

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, December 21, 2009 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Wiegman	Trustee Gallelli
Village Manager Zambrano	Trustee Olver-ABSENT
Village Attorney Staudt	Trustee Restuccia
Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Murtaugh

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the vouchers as follows, subject to review by the Audit Committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murtaugh and approved unanimously.

General Fund	\$ 80,123.51
Water Fund	8,910.80
Sewer Fund	447.79
Capital Account	200,311.54
Trust & Agency	3,005.00
Total	\$ 292,798.64

3. PRESENTATION:

Mayor Wiegman gave a power point presentation of the greenhouse gas baseline inventory for the Village which took into account calendar year 2007. Full text available at:

[http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/Public\\_Documents/CrotonHudsonNY\\_Board/02806143-000F8513](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov/Public_Documents/CrotonHudsonNY_Board/02806143-000F8513)

Mayor Wiegman stated that we now have a very high degree of information of what the usage actually costs; very specific option which allows us to weigh the pluses and minuses; energy costs have gone up considerably since 2007; with the help of the Sustainability Team, we hope for a reduction; the report we are delivering is more detailed than any he has seen in the Northeast. Trustee Restuccia commented on the figures for fertilizer being used; compost saves not only emissions, but it is free if you make it yourself.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

Village Manager Zambrano read the following correspondence (full text available at the Village Office):

- a) A letter from Jane P. Lauden, 124 Penfield Ave., regarding the Duck Pond and asked the Board to consider public help to find a solution. Trustee Gallelli suggested taking advantage of Ms. Lauden's suggestion and knows that there are others who are willing to become involved. Trustee Gallelli added that she received a phone call from Ms. Daubney who gave Trustee Gallelli names of interested people and also a history of the area; Ms. Daubney told her that the PVC 5<sup>th</sup> graders did a study last year with data, sampling and information which could be useful.
- b) A letter from Brett Bowden, Croton Harmon School District, Criminal Law teacher, thanking Police Officer Gabrielson for speaking to his students last week and this morning.
- c) A letter from Asst. Manager Janine King, thanking the DPW for assisting with essential signage at the Parking Lot. Village Manager Zambrano also thanked several other people who were instrumental in the successful completion of the project.
- d) A letter from Thomas C. Congdon, Deputy Secretary for Energy, NYS Executive Chamber, in response to a letter from Mayor Wiegman requesting support for the Power by the People application for the Smart Grid program.
- e) A letter from Assemblywoman Sandra Galef's office regarding several upcoming town meetings to be held in January and a meeting she is holding regarding Making Local Courts More Efficient to Save Tax Dollars, which will be held on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 7:30 thru 9 PM at the Cortlandt Town Hall.
- f) A certificate of the final 2009 railroad ceiling from Lee Kyriacou, NY State Board of Real Property Services.
- g) A notice from the Town of Cortlandt regarding a Public Hearing to be held on December 16, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall for consideration of recertification of an existing Telecommunication Special Use Permit on property located at 51 Scenic Drive, Croton on Hudson..
- h) A legal notice from Cortlandt regarding a public hearing to be held on January 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm regarding a local law amending the Residential Reuse Special Permit Ordinance.
- i) A legal notice from the Town of Cortlandt regarding a public hearing to be held on January 12, 2010 for consideration of a Local Law regulating Portable on Demand Storage Systems.

5 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (agenda items):

- a) none

6. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

- a) On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE MURTAUGH, the following resolution was adopted unanimously, with one absent, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village and Westchester County would like to share their GIS data; and

WHEREAS, the County has prepared an Inter-Municipal Agreement providing for the sharing of the GIS data; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Village are desirous of obtaining the savings associated with sharing of their respective GIS data; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to obtain GIS consultant and technical support services; and

WHEREAS, the term of this agreement will commence on November 1, 2009 and will terminate on October 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, any services will be billed at a standard hourly rate of \$51.00;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is authorized to sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Westchester County for GIS shared services commencing November 1, 2009 and terminating October 31, 2014.

- b) On motion of TRUSTEE MURTAUGH, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York with one absent:

WHEREAS; electronic pay stations for daily commuter parking at the Croton-Harmon Train Station will be implemented in January 2010; and

WHEREAS, the electronic pay stations allow for variable pricing based on the time of day, day of the week, holiday, multiple day, etc; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2009 the Village Board set the fees for daily parking in Section F; and

WHEREAS, the electronic pay stations will also be utilized for the handicapped section in Section D; and

WHEREAS, the staff has recommended that the Village continue to utilize the spaces on the west side of South Riverside avenue between the two entrance ramps of the ShopRite plaza for additional daily parking; and

WHEREAS, the staff has recommended a discounted daily fee for these spaces because they are a considerable distance from the train station,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board hereby approves the attached fee schedule for daily parking on South Riverside Avenue and the handicapped section in the parking lot of the Croton-Harmon Train Station.

- c) On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE RESTUCCIA, the following resolution was adopted unanimously, with one absent, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Striclin Realty, LLC challenged the 2005-2009 assessments of its property located at 1 Municipal Place; and

WHEREAS, the petitioner has agreed to settle the case based on the following assessment reductions:

<u>Assessment Year</u>	<u>Assessment Valuation</u>		<u>Amount of Reduction</u>
	<u>Reduced From</u>	<u>Reduced To</u>	
2005	\$137,100	\$137,100	\$0
2006	\$137,100	\$132,840	\$4,260
2007	\$137,100	\$124,200	\$12,900
2008	\$137,100	\$95,400	\$41,700
2009	\$137,100	\$89,100	\$48,000; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board agrees that this settlement is in the best interest of the village;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Attorney is hereby authorized to sign the Court Consent Judgment received correcting the assessment roll, and the Village will refund Striclin Realty, LLC \$24,400 in excess taxes paid in the years 2005 to 2009.

Discussion: Village Attorney Staudt explained the difference between grievances from a business versus a residential grievance.

d) On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE MURTAUGH, the following amended resolution was adopted unanimously, with one absent, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Recreation Advisory Committee met with various organizations and sports groups on June 9, 2009 to discuss the implementation of a field usage fee; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a field usage fee was also discussed during Village work sessions on February 4, 2009 and May 13, 2009; and

WHEREAS, it is the Village Board of Trustees intention to reduce the operating budget of the Village's Recreation and Parks Department and at the same time create a more equitable distribution of expenditures,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board authorizes a change to the master fee schedule to add a field usage fee of all Village fields of \$5.00/ hour effective March 1, 2010.

Discussion: The Village spends close to \$75,000 per year on field maintenance. Mayor Wiegman stated that the intention is to help organizations decide how many hours they do need; this is a try to recover 7% of the cost to maintain the fields. Trustee Restuccia stated it

will require a little more responsibility in scheduling field use and she feels \$5.00 an hour is not unreasonable. Trustee Gallelli stated that \$5.00 an hour is a fair fee; and she is not inclined to see it set at \$2.50. Mayor Wiegman added that the Recreation Dept. Supervisor discounted the revenue by 20% to account for bad weather. Trustee Murtaugh stated that Village resources need to be allocated throughout all in the Village; the field users giving back is a fair thing. Village Manager Zambrano is putting together a list of facilities; ideally, they should be getting a check from the school district, but he will have to have an agreement with the school district.

7. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (non-agenda items):

Cornelia Cotton, 209 Hessian Hills Road, complimented the DPW for doing a fantastic job; they were out there early in the morning; she also complimented the people who work in the Village Engineer's office and other employees of the Village; she complimented the Village's vision to make this a greener village, reduce carbon footprint and the efforts to help battle climate change. Ms. Cotton stated that she believes this Village is in the forefront of doing some good things, however, we are not in the forefront in other matters; we still do not have a clock which should be close to the train station; we are one of a few who do not have a train station clock; maybe we should have one in the parking lot; we still do not have a fountain; we have a street sweeper that we do not need; we do not have enough benches; previously there was an item on an agenda that the Rotary Club suggested putting in benches. Village Manager Zambrano replied that the Rotary is going to resuscitate the program in the next year and have to identify the places to put them, such as bus stops; they welcome suggestions. Ms. Cotton stated that she made a round trip to all bus stops in the Village and there are some that are quite critical such as in the middle of town; also before Skyview where there are many health workers who do not have cars. Village Manager Zambrano replied that it is difficult to place benches on state roads; we need to follow DOT requirements. Ms. Cotton added that the Village needs to appoint a committee to look into historic preservation in the Village; historic places should be identified. She remarked that she saved the hand hewn bluestone curbs when curbs were being replaced and also two hitching posts; there is a need to do more identifying of historic places, there has been a good beginning, but more needs to be done; she suggested a simple map with numbers and identifiers when people come to Croton. Ms. Cotton also asked the Village to appoint a Poet Laureate or artist in residence to represent the arts; this should be an unpaid position. She shared a discovery when she was planning a big exhibit identifying all the writers who have lived in Croton and she was able to track down poet Mark Strand who lived here as a child; he was the Poet Laureate for the United States; she is now corresponding with him. Ms. Cotton added that she heard there are 27 houses under foreclosure in the Village last year and wondered how many there are now; it is important to know how many neighbors are in such dire straits and government should be helpful to these people; at least give them the names and numbers of agencies for help. Village Attorney Staudt replied that the government just signed a bill extending the process for people who are facing foreclosure; a number of things are now mandated by NYS to be included in the foreclosure process. Ms. Cotton said that there should be something done on the local level also. Trustee Murtaugh suggested collecting some links to direct people in distress and publish them in the newsletter.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Murtaugh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 7, 2009 as corrected. Trustee Restuccia seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval with one absent.

9. REPORTS:

*Village Manager Zambrano* reported that a map is available in Village Hall which the Chamber of Commerce is updating shortly. Mr. Zambrano wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season. He added that water bills went out and are due on January 15, 2010.

*Village Treasurer Bullock* reported that she should have a 6 month forecast in the next month or two; she will bring it to a work session.

*Trustee Olver* ABSENT

*Trustee Restuccia* wished everyone Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

*Trustee Gallelli* reported that this is the last meeting of 2009; she wished everybody a 10 in 10. Trustee Gallelli reported that the Economic Development Committee had a meeting attended by about 8 property owners, the Committee and Trustees as well as some people from the community; there was a good discussion and they exchanged lots of ideas. Trustee Gallelli reported that the ZBA has a number of items they would like the Board to look at to improve definitions to help them. She congratulated the DPW for the great job they did with the snow removal and reminded property owners that they must remove snow from their own sidewalks and also clearing nearby hydrants would be a big help. Ms. Gallelli stated that Cornelia Cotton brought up the idea of documenting writers in the Village and noted that Island Press has just published the Mayor's book entitled *The Climate Solution's Consensus: What We Know and What To Do About It*.

*Trustee Murtaugh* offered Happy Holidays to all residents. He reported that the Economic Development Committee is moving more into a marketing phase now and are actively taking steps to market the Riverside area to prospective businesses to revitalize that area; he thanked them for their efforts. Trustee Murtaugh stated that the DPW crew did a good job and thanked them for their hard work.

*Village Attorney Staudt* explained that Cortlandt's zoning notice was referring to an adaptive reuse ordinance; the special permit is to modify this adaptive reuse ordinance.

*Mayor Wiegman* reported that one member had to step down from the Economic Development Committee and he appointed Scott Penberthy as the new member effective immediately. Mayor Wiegman stated that Mr. Penberthy was recommended by the Committee and the Village Board liaisons. Mayor Wiegman reported that the Village is a member of Northern Westchester Energy Action Coalition which placed a grant application with the Federal Government for over a million dollars to begin energy retrofit for homeowners; the State also signed onto the application; they will know by the middle of March if the application has been accepted. Mayor

Village Board Meeting

December 21, 2009

Page 7

Wiegman reminded the other volunteer boards that there will be a 'Board of Boards' meeting which will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> where all members of the volunteer boards will be invited; often Boards may be looking at the same issue from opposite sides without knowing another Board is doing the same; this will be a way to share information.

Trustee Murtaugh made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Phyllis A. Bradbury**

---

Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

---

Village Clerk