

VILLAGE OF CORNWALL-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 18, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

Mayor Brendan G. Coyne
Deputy Mayor Mark J. Edsall
Trustee David Carnright
Trustee Kenneth A. Schmidt

Absent was: Trustee James P. Kane – Military Duty

Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:31 P.M. in order to interview a prospective employee in the Village Police Department, and discuss the Cornwall Yacht Club lease. The motion was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:53 PM on a motion by Mayor Coyne which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order 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 Mayor Mark J. Edsall
Trustee David Carnright
Trustee Kenneth A. Schmidt

Absent was: Trustee James P. Kane – Military Duty

Also present were: DPW Superintendent David Halvorsen, Attorney for the Village Joseph McKay, and Village Clerk Jeanne Mahoney.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret Flint of 94 Weeks Avenue has received a bill for the new sewer capital assessment on her residence and another for an adjacent vacant parcel that she owns. She is objecting to the bill for the vacant parcel. It is a small non-buildable lot that receives no benefit from the sewer plant.

Mayor Coyne stated that the Board has been working for 4 years to prepare to pay for the anticipated costs of repairs and mandated upgrades to the jointly owned sewer plant. A public hearing was held last year. This is “new territory” and they are “working out the kinks”. The Board has tried to determine what vacant parcels may build in the future with a variance. Currently a minimum square footage of 5,000 has been set. They will look into that further.

Deputy Mayor Edsall stated that the theory behind billing potential buildable lots is that there is an advantage to having sewer available in the road; however, the Village Board may need to review the “line that was drawn” as to what size lot constitutes a building lot. The Board had felt that anything over 5,000 sq. ft. had the potential to be used to build a house on.

Mrs. Flint also stated that the Village can save money by having one garbage collection each week. Most households have more recycling items than garbage and she would like to increase recycling collection from twice a month to weekly.

Mayor Coyne replied that this matter is under consideration by the Village Board.

Rich Cocchiara introduced himself to the Village Board and public and announced that he is running for New York State Assembly. He would like the opportunity to meet with the Mayor to discuss ongoing concerns with oil trains.

MINUTES

Mayor Coyne made a motion to accept the July 21, 2014 Business Meeting Minutes as presented, which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Mayor Coyne made a motion to accept the August 11, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes as presented, which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Coyne is in receipt of the following correspondence:

- Letter from Thomas F. Prendergast, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) regarding their proposed 2015-2018 Financial Plan that includes service and safety investments.
- Letter from Jon Kohn of Tuscan Arizona who owns property at 5 Taft Place. Mr. Kohn is offering to pay to have trees pruned on neighboring Village owned property in order to restore his view of the Hudson River. After some discussion, Mayor Coyne agreed to respond to Mr. Kohn’s request.
- Letter from Hilary Ackermann, Chairperson of Storm King School Board of Trustees announcing the resignation of the headmaster, Paul Domingue, effective June 30, 2014.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The open utility balances report for the end of July read as follows:

Village water, sewer, garbage & penalties	\$ 128,265.29
Town water & penalties	480,744.31

which included 6 finals/adjustments for the Village and 7 for the Town.

Warrant #8 – Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to approve the August 2014 Warrant (#8) and authorize payments totaling \$444,405.23, which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried by a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Treasurer Mahoney reported receipt of \$3,827,767.14 (56%) in anticipated revenues and \$2,318,612.23 (33.92%) in anticipated expenditures through the end of July.

Ms. Mahoney reported that the total collected in Village taxes through July 31st is \$2,391,040.66.

On July 25th the final payment on a Water Fund Revenue Anticipation Note was made. The Village has now paid off all existing RAN's. Ms. Mahoney thanked Deputy Mayor Edsall and former Trustee Bill Fogarty for creating and putting into action a plan to sensibly reduce Village debt.

Ms. Mahoney further reported that a sewer improvement capital charge was included with the August 15th commercial customer billing. Owners of vacant land with a minimum lot size of 5,000 sq. ft. also received bills. She hopes to be ready to bill “benefitted” properties in October.

On July 18th, the Village received \$42,126.75 from FEMA for a portion of our costs associated with Hurricane Sandy. This payment covers police coverage and water department labor/materials.

In 2006, the Village Board adopted a local law establishing a fee procedure for collecting escrow deposits (Chapter 76, Article 2). A fee schedule was then established by resolution. Ms. Mahoney requested that the Village Board review and update the fees schedule. Discussion followed.

CORNELL SUMMER INTERN – VILLAGE ROADS INVENTORY REPORT

Richard Ipsen, the Village's Summer Intern from Cornell University, has completed an inventory of all Village roads and presented his findings to the Board. He explained how he entered the location, width, distance, and road surface type into the computer and the software program categorized and prioritized the condition of our roads. The program also ranked each road in the order in which they need repair and determined costs based upon the type of material to be used. Mr. Ipsen estimates that based on the current budgeted amount, it will take 17 years or \$200,000 each year for 5 years to fix all Village roads. Once roads have been resurfaced, Mr. Ipsen explained the importance of regular upkeep and maintenance to keep future costs down.

BOARD DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Department Trustee Carnright reported 15 building permits were issued, 10 certificates of compliance/occupancy were issued, 45 onsite inspections were performed, and 3 fire inspections were conducted. Inspector Maggio worked 80 hours in July.

Fire Department – Deputy Mayor Edsall reported 2 automatic alarm/CO calls, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 gas odor, 1 mutual aid/to scene, 1 mutual aid/stand by, 10 medical calls, 6 work details, 5 fair, 3 fire prevention, 1 parade, and 11 in-house drills for a total of 42 events and 1026 man hours.

Mr. Edsall further reported that the department participated in the annual July 4th parade, placed 2 new sets of turnout gear in service, is preparing old police department Tahoe to replace current car #2 (vehicle will be sold once the Tahoe is ready for service), held fire prevention classes for Camp Olmstead and Village Summer Camp, and held the annual Firemen’s Fair.

Police Department Trustee Schmidt reported 3 burglaries, 4 criminal mischief, 6 petty larceny, 1 violation arrest, 8 traffic accidents, 18 traffic summons issued, 18 warnings issued, 23 parking summons issued, 1 fire response call, 2 domestic incidents, 12 alarm response calls, 2 noise complaints, 1 suspicious activity call, 4 suspicious vehicle calls, 9 animal complaints, 3 disorderly adults, 1 disorderly juvenile, 3 assists to the Town of Cornwall Police Department, 10 EMS assist calls, 1 assist to other agency, 3 welfare checks, and 1 citizen assist for a total of 318 total calls for service.

Upon the recommendation of Police Chief Dixon, Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to appoint Hal Desjardines a part-time police officer effective immediately in conformance with the current police contract which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Mr. Schmidt reported that patrol vehicle #428 (2006 Chevy Tahoe) has been surplused and transferred to Storm King Engine Co. #2. The new 2014 Ford Police Interceptor SUV has been placed into service as #428.

Police Officer Nickel attended “Pictometry” (a computer program similar to Google Earth that assists in mapping out escape routes in the event of a major emergency, setting up staging areas, etc.) training held in Goshen.

The department continues to participate in the Orange County “STOP DWI” enforcement and “Police Traffic Services” traffic enforcement. In addition new patrol vehicle laptop computers containing both “TRACS” (for issuing vehicle/traffic summonses, completing accident reports, etc.) and “eJustice” (provides direct access to driver’s license and vehicle registration information, etc.) programs were installed.

Department of Public Works – Trustee Carnright reported repairs to village vehicles, sweeping of village streets, sewer maintenance, weekly yard waste collection, black top patching, building maintenance, paved 0.8 mile of Mountain Road, weekly mowing and trimming of Village properties, assisted police department with road closure for July 4th, and Cornell intern continued working on road inventory.

Trustee Carnright further reported that the keyless access system software was updated for better control at DPW facility, and the new garbage truck should be delivered sometime in September.

DPW Superintendent Halvorsen reported that the county is no longer striping roadways in the Village. He will have a private contractor in sometime this week.

Water Department – Deputy Mayor Edsall reported an average daily production of 887,000 gallons with all bacteria samples passing N.Y.S. Standards. The required monthly and quarterly samples were collected (a total of 33). A total of 100 utility mark-outs were done, 18 meters were replaced, 12

miscellaneous repairs were completed, and 11 final meter readings were done. The department replaced a motor on #2 pump at Maple Road pump station, cleared fence line at Catskill Treatment Plant, started repairs to trail at Black Rock Treatment Plant, and assisted DPW with Mountain Road paving.

Deputy Mayor Edsall further reported that Maser Consulting has filed its final inspection report of the Upper Reservoir and Arthurs Pond Dams with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition, significant progress had been made updating security passwords and setting up contact numbers with Code Red system.

RESOLUTIONS

GREENWAY CONSERVANCY GRANT

Mayor Coyne made a motion authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Greenway Conservancy for signage at Donahue Memorial Park and park improvements which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays. Mayor Coyne will submit the application prior to the September 5th deadline.

BANDSTAND 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 2015

Mayor Coyne made a motion to approve a 30th anniversary celebration of the Village Bandstand on June 14, 2015 and move forward with repairs to the bandstand in time for that celebration which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Trustee Schmidt reported that the Bandstand Committee will hold off fundraising efforts until a cost estimate is available.

CCHS GIRLS VARSITY SWIM TEAM – CAR WASH

Mayor Coyne made a motion authorizing the CCHS Girls Varsity Swim Team to hold a car wash at the Village Hall parking lot on August 30, 2014 noting that an insurance certificate must be provided, adults will be present at all times to supervise the event, the area is cleaned before they leave, and that environmentally safe soap be used as required. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

OTHER BUSINESS

ETHICS BOARD – ADJUDICATORY PROCEEDINGS

Mayor Coyne made a motion to approve the adjudicatory proceedings prepared by the Ethics Board in conjunction with counsel. The motion was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

SEWER CAPITAL FEE - UPDATE

Mayor Coyne reported that this item was discussed earlier in tonight's agenda. This is "new territory" and the Village must be ready to pay the bill when it comes from the Town.

Deputy Mayor Edsall will work with the Village Clerk to determine an appropriate minimum lot size on vacant land.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM

Trustee Schmidt reported that the Summer Recreation program ended on August 15th with the annual talent show. The program was expanded this year to include children entering kindergarten through 7th grade, and approximately 80-90 campers attended daily. It ran smoothly under the direction of Jen Pryne and Kathleen Hand. Next year the Board will consider a request to extend the hours to 4:00 PM.

GAZEBO HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY

Mayor Coyne reported that the Village received a \$15,000 grant from the Orange County Office of Community Development to provide handicap access to the gazebo at Donahue Memorial Park. He would like to provide additional parking east of the existing parking area and has asked Maser Consulting, the Village Engineer, to provide an estimate.

Mayor Coyne made a motion authorizing Maser Consulting to provide an alternate plan for ADA access to the gazebo by adding parking east of the existing parking (toward the woods line) and revise the walkway between the new parking and the gazebo at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Edsall and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

UNION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

This item was tabled for discussion in Executive Session later this evening.

FORMER WATER DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE

This item was tabled for discussion in Executive Session later this evening.

FYI

CAR WASH – NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Mayor Coyne announced that the National Honor Society will hold a car wash in the Village Hall parking lot on Saturday, August 23rd.

PINE STREET BLOCK PARTY

Mayor Coyne announced that residents of Pine Street will hold a “block party” on Saturday, September 6th.

DUNCAN AVENUE BLOCK PARTY

Mayor Coyne announced that residents of Duncan Avenue will hold a “block party” on Saturday, September 6th.

CORNWALL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PICNIC

Mayor Coyne announced that Cornwall Presbyterian Church will hold a service and picnic at Donahue Memorial Park on Sunday, September 7th.

RIVERFRONT WEDDING

Mayor Coyne announced that a wedding will take place at the gazebo located at Donahue Memorial Park on Saturday, September 20th.

BOARD ACTIVITIES/COMMENTS

Trustee Schmidt reported that he checked with the Orange County Board of Elections and was told it is “perfectly legal” for a current Village Trustee to be a table inspector during the November primary.

Trustee Carnright thanked DPW Superintendent Halvorsen for helping the summer intern with the roads inventory. This is a valuable asset to have our roads categorized and provides a “baseline” going forward.

Deputy Mayor Edsall stated that the data collected by the Cornell roads program software, which will have to be “fine-tuned”, is valuable.

Mr. Edsall spoke with Trustee Kane who is currently serving our country in Afghanistan. Although he is not serving on the front lines, Mr. Kane is in harm’s way and we wish him the best.

Mr. Edsall is pleased that the last Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) has been paid in full. It was a “long road” to remove the RAN’s. He and former Trustee Bill Fogarty met with the Village Clerk several years ago to discuss the bad direction the Village was heading in by continuing to accumulate debt. If that borrowing continued, it would have “crippled the Village with debt”. He thanked the Village Board and department heads for making it possible to control spending in order to pay down our debt. It was a collective effort. It is important to remember that debt is not a good thing especially when the economy turns “sour” like it has. We are a healthier Village for it.

Mayor Coyne thanked Deputy Mayor Edsall for his foresight in reducing the Village’s debt. Mr. Coyne stated that the Board has created capital funds for all departments so we can plan better and reduce future borrowing.

Having concluded the business set before them, Mayor Coyne made a motion to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session at 8:08 PM with Attorney for the Village McKay and DPW Superintendent Halvorsen in order to discuss: union contract negotiations, the work history of particular DPW employees, a former Water Department employee, a to seek legal advice on a property encroachment issue, and to seek legal advice regarding a former DPW employee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Schmidt and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40 PM on a motion by Trustee Carnright which was seconded by Trustee Schmidt and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

DPW PROMOTIONS

Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to promote Eric Vandermark from Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) to Senior MEO effective immediately, salary as per contract. The motion was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to promote Patrick Conley from Laborer to Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) effective immediately, salary as per contract. The motion was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

AUTHORIZE ATTORNEY FOR THE VILLAGE TO COMMENCE LEGAL ACTION

Mayor Coyne made a motion authorizing Attorney for the Village McKay to commence legal action against James Horne for breach of the stipulation of settlement which was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Having concluded the business set before them, Deputy Mayor Edsall made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:44 PM which was seconded by Trustee Schmidt and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.