

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, April 4, 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 Schmidt
Village Attorney Feldman	Trustee Murtaugh
Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Raskob

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m.

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 with a vote of 5-0.

General Fund	\$ 53,254.65
Water Fund	6,725.97
Sewer Fund	600.00
Capital Account	3,154.10
Trust & Agency	1,879.00
Total	\$ 65,613.72

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- a) A letter from Audrey Dinkler, Croton Resident, regarding the choice of having a woman depicted on the 9/11 Monument and suggested adding a fireman instead of or along with the woman's statue.
- b) A letter from Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, regarding their Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, April 10th, 2 PM at the Irvington Public Library.
- c) A letter from Paul J. Feiner, Town Supervisor, Town of Greenburgh, regarding an alternative suggestion to property tax cap and suggesting holding a referendum with two budgets where voters can make a choice.
- d) A letter from Joseph H. Boardman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Amtrak, regarding their Fourth Annual National Train Day which will be held on May 7th and inviting all to participate.
- e) A letter from Fran Allen, Chairperson, Water Advisory Committee, regarding their preliminary consistency review for the property at 365 S. Riverside Ave.; they found that it is

consistent with the LWRP and they made recommendations for further clarification of policy compliance.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (agenda items):

No participation

6. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

a) On motion of TRUSTEE Murtaugh, seconded by TRUSTEE Raskob, 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, on October 4th, 2010 the Village Board of Trustees authorized the application of grant funds under the Justice Court Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, the Court Office applied for five fire proof file cabinets; and

WHEREAS, the Village Court has been notified by the New York State Justice Court Assistance Program that they have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,065.51 for the purchase of fire proof file cabinets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to accept the grant awarded to the Village Court.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Treasurer to amend the 2010/2011 General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$15,066 as follows:

Increase	A1110.3389	Criminal Justice Grant
Increase	A1110.2000	Justice Court Equipment

Discussion: Trustee Raskob thanked the people for applying for this as it may be the last money we may see in a while

b) On motion of TRUSTEE Raskob, 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, Dvirka and Bartilucci has prepared a proposal to continue to assist the Village in maintaining compliance with the NYSDEC Phase II Storm Water regulations and General Permits; and

WHEREAS, Dvirka and Bartilucci proposes the following five Tasks

- (1) prepare 2011 Storm Water Management Program Annual Report for submittal to NYSDEC
- (2) Conduct Outfall Screening and Recordkeeping for 28 Outfalls

- (3) Prepare a Village-specific Storm Water Best Management Practices Handbook/Manual
- (4) Provide a Village-Specific Municipal Operations Self-Assessment Guidebook/Manual
- (5) Provide a Village-Specific 4-hour Training Seminar for Village Staff on Storm Water Management Program Requirements

WHEREAS, the total cost of these 5 tasks comes to \$13,000, and

WHEREAS, the Village Engineer and Superintendent of Public Works recommend that the Village proceed with all 5 tasks,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is authorized to sign the proposal from Dvirka and Bartilucci for storm water management assistance for all 5 tasks at a total cost of \$13,000,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that this amount should be charged to Account #A8140.4000.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Treasurer to transfer \$4,000 from the Contingency Account number A1990.4000 to the Storm Water Sewer Account A8140.4000.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli asked if the reason we are transferring from the contingency account because we did not budget for this in this year's budget. Village Manager Zambrano replied that it is but we did not fund enough; there are ample funds in the contingency account. Mayor Wiegman added that the tasks were mandated by the DEC but not funded by the DEC; he suggested that the CAC and WCC be included to review.

c) On motion of TRUSTEE Schmidt, seconded by TRUSTEE Raskob, 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 Volunteer Fire Department Service Award Program was approved by referendum in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Article 11-A of the New York State General Municipal Law requires that the list of members of the Fire Department indicating those who earned a year of service credit during the calendar year, those that did not earn a year of credit, and those who waived participation must be certified under oath by the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, once certified, this list must be approved by the Village Board,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees is hereby authorized to sign the 2010 Sponsor Approval Form.

Discussion: Trustee Raskob thanked those volunteers who get out of bed in the middle of the night especially in bad weather. Trustee Schmidt stated that we were notified that we are doing very well maintaining the money that has gone into this.

d) On motion of TRUSTEE Gallelli, seconded by TRUSTEE Murtaugh, 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 of Trustees has received a special permit application to operate a retail business in the C2 General Commercial District located at 368 South Riverside Ave.; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has submitted part one of a Short Environmental Assessment Form (short EAF) and a Coastal Assessment Form (CAF), and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Village Board hereby determines that the proposed action is an unlisted action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Village Board declares its intent to be the Lead Agency for SEQRA purposes and authorizes the Part 1 of the Environmental Assessment Form and the Coastal Assessment Form to be circulated to the appropriate agencies in accordance with Village Law, and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Village Board hereby refers the special permit application to the Village Planning Board for a report back to the Village Board from the Planning Board in accordance with Village law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the Village Board hereby refers the special permit application, the short EAF, and the CAF to the Village Waterfront Advisory Committee for a recommendation back to the Village Board in accordance with Village Law

Discussion: Mayor Wiegman stated that this is for the Green Growler Grocer. Trustee Murtaugh added that an artisanal beer and snack shop is proposed; it also brings up the need to streamline Village policies; a simple change of use from an office to retail is an unnecessary step for the WAC to review; he expects this will get unanimous approval, but is slowing down the applicant's process. Mayor Wiegman added that this is alluding to the number of things that must go to the WAC and he expects this process will be shortened by resolution in perhaps the next few meetings. Trustee Murtaugh stated that the WAC has a goal to protect our waterfront and the LWRP, but this clearly has no impact; the Palladino application had technicalities, but that also might not have needed to be referred to the WAC. Trustee Raskob stated that this is a business that he thinks will do well in Croton and he applauds the initiative.

7. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (non-agenda items):

- a) Virginia Calcutti, 1900 Hunter Place, stated that she is frustrated with the 5 minute limit for speakers talking. She stated that she is a union person and thinks the wrong people are being blamed; this board and manager need to take in hand what employees are allowed to carry over as payments; she cited several former employees' carry over agreements; this is what is killing our pension funds, not the normal people working; look at carry over for fringe benefits; she doesn't know how many have read the contracts; the health insurance clause for non union employees hired before 1985 will pay health benefits for the rest of their life to the employee or family members; the Board needs to look at this and have it rescinded; we have several former employees eligible and we cannot afford to pay these policies for spouses of people. Ms. Calcutti added that longevity starts at 5 years, it should be moved to 10 years and should be the same for all three units; she would like to get together and talk about these things. Village Manager Zambrano replied that negotiations with public employees cannot occur between a private citizen and the board; there are strict labor laws. Ms. Calcutti stated that she does not want to negotiate with the Board, but she is asking the Board to look at this. Trustee Murtaugh stated that they are sympathetic to her views; in the last police contract, recent hires have a new tier and pay for some of their health insurance; some of the contracts she quotes were signed many years ago, but we can look at this when creating new contracts; he believes that longevity is a federal mandate; future contracts will be negotiated keeping in mind the problems we face today; several people she mentioned served this Village for many years and these are things we cannot change to those who have retired nor do we want to; we can be enlightened as we go forward. Ms. Calcutti stated that she believes health insurance survivor benefits can be changed and try to not have vacation and sick days added to the end of employment before retirement. Village Manager Zambrano replied that there are limits now to what days can be carried over. Trustee Schmidt stated that Village Manager Zambrano is correct that no one is allowed to carry over that many days any longer and the Board has been putting money aside to cover the current contracts; employees do a very good job supporting us and seeing that we have a well run Village and all that comes at a cost.
- b) Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor Ave., suggested looking at the delinquent tax list and increasing penalties to up to \$50.00 from \$20.00; he does not think there is a restriction on fees. Village Manager Zambrano replied that there may be as there are fee limits such as we can only charge \$20 for a bounced check; he will check on the delinquent tax penalty. Mr. Wintermeier stated that his comments relate only to the non union benefit plan for salaried people; we have about 11-12 people in that category; Croton's plan is very lucrative and it is defined benefit plan; he is glad the Mayor said he favors the approach of paying toward benefits; comp time is expensive; he is not out to change plans for current employees, but look at this for the future; he is not hoping to see any employees fired or laid off but we should take measures to assure that it is not going to burden taxpayers; accrued vacation and sick days come together and you can get up to 30 days payments; when you start to defer days, the employee gets paid at a much higher rate; we should be looking at it as accounts payable; he is concerned about the perfect attendance bonus of \$1200, but employees can defer the sick leave on top of that; on an annual basis, if you don't use 1 to 3 days, you get a \$750 bonus and once again the deferral will be at a higher rate.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Murtaugh made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 7, 2011 which was held over from last meeting for additions and corrections. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 4-0 with one abstaining.

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 21, 2011 as corrected. Trustee Murtaugh seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 4-0 with one abstaining.

9. REPORTS:

Village Manager Zambrano reported that he is looking forward to working with the new Board. He stated that the Public Hearing on the budget will be next Monday with a work session to follow. *Village Manager Zambrano* reported to notify the public that the Westchester Dept. of Health cited the Village for failing to take primary inorganic entry point water samples by the end of the year; the primary testing was omitted but secondary testing was done; the Village has taken action by taking samples to test the inorganic entry point samples; results have not been received yet; proper notification will be included in the CCR and necessary protocols have been established to avoid this from happening again; in no point was the water unsafe. *Village Manager Zambrano* announced that on Sunday, April 10th at 10 am there will be a ribbon cutting and unveiling ceremony dedicating a bench by Kaplan's Pond for former Attorney Seymour Waldman and there will be a short reception after. Mr. *Zambrano* stated that regarding comments this evening, keep in mind public employees for many years were highly underpaid, although this may not be the case now, but public employees, men and women, work 24/7 keeping the roads clean and patrolling; in the private sector most do not have to worry about this; some things will have to be changed, but keep in mind there is a different level of commitment between public and private jobs. Trustee Murtaugh responded that as a union member in a private corporation, being squeezed over and over again doesn't mean we need to do this to our public employees as well; we have to be prudent with taxpayers' money.

Village Treasurer Bullock congratulated Trustee Raskob for his election to the Board. She reported that they will be mailing out April 1st statements for outstanding account receivable bills and in May any outstanding bills may be levied to your taxes. Treasurer Bullock reminded residents that it is a requirement for alarm systems be registered with the Village and it is an annual payment; alarm permits are not transferrable.

Trustee Schmidt welcomed Trustee Raskob to the Board. He stated that the Croton Coalition had a laser tag event on April 1st and they had about 30 students attending. Trustee Schmidt reported that they are starting on the budget review and have had several meetings; this Saturday there will be a budget work session at 1 pm and the public is welcome. Trustee Schmidt stated that this Sunday, besides the Seymour Waldman bench dedication, the Library will also be honoring Mary Donnery for her 25 years of service to the Croton Free Library. He stated that Summerfest is June 5th; applications are available at his office (271-

2196 or 10 Old Post Rd. So.) or at the Recreation Department. Trustee Schmidt reported that on April 7th the Chamber meeting will be held at Cortlandt Town Hall, focusing on the greening of businesses. He added that the Chamber is hosting a business council meeting on April 13th at 6 pm at TK Casquarelli; it is open to local businesses. Trustee Schmidt recommended people should get out and shop locally; he stated that the plantings for the Village barrels will be purchased from local businesses; local businesses support charitable groups; many businesses are having a tough time right now; try to buy items for parties from local businesses. He added that the opportunity is here to open new business, but we must keep ongoing businesses healthy, productive and keep them up and going. Trustee Schmidt mentioned that the lawn was mowed at Vassallo Park today and asked that it be checked.

Trustee Raskob thanked the people of Croton for the honor of sitting here; he hopes to do something to earn their trust in the next few years; there is a learning curve which is quite steep; there are a lot of people working very hard and the response time is extremely short. He pointed out that we are being offered a false choice regarding benefits. He has gone over the budget line by line and there is no fat from what he can see; there are significant unfunded mandates and we need to live with that; the first impression is positive and he looks forward to working with the rest of the Board, the Village staff and those he has not yet met.

Trustee Gallelli reported that the Board is in the midst of the budget review process right now; the Saturday meeting is here starting at 1 pm; they have heard from the auditors who reported we are in excellent condition and the fund balance is at the high end of the range for a community of our size. Trustee Gallelli stated that the Croton Yacht Club is having a fund raiser for a scholarship for a Croton Harmon senior who will be pursuing a program on Maritime sciences; it will be an all you can eat pasta night and will be held on April 16th; the charge is \$15 for adults and it will benefit this scholarship. Trustee Gallelli reported that the Seniors are an ever- expanding group with 160 to 170 people who meet here every Friday; when members all turn out, the Community Room is very crowded; on Friday, April 15th, they are having an installation luncheon at a restaurant in Yorktown and the new president is Dorothy Arensburg.

Trustee Murtaugh reported that Mary Donnery has been with library for 25 years; it is Library Week and there is a slate of activities including a new giant size chess board that the Library has purchased and a new teen room; kudos to Mary for her many years of service. Trustee Murtaugh added that he is looking forward to the dedication of the bench which will be facing the Waldman's house. He stated that they are struggling with a tough budget this year as in the past several years and are wrestling down a proposed increase which will be lower than what has been reported in the media; while we don't want to pay any more than currently, it may be inevitable. He added that he spoke with a resident today who was unaware that the Village taxes went down 2 years in a row; so if we do have modest increase in taxes, it will be a smaller increase on a smaller budget and may be flat over three years when taking into account the two year deductions and the potential one year increase; they are working very hard to lower this budget as much as possible without sacrificing services; there are staff members who have gone one and two years without raises and we cannot let that happen again; they deserve appropriate raises where merited; it is something that we have to absorb; the Board will work very hard to reduce this budget as well as we can.

Trustee Murtaugh reminded that the public is invited to come Saturday and weigh in; we will do the best to trim the budget.

Mayor Wiegman acknowledged a family member of Treasurer Bullock who was in the audience tonight. He reported that there was an event at Hudson National Golf Club last Saturday evening for the Croton Harmon Education Foundation's Under the Stars fund raising gala; they were gracious to allow the event there and it was a beautiful evening. He added that there will be the Chamber of Commerce breakfast on Thursday with himself, Supervisor Puglisi and Mayor Foster speaking about the energy efficiency practices available for local residents.

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Raskob seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury

Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

Village Clerk