

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 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 Murtaugh
Village Attorney Staudt	Trustee Schmidt
Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Olver

01. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Trustee Murtaugh lead everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

02. 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 with a vote of 5-0.

General Fund	\$ 82,508.74
Water Fund	9,975.22
Sewer Fund	2,228.15
Capital Account	17,856.25
Trust & Agency	<u>1,721.00</u>
Total	\$114,289.36

03. PUBLIC HEARING:

Trustee Murtaugh made a motion to open the Public Hearing to consider Local Law Introductory No. 2 of 2010 amending Chapter 120 of the Code of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson relating to excavation, filling and topsoil removal. Trustee Gallelli second the motion; approved 5-0. Village Manager Zambrano recapped the background of the reason for this amendment.

Public Comment:

Trustee Gallelli stated that the Village already has this law on the books, however, the Planning Board and the Village Engineer deal with this most of the time and issues arise during construction; the definitions are not clarified or defined in the existing law; the amended law clarifies certain definitions to tighten up regulations and eliminate certain kinds of situations that occurred such as height regulation which is measured from the level of the soil; in some situations, people were filling in several feet and using that as the base measurement. Trustee Murtaugh added that it will tighten the regulations and refine the existing law especially about the grade level which was discussed quite a bit. Mayor Wiegman stated that this law defines the grade as pre-construction grade and it was clarified who is responsible for the decisions. Trustee Gallelli added that this also helps the person doing the building who will know what the rules

are. Trustee Schmidt stated that it also does a lot to protect adjoining parcels and it goes along with storm water regulations so it is all tied in seamlessly.

Ryna Lustig, Hastings Ave., asked where the Village has the information that shows the grade as it exists. Trustee Gallelli replied that in some cases that information exists in the Village already, but the contractor will be required to provide a topo map prior to construction. Village Manager Zambrano stated that some of the other environmental laws that the Village approved are reflected in this law and this closes the circle of the tightening of environmental laws that have been done the past several years.

Trustee Murtaugh made a motion to close the Public Hearing; second by Trustee Schmidt, approved with a vote of 5-0.

Village Manager Zambrano read the following proposed resolution:

On motion of TRUSTEE OLVER, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York with a vote of 5-0:

WHEREAS, the Village Board has caused to be drafted a Local Law Introductory No. 2 of 2010 to amend Chapter 120 of the Village Code relating to excavation, filling and topsoil removal; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2010 the Village Board determined that the proposed action was an unlisted action, declared itself lead agency for SEQRA purposes and authorized the Parts 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment Form and the Coastal Assessment Form to be circulated to the appropriate agencies in accordance with Village Law; and

WHEREAS, at the January 4, 2011 Regular Village Board Meeting, the Village Board, as Lead Agency, issued a negative declaration with respect to this application; and

WHEREAS, the Waterfront Advisory Committee issued a preliminary review of consistency in its memo dated July 16, 2010 and a final review of consistency in its memo dated January 25, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held and closed on February 22, 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts Local Law Introductory No. 2 of 2010, a local law to amend Chapter 120 of the Village Code relating to excavation, filling and topsoil removal, which upon adoption will become Local Law No. 1 of 2011.

Additional Discussion: Trustee Murtaugh stated that on behalf of the WAC, he wants to extend thanks to Fran Allen for her guidance; she was concerned about the ecological aspects and the review was started about a year ago. Mayor Wiegman referred to comments about the

consistency review and the WAC's request to provide a copy of Policies 11 and 11A of the LWRP and distribute to all applicants. Village Manager Zambrano stated that it will be attached to the application by the Village Engineer's Office.

04. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter from Christine O'Connor, Croton Girl Scouts; requesting the use of the train station parking lot for the delivery and distribution of Girl Scout Cookies; three dates were suggested. Trustee Schmidt made a motion to approve the request; second by Trustee Murtaugh, approved with a vote of 5-0.
- b. A letter from Robert Hoch, Director, Government Affairs, Cablevision; regarding the re-branding of ABC Eyewitness News Now to Live Well Network and a change of programming of Channel 108 effective February 25, 2011.
- c. A notice from Croton Friends of History; regarding a presentation by Thom Johnson about Bannerman Castle- Then and Now, to be held at the Croton Free Library on March 3rd at 7:30 pm.

05. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS

Virginia Calcutti, 19 Hunter Place, asked what is meant by signing the three IMA's with the Town of Cortlandt. Village Manager Zambrano explained that over the years the Village has signed these IMA's with the Town to be able to help each other out, to borrow equipment and to buy from their contracts; it is a common practice for municipalities to do this. Trustee Murtaugh added that a recent example of sharing is dressing and stripping the lights off the holiday tree on Benedict Blvd.; the Town of Cortlandt provided a bucket truck and Croton provided one; this was done much more efficiently working cooperatively. Trustee Schmidt added that these things need to be done formally now; Cortlandt also takes our appliances with Freon. Mayor Wiegman added that also the Town purchasing director allows purchasing items such as paper and consumer supplies to Croton and Buchanan. Village Manager Zambrano stated that it all saves taxpayer money.

06. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

- a) On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE OLVER, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York with a vote of 5-0:

WHEREAS, the Village of Croton on Hudson has benefited from several Inter-Municipal Agreements with the Town of Cortlandt over the years with respect to shared bidding on needed supplies and equipment by the Town Purchasing Director, shared use of equipment, including, but not limited to trucks, buses, and other vehicles and tools, and the shared removal of appliances containing Freon; and

WHEREAS, the Village would like to extend these Inter-Municipal Agreements for another year;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the three Inter-Municipal Agreements for the year 2011 which deal with bidding by the Town Purchasing Director, shared used of equipment and removal of appliances containing Freon.

- b) On motion of TRUSTEE MURTAUGH, seconded by TRUSTEE SCHMIDT, the following resolution was adopted, as amended, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York with a vote of 5-0:

WHEREAS; the Croton Yacht Club wanted to repair the damage to its sea wall which protects its 125 slip marina basin; and

WHEREAS, before undertaking any repair it was necessary to obtain a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2010 the Village Board of Trustees authorized the Croton Yacht Club to obtain the necessary permits for the repairs; and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted by the Yacht Club as the applicant and the Village as the owner; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2010, the review of the plans for the repairs to the sea wall were completed according to the New York State of Department of Environmental Conservation permit issued for the seawall maintenance project; and

WHEREAS, during the construction it was determined that the batter piles supporting the remainder of the seawall were severely corroded and in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the Croton Yacht Club has prepared the necessary documents to be submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to expand the scope of the existing permit and to extend the expiration date of the permit to December 31, 2014,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees authorizes the Croton Yacht Club to submit documentation to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to expand the scope of the existing permit and to extend the expiration date of the permit to December 31, 2014 to complete additional work.

Discussion: Trustee Murtaugh stated that the Yacht Club is a tenant of the Village and he commended them for maintaining the property; they have devoted countless hours to the research and documentation to file these plans with the DEC. Mayor Wiegman stated that Dennis Cooney and his team have completed what has now become a large mountain of paperwork; the Yacht Club lease is up also in 2014.

- c) On motion of TRUSTEE SCHMIDT, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York with a vote of 5-0:

WHEREAS, the contract agreement between Connect-CTY and the Village will expire on June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to continue the agreement which will allow the Village to continue the communications outreach program to Village residents and train station parking permit holders; and

WHEREAS, this agreement will cover the period commencing July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost to the Village will be \$9,000;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is authorized to sign the contract with Connect CTY for integrated communications to our residents and permit holders at a cost of \$9,000 per year.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli questioned the length of the contract being just one year. Village Manager Zambrano replied that it is actually a 3 year contract with an annual renewal; the Village is committing to \$9,000 per year for 3 years which is roughly the same as before. Mayor Wiegman added that the staff has been working to clean up the addresses to use this tool to its best effect. Trustee Schmidt stated that CTY is a great tool; it is very helpful with DPW and Water Dept. problem and the need to notify residents. He added that the system relies on the public's landlines and if residents no longer have a land line, they must contact the Village office to include cell phone numbers.

07. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION- Non-agenda items.

a) Virginia Calcutti, 19 Hunter Pl., stated that she received a letter about water not being tested for 4 days last year; she asked why it was not tested and why did it take a year to notify residents; also, did it cost money. Village Manager Zambrano stated that the water was tested, but the men were not able to get the sample to the lab because of a storm; the water is tested 2 times a week on a continuous basis; we are required to do 8 testings a month; we did not get a citation until later in the year and there was no fine; all subsequent testing was fine; at no point was the water dangerous to drink, there were no positive contaminants; the High St. project was started without Dept of Health permit, but time was of the essence and we did pay a small fine. Mayor Wiegman added that we were up against a deadline for using CDBG money; we did file in a timely manner, but because of red tape from the County, approval was delayed. Ms. Calcutti stated that in the paper the other day, it was reported that a car was towed because of a 48 hour rule and she asked what a 48 hour rule is. Village Manager Zambrano responded that we do not tow cars, violators may get a ticket. Ms. Calcutti stated that \$43,000 was allocated for a consultant regarding garbage routes and asked if that has been completed. Village Manager Zambrano replied that the field work was completed the beginning of January and he is expecting a report in a few weeks or so; they had to look at how we pick up leaves as well and the routes the men follow. Ms. Calcutti asked if they rode with the garbage men. Village

Manager Zambrano replied that they followed the trucks in their own vehicles and drivers. Ms. Calcutti asked if we were fined for dumping snow into the river. Village Manager Zambrano responded that we were not fined and we did not dump snow into the river; it was brought to Black Rock Park as has been done in other severe winters; a resident complained but there was no violation or issue. Trustee Murtaugh stated that he has suggested to Village Manager Zambrano to contact the County to possibly use Croton Point Park parking lot for snow storage when we exhaust our Village resources; in exchange, in the spring we could send our street sweeper there; whatever snow falls and salt is laid down it will flow somewhere and he thought of using the Park which would capture more of anything that might flow into the river; the complainant was not a resident of the Village and has sent a follow up letter to the Village saying it was not a big deal and we did what we had to do. Trustee Murtaugh added that regarding the study of efficiency of DPW, layoffs were never the intention of Mr. Gennarelli's goal for this study; we want to make the jobs safer, more efficient and better for the taxpayers. Ms. Calcutti stated that during budget times, there was discussion of layoffs, not because of this study; she believes this study could have been in house. Trustee Murtaugh replied that we can try to do some things in house, but we may not be able to get them done as well. Ms. Calcutti stated that a new gift shop or boutique, Elena's, is going to be open March 1st. Trustee Gallelli replied that Elena's has been there a couple of years. Trustee Murtaugh stated that Elena closed the Yorktown branch and she is consolidating her shop in Croton; it was a consignment type shop and she might be moving away from consignment and more into something more upscale.

b) Bryan Pugh, 15 Alexander Lane, stated that there is going to be an information session on Proposition 1, changing Village elections to November, on March 7th, on Monday, 7:30 pm to 9 pm at the Croton Free Library or look at www.novemberelections.wordpress.com; they will also be taking questions via email at: novemberelections2011@gmail.com.

08. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Olver made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2011 as corrected. Trustee Murtaugh seconded the motion; approved with a vote of 5-0

09. REPORTS:

Village Manager Zambrano reminded residents that the cleaning of snow off sidewalks is very important for the safety of pedestrians, especially children going to school. He added that residents must move cars off the streets when it snows more than 2 inches; this is also very important; it makes plowing very difficult and summonses will be give out. Village Manager Zambrano stated that dog registrations are now being done in the Village; also, please follow the law and pick up after your dog; that is a NYS law. He added that we are finalizing arrangements to accept credit cards for taxes, water, recreation fees and possibly building permit payments; he will bring it before the Board when the Village Attorney approves the contract; debit payments will cost nothing; there are some legal restrictions such as we must engage a 3rd party company to accept tax and water payments; there will be a work session; it is in the very early stage of development. Trustee Schmidt stated that a lot of people have been asking for this.

Trustee Schmidt reported that the Village had the first new construction permit in some time has been received which is reassuring that the market has begun to stabilize; they also did not get an onslaught of applications on grievance day. Trustee Schmidt reported that they had a work session the other night regarding two studies; one was about the Municipal Building renovations which is a preliminary study and a lot of questions were raised in that report; it is an important thing to look at to keep costs minimal as possible while maintaining services; the other study is a parking lot study which came back with the suggestion to hold off and see what happens in light of the MTA parking lot being built at the Cortlandt station for a couple of hundred cars, it is wise for the Board to do right now; there may be a couple of creative solutions and needs to be looked at carefully. He added that he attended the VEB meeting the other night; they approved the sign for Baked by Susan and they are doing work on the signage at Silver Lake which has a plethora of signs now; they are trying to come up with a plan to simplify, soften and make them less wordy; it is important to make parks look nicer.

Trustee Olver applauded the VEB for taking on the task of renovating the park signs and hopes they come up with a positive; many of our signs in the parks begin with the word "NO" and that is not the way to welcome a guest. He reported that people are laying further boardwalk at the Arboretum and eventually there will be a complete boardwalk all around the 20 minute trail through the Arboretum; hats off to the determination of the Board on this one even though they have not yet gotten their State grant money. Trustee Olver stated that there seems to be a difference of view in this community on the value of professional studies; they are needed to take a look and provide expert advice; he thinks the Village got their money's worth on both the Municipal Building and the Parking Lot studies; we need to act on the Municipal Building as the Police Dept. is woefully cramped and some space is not being used adequately; the air conditioning and heating are very inefficient; this has to be planned out; this study has put us on the right path; people need to understand, even though we've cut taxes the past few years, our indebtedness is significantly lower today than a few years ago; we are in good shape and our bond rating is up; we have an obligation to invest in infrastructure. Trustee Olver stated that regarding the parking lot, he was very happy to read that study which gives a nice three stage approach on what we should be doing now and when we've outgrown the parking; it gives a way to organize ourselves on what needs to be done now and in a few years' time.

Trustee Gallelli reported that there were two studies; one was the Tim Haas study on the parking lot; potential for needing more spaces is the conclusion of their study; there are some good short term but don't see us being short of parking spaces for five or six years. She stated that the Gisolfi Asso. are doing a study for the Municipal Building; it was a draft report; several possibilities were laid out and discussed; it will be revised and altered in the next few months; all agree Police Department is working in substandard conditions. Trustee Gallelli stated that Grievance Day was a week ago Tues. and far fewer people came than last year, but about 45 application plus another 11 or 12 which came in that day and hadn't been reviewed, last year we had many requests for reductions from pricier houses in the Village; this year we had a more varied group of homeowners from the less pricier houses in the Village. She added that Artie Neff sent a report that the Duck Pond had the most skating days he can remember, 13 so far and it's only February 22nd; some years there have been no skating days. Trustee Gallelli reported that Croton HS has a group called Future Business Leaders of America and they are again having the Croton Community Discount card; it is \$10 and is good for about 25 Croton businesses;

email chhsfbla@gmail.com to get one of these. FBLA is continuing a program with the Croton Senior Club; in March they will be meeting (helping) seniors who have signed up with computer literacy. Trustee Gallelli reported that on March 2nd the results of the Duck Pond situation will be looked at; the study was undertaken with the help of a neighborhood group who are working with scientist; hopefully we will come out with a plan to address the problem.

Trustee Murtaugh reported that he heard from several people that residents are allowing dogs to run loose at Croton Landing and this is not right; please pick up after dogs. Trustee Murtaugh reported that the parking lot study is merely looking toward the future, short term we are okay with parking spots; this preliminary planning tool will help 10 years from now. He reported that a week ago Friday, he and Mayor Wiegman met with the owner and broker of the Wondrous Things property; they brainstormed for an hour and left energized with several ideas; if anyone has ideas, contact any board member and we will pass it on to the owner and broker; they seem to have gotten to the point they are tired of having it vacant and will be more creative; hopefully in the near future something will happen there

Mayor Wiegman reported that the Village will be represented this coming week in Albany at the Conference of Mayors; they will be talking about unfunded mandates. He stated that one of the current unfunded mandates is the dog licensing which we need now to take over; and a big one is the mandate for pension contributions which is \$310,000 higher this fiscal year. He asked when the on-line agenda will be implemented. Village Manager Zambrano replied that he had anticipated being ready in February, but the election petition and machine issue has removed the Village Clerk from being able to work on this; they are having some training this week and perhaps the first meeting in March it will be ready. Mayor Wiegman stated that we will be publishing meeting dates for budget workshops and April through December meetings. He added that the VEB asked that if they work on a master plan for simpler, more effective signage at Silver Lake, will the Board be willing to fund the installation of new signs and removal of old signs. He stated that they did have the parking lot examination and study presented to the Village Board at a public work session but we are asking them to come back for a short presentation at a televised board meeting.

Trustee Olver made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murtaugh seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury

Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

Village Clerk