Notice and Publication having been furnished, and copies of the budget having been distributed, Trustee Kane made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2013-14 Budget at 7:02 PM which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Mayor Coyne stated that based upon the discussion with our insurance brokers earlier this evening, he would like to keep the public hearing open. Deputy Mayor Edsall agreed and stated that the Board will need to decide whether to continue the meeting next Monday or to “push the meeting” until January 28<sup>th</sup> to provide additional time to resolve insurance issues. Trustee Kane also agreed that additional time is needed to work on the budget.

Having no one further wish to speak, Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to adjourn the public hearing until January 21, 2013 at 7:00 PM which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried by a vote of 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

## DRAFT MONTHLY REPORTS - DECEMBER

The Village Board reviewed the draft Treasurer’s, Building, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Water Department Reports for December.

Storm King Engine Co. #2 – Insurance Services Organization (ISO) – Fire Chief Vought reported that an ISO inspection was performed last March in order to provide a rating that is used to determine how we are charged for insurance. The last inspection was done in April of 2000 and we were given a “Class 4” rating which is about the highest that a volunteer fire department can realistically hope for. This time our rating will drop to a “5”. An initial report was received back in July and the department was given 6 months to make improvements. Since then everything that can be done to improve our rating has been done with the exception of excavating the entire water hydrant system, obtaining more pumps, and changing flow rates which is nearly impossible to do based on what the ISO wants.

Code Enforcement Officer Maggio reported that the ISO inspector picked a hydrant near Storm King School and reclassified the surrounding area as a commercial district. That reclassification requires a higher fire hydrant flow rate. That isn’t possible because the hydrant system is already installed. In addition the hydrant the inspector selected isn’t the “first priority” one that would be used to fight a fire at the school. To comply with the report, other improvement measures are being put into place including implementation of a computerized system to record all fire inspections.

Mayor Coyne reported that he sent a letter to the ISO in which he indicated that our fire department would have fought a fire in the Storm King School area with tankers back in 2000 and would fight a fire there with tankers in 2012-2013. He will ask them to come back in about 18 months for a follow up inspection to show the other improvements made. Discussion followed.

Security Measures – Chief Dixon reported that a camera system was recently installed in the Police Department headquarters to help implement security. In addition he attended 2 meetings last week pertaining to security measures and finding ways to improve security in schools. Discussion followed.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### MOUNTAIN VALLEY GUIDES COMMERCIAL KAYAK PERMIT

Mayor Coyne met with Bill Garrison of Mountain Valley Guides last week regarding their annual permit and plans to meet with him again at a future date. Deputy Mayor Edsall was asked to attend the next meeting.

### HOLTS LANE: LAW REGARDING REVISING PARKING

Mayor Coyne announced that a public hearing is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on January 21, 2013 on an introductory local law to revise parking on Holts Lane.

### CAPITAL RESERVE

Mayor Coyne reported that he will be working with Treasurer Mahoney and Nugent & Haeussler, P.C., the Village's auditors, to set up a "capital reserve" in order to put money aside to plan for and take care of capital expenditures in the future.

### SEWER RATES

Mayor Coyne reported that proposed changes in the way sewer charges are calculated and collected has been under review by the Attorney for the Village.

Deputy Mayor Edsall added that regular sewer O&M (operation and maintenance) charges have always been calculated as a percentage of water usage. Those costs have been "reasonably" stable; however, capital improvements have become "unstable". We have no control of those charges because, in many cases, they are mandated by the DEC and/or are capital projects undertaken by the Town of Cornwall who own the greater majority of the sewer plant. The Village Board is anticipating a "fairly sizable" capital improvement charge from the Town for our portion of the debt service. The concept now is to apply the capital improvement debt service as a "point charge" to be shared more evenly from residence to residence. Rather than

being based on usage it will be based on single family homes carrying the burden on a more equal basis. Because this is a “long term improvement”, it benefits the property long term. This change in the way sewer is billed will allow the Board to put a system in place to be prepared when we receive a bill from the Town.

#### SANITATION PACKER UNIT

Mayor Coyne reported that DPW Superintendent Halvorsen has requested permission to purchase a new packer unit for our sanitation truck at an estimated cost of \$75,000.00.

DPW Superintendent Halvorsen added that a new packer is needed for our “newest” sanitation truck which is 10 years old. Over the last three years our garbage trucks have “taken a beating”. They were stored outside 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. The packer is rotting out and there are DEC mandates in place regarding truck leaks. Discussion followed.

#### DPW BUILDING LITIGATION

Discussion was tabled for Executive Session later this evening.

#### TAYLOR’S WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY UPDATE

Mayor Coyne reported that Jim Taylor was successful in his latest legal challenges regarding the facility; however, the start date will be moved back to sometime in 2014. A new contract will not be required.

#### WORKERS’ COMPENSATION – FORMER EMPLOYEE

Discussion was tabled for Executive Session later this evening.

#### NEW YEAR’S EVE BALL DROP

Mayor Coyne thanked the Fire Department for “stepping forward” with the ball drop. It was a smaller event with approximately 300 people attending. He hopes to have a bigger celebration next year and to bring back the entertainment. Mayor Coyne also thanked the Police Department for their presence and the DPW Department for last minute snow cleanup prior to the event.

#### ORANGE COUNTY ROAD STRIPING

Mayor Coyne reported that this item will be addressed at the business meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### ROUTE 218 CLOSURE

Mayor Coyne reported that Route 218 has been closed due to rock slides; however, Fire Chief Vought reported it has since re-opened.

## MUSEUM LEASE

Discussion was tabled for Executive Session later this evening.

## UNION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Discussion was tabled for Executive Session later this evening.

## BUSINESS MEETINGS – FEBRUARY & MARCH

Mayor Coyne would like the Village Board to consider rescheduling the business meeting in February from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> due to the President's Holiday and the business meeting in March from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> due to the March 19<sup>th</sup> Village Election Day.

Having concluded the business set before them, Mayor Coyne moved to adjourn the special meeting into Executive Session in order to discuss DPW Building Litigation, Workers Compensation (former employee), the Museum lease, and CSEA/PBA Union Negotiations, which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and upon a vote of 5 Ayes and 0 Nays, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.