

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, December 15, 2008 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Schmidt	Trustee Brennan
Village Manager Zambrano	Trustee Gallelli
Village Attorney Feldman	Trustee Konig
Village Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Olver

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

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

General Fund	\$ 95,048.76
Water Fund	983.37
Sewer Fund	3,945.64
Capital Account	695.36
Trust & Agency	3,605.74
Total	\$104,278.87

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- a) A letter from Marjorie Castro, President, Croton Rotary Club, proposing a program called "Benches for Croton".
- b) A notice from the NYS Office of Real Property Services establishing the RAR for the 2009 State Equalization Rate; the new Residential Assessment Ratio is set at 3.04; this is the final RAR. Trustee Gallelli stated that this has been a steadily increasing RAR; it doesn't effect existing assessments, but does reflect a decline in market value.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (agenda items):

- a) Fran Allen, Finney Farm, stated that she is concerned about putting chemicals in any ponds, especially the fact that they may already be loaded with chemicals. She asked if the ponds have been assessed for chemical content, and if not, suggested to start first by doing this assessment; they have taken great care in making sure the golf course chemicals are monitored and the Village has done due diligence getting reports and handling and maintaining water quality basins; it was known that the water basins would not last a lifetime; they may need rebuilding; she would like to understand where we are

in the management of chemicals from the golf course and assumes the records are in the Village. Village Manager Zambrano replied that the golf course had shut the water down to the Arboretum and were told to turn it on again; Tom Brann has been on top of this; some well installations will be looked at again. Ms. Allen stated that she would like to find out if the irrigation pond has any pesticides in it. Trustee Konig stated that this proposal is the minimal amount of treatment that can be used to treat the problem. Village Manager Zambrano added that the companies working on this know how to handle the material; the chemical can only be used by licensed companies not individuals. Ms. Allen stated that she would like to see a complete assessment before putting any more chemicals in the pond. She added that Wood Ducks have been living in Bessemer Swamp in the spring; they didn't come last year and she doesn't know why.

- b) Ian Murtagh, 60 Young Ave., stated that Ms. Allen addressed Kaplan's Pond, but he understands chemicals will be going into the Duck Pond also; what is causing the algae in the first place? He added that the Duck Pond has always had sewage smell and never freezes in one section and understands it is because of sewage runoff; what is leaching into these two ponds to cause the algae to be so aggressive. Mayor Schmidt replied that the leaching is caused by everyone, not just the golf course which is monitored and more regulated than probably anywhere in the Village; chemicals people are using on their lawns are doing more harm. Ian Murtagh asked if there is any other solution other than using chemicals. Mayor Schmidt replied that there are other options but the ponds are in such a state that they are in need something aggressive; it is going to require public education, it is not just fertilizers, septic systems are a natural feeding of this also.
- c) Bob Wintermeir, 43 Radnor Ave., stated that he rarely uses pesticides, but if residents do use them, is there any place to go to get recommendations on what to use. Village Manager Zambrano replied that there are groups in Westchester County that will teach people how to make "teas" in place of chemicals to fertilize lawns; they also recommend cutting the grass longer to keep weeds out and use clippings to make the "tea"; can get this information and link it on the web; also put in the newsletter. Mayor Schmidt added that the bulletin board at the end of the hall in the Municipal Building already has some of this information. Trustee Olver stated that there are a whole range of viable alternatives.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

- a) On motion of TRUSTEE Gallelli, seconded by TRUSTEE Konig, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2007 the Mayor approved the 2006 Sponsor Authorization Form listing those who earned a year of service credit during 2006; and

WHEREAS, since that time a discrepancy in the number of points reported for Hugh Flynn has been found showing that he had earned 50 points in 2006 instead of the 48 points originally reported; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees would like to ensure that Mr. Flynn gets credit for his 50 points earned,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees approves the 50 point total for Hugh Flynn for the year 2006.

- b) On motion of TRUSTEE Brennan, seconded by TRUSTEE Olver, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village would like to amend the Alternative Veteran Exemption by raising the ceilings to allow the exemption to keep pace with the trend of falling equalization rates; and

WHEREAS, raising the ceilings allows the exemption to maintain its value; and

WHEREAS, Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2009 has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby calls for a Public Hearing at 8pm on January 5, 2009 in the meeting room of the Stanley H. Kellerhouse Municipal Building to consider Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2009 amending Section 204-21 of the Village Code, Alternative Veteran Exemption.

- c) On motion of TRUSTEE Brennan, seconded by TRUSTEE Olver, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Limnology Information and Freshwater Ecology Inc. (Life Inc.) has provided proposals to the Village for the chemical treatment of the Duck Pond and Kaplans Pond; and

WHEREAS, this treatment is for the control of pondweed and algae infestations (the project); and

WHEREAS, the treatment will begin in the summer of 2009; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to apply for DEC permits for this treatment; and

WHEREAS, part of the proposal from Life Inc. is to apply for the permits on behalf of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the costs of the proposals are \$3,650 for the Duck Pond and \$4,600 for Kaplan's Pond,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that as Phase 1 of the Project, the Village Manager is hereby authorized to authorize Limnology Information & Freshwater Ecology, Inc. to prepare and submit the NYSDEC permit application at a cost of \$300 for each permit,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Board will consider moving forward with Phase II of the Project, which is the actual treatment of the ponds, when further information about the ponds is determined through the DEC application process,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to approve the two proposals from Limnology Information and Freshwater Ecology Inc. at a maximum cost of \$8,250,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this amount should be charged to Brush and Weeds contractual account #A5140.4000,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that \$8,250 should be transferred from the contingent account #A1990.4000 to A5140.4000.

- d) On motion of TRUSTEE Brennan, seconded by TRUSTEE Konig, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Section 27-b of the New York State Labor Law requires employers to perform a risk evaluation at each worksite; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to develop and implement programs to prevent and minimize workplace violence resulting from assaults and homicides; and

WHEREAS, public employers with a combined total of 20 or more full-time employees shall develop and implement a written workplace violence prevention program and provide employee training on workplace violence preventions measures and other information contained within the employers written program; and

WHEREAS, in order to become compliant with this law, the Village Treasurer and Village Clerk have recommended that the Village seek professional consulting help; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2007, the Village Board ratified the contract executed by the Village Treasurer with Public Sector HR Consultants LLC to provide a workplace risk evaluation, training and education, and a written workplace violence prevention program at a total cost of \$4,950; and

WHEREAS, the evaluation, training and education, and written workplace violence prevention program policy has been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy created by Public Sector HR Consultants LLC.

- e) On motion of TRUSTEE Konig, seconded by TRUSTEE Gallelli, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Sergeant Corvinus has been a member of the Croton Police Department for the past 21 years; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Corvinus has submitted his resignation effective December 14, 2008 to pursue another opportunity; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board hereby accepts Sergeant Corvinus' resignation effective December 14, 2008;

All Trustees thanked Sgt. Corvinus for his long, exceptional service to Croton on behalf of the Board and residents.

- f) On motion of TRUSTEE Brennan, seconded by TRUSTEE Gallelli, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Sergeant Corvinus has resigned from the Croton Police Department effective December 14, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has accepted Sergeant Corvinus' resignation; and

WHEREAS, a position has been left vacant by his resignation; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has recommended that John Barirde be promoted to the position of Police Sergeant to fill this vacancy,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that John Barirde is hereby appointed to Police Sergeant at the annual salary of \$99,184 effective December 16, 2008.

- g) On motion of TRUSTEE Konig, seconded by TRUSTEE Brennan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

Resolution Requesting VA Hospital in Montrose to Remain Open with the Same Level of Services

WHEREAS, the Village Board is concerned about the removal of Veterans' services at the Montrose facility which services many of our Village and local area Veterans; and

WHEREAS, it is the Village Board's hope that the Veterans Administration will reconsider the current plans for the Montrose site,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board does hereby call upon the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to reconsider any determination made by him to remove Veterans' services as they are currently provided at the Montrose facility,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Board supports the Town of Cortlandt and the Village of Buchanan to keep the Montrose Veterans Administration Facility open and operating and providing needed service to the Veterans,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

- h) On motion of TRUSTEE Konig, seconded by TRUSTEE Brennan, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Deputy Treasurer, Lorraine Pennington, has submitted her resignation effective December 31, 2008 to pursue another opportunity; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board hereby accepts Deputy Treasurer Lorraine Pennington's resignation effective December 31, 2008;

6. **Approved Resolutions:** The following resolutions were approved at a previous work session and read into the minutes:
- a. Appointment of Janine King as Asst. Village Manager
 - b. Village Clerk DiSanto - assigned new duties.

All Trustees offered congratulations

7. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (non-agenda items):

- a) Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor Ave., stated that the SEQRA process requires the Village to be very precise if making a zoning change and asked for a range of how much it will cost and how long the process takes. Trustee Gallelli replied that it is very hard to predict because of the various kinds of SEQRA processes, from extensive to lesser versions, depending on what has already been done and the magnitude of the project; the Harmon Economic Development Committee recommendations are based on work previously done for the Gateway and the

Comprehensive Plan. Village Attorney Feldman stated that the premise of SEQRA is to start with a project then if subject to a SEQRA review, the Village must go on that track; then take the proposal and analyze it to see if it will have a small environmental impact or large environmental impact; if it has the potential to have a large environmental impact, it will require going further in the process; the Comprehensive Plan went thru the SEQRA process. Trustee Olver added that a number of important questions have been raised around the committee's report; through the SEQRA process, they will look at what is already available and see where the gaps are. Village Manager Zambrano added that the RFP for consultants has gone out; he will supply a copy of this for each Trustee. Trustee Gallelli stated that she would like to be sure they are not asking consultants to do more than is wanted. Bob Wintermeir stated further that last Wednesday serious charges were made about Trustee Brennan by the Journal News; written by Robert Merchant regarding an easement problem. Village Attorney Feldman advised the Board to not comment at this time because it is ongoing litigation.

- b) Fran Allen, Finney Farm, stated that she did not mean to imply that Hudson National was involved in using chemicals; Hudson National Golf Course is the most advanced golf course in the nation in the way it handled chemicals, irrigation and water management; she has no reason to believe it has not continued this way; maintenance was built into the plans for water quality and retention basins; she does not believe there are any problems with the golf course.
- c) Ian Murtagh, Young Ave., asked what progress has been made with the selection of a consultant to evaluate the Village's business development prospects. Village Manager Zambrano stated that the RFP went out and replies are requested back by January 26th; it is a public document that can be FOILED. Mr. Murtagh requested that the RFP be posted on the Village's web site.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on December 1, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Konig seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 1, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

Trustee Konig made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on December 3, 2008. Trustee Olver seconded the motion; the Board voted unanimous approval

9. REPORTS:

Village Manager Zambrano reported that the water bills went out today; it is the last week for leaf collection; if weather impedes collection, they will attempt to go back as soon as

possible; Historic Hudson Valley requested permission to hold bonfires and the permits have been issued. Mayor Schmidt asked Treasurer Bullock to put together a presentation about the Village's financial shape in response to some questions he has received.

Trustee Konig reported that there were a couple of articles in the Journal News regarding Port Chester suspending development while reconsidering rewriting zoning laws; she is trying to avoid this in Croton; also an article today was about the Yonkers redevelopment of their waterfront and noise problems that must be scaled back; this Board has not sanctioned any project for redevelopment; they are trying to help businesses and will continue to do so. Trustee Konig reported that there was a problem on Bungalow Rd. which closed the road today; she noticed that in the area coming down to the Duck Pond, trees there are toppling over and the unstable trees should be looked into. Trustee Konig suggested that the Village should look into maintenance of ponds, streets, etc. which goes far into making people feel very safe; things should not be overlooked. Trustee Konig added that she thinks the reorganization of the Village staff is exciting and goes toward making sure government is very efficient; she suggested that perhaps the Village newsletter can be handed off to a member of the staff so a board member will not be doing it; as things go forward, the right people will be doing the right jobs.

Trustee Olver wished a happy holiday season to all. He joined in welcoming Sandra Bullock and congratulated other colleagues on their well deserved promotions. Trustee Olver stated that he will not raise the matter referred to by Mr. Wintermeir as a campaign issue. He reported that a forum on the Village budget was held a few days ago; the expense side keeps rising; it is important for citizens of Croton to understand where the Board is going and listen to opinions. Trustee Olver reported that Sandy Galef made public results of a survey on shared services; 89% who responded want to change the structure of government; a strong majority, nearly 2/3rds, want to eliminate county government; 97% want to consolidate services; there is a need to consider these things, but they are difficult questions, a public debate is needed on this subject.

Trustee Gallelli reported that she has been speaking with Miriam Haas, who runs several farmers' markets, and she will be proposing a week day farmer's market in Croton. Trustee Gallelli reported that the Seniors had their Annual Christmas party, about 100 people attended; they have 168 paid members right now. She reported also that the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame dinner was held the next day and three Croton seniors were recognized – Don Daubney, John Seckelsky and Joyce Finnerty. Trustee Gallelli reported on upcoming Recreation Dept. events such as the snow man contest; residents should take a picture of a snowman and send it to Recreation; there are 2 categories, snow sculpture & typical. Trustee Gallelli stated that during winter, she hopes the Duck Pond will be available for ice skating again. Ms. Gallelli reported that the big green generator outside this Municipal Building now has some beginning landscape plantings around it to provide a visual screening in the near future.

Trustee Brennan reminded residents and businesses that the trees that have been placed throughout the Village can still be decorated; call 271-3006 for more information. Trustee

Brennan congratulated the three residents who received Senior Hall of Fame recognition. He stated that on Dec. 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, he attended a presentation held for Veterans and several Town council members as well as Peekskill and Ossining Board members attended. Trustee Brennan congratulated Janine & Paula and the new opportunities with the reorganization of staff and the promotions within the Police Dept. also. He added that when managers recognize people of quality, moving forward people is the best way to recognized their talents for the betterment of the Village; everybody in the Village needs to know they are appreciated; services that are provided are excellent; staff needs to know they can move up and not stay at just one level. Trustee Brennan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday.

Mayor Schmidt stated that this is the last official meeting of this year. He reported that School and Village officials met again regarding the drug & alcohol conference and made a commitment to continue this process; they will be applying for a grant for personnel to help work on this program. He noted that this is shared service between the Village and the School. Mayor Schmidt thanked the staff for their hard work during the year and congratulations to all for their promotions. Mayor Schmidt stated that regarding the Harmon Improvement Project, they are continuing to work on this; they are looking forward to continuing this process and he thanked the committee for their hard work and looks forward to working with the consultant. Mayor Schmidt wished Happy Holidays to all and congratulated all the Seniors who were recognized– it is well deserved.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Olver seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury
Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

Village Clerk