

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, September 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
	Trustee Olver

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 Konig and approved unanimously.

General Fund	\$ 88,070.12
Water Fund	1,992.24
Sewer Fund	658.05
Capital Account	90,786.00
Trust & Agency	82.00
Total	\$ 181,588.41

**3. PUBLIC HEARING:**

Village Manager Zambrano opened the Public Hearing to consider Local Law Introductory No. 6 of 2008 amending Chapter 205, Telecommunications. Village Manager Zambrano gave the background and explanation for this proposed amendment.

No comments were forthcoming from the floor.

Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing.

**RESOLUTION:**

On motion of TRUSTEE KONIG, seconded by TRUSTEE OLVER, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, the Village is currently in negotiation with Verizon representatives in order to be able to enter into a Franchise Agreement with Verizon for television services to the Village; and

WHEREAS, a franchise document between the Village and the Hudson River Telephone Company provided Verizon with permission to use Village streets to install telephone lines; and

WHEREAS, the Village Attorney and the Village's special counsel have advised the Village that Chapter 205 of the Village Code, Telecommunications Franchising and Licensing, could be misconstrued to read that Verizon is required to obtain an additional franchise for telephone installation; and

WHEREAS, the Village would like to amend Chapter 205 so that it does not apply to the extent that there is a valid and enforceable pre-existing franchise; and

WHEREAS, the Village's special counsel has drafted the amendment to Chapter 205, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held and closed on September 15, 2008,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts Local Law No. 6 of 2008, amending Chapter 205 Telecommunications Franchising and Licensing, of the Village Code.

Discussion: Village Manager Zambrano stated that he is anticipating after this resolution is passed, the Village and Verizon will resume negotiations for FIOS.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

- a) A letter from Chris O'Connor, Grand St., requesting the ban of cigarette sales in local pharmacies. Village Manager Zambrano stated that this is not something that can be done by the local municipality; Mr. O'Connor can speak to local merchants directly and/or write to State Legislatures. Mayor Schmidt reminded merchants that cigarettes can only be sold to persons over 18 years of age.
- b) A letter from Christopher Copeland, NYS Power Authority, regarding Westchester County Governmental Customer Electricity Bills for 2009; bills could be 32% to 36% higher next year because of increased costs. Mayor Schmidt stated that the Board will be having a work session 9/18 at 7:30 pm to discuss energy usage; there will be people there to talk about ways to help save more on energy usage.
- c) A letter from Mark Mannix, MetroNorth Railroad, regarding the 2008 Croton Harmon Open House that will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 and requesting the Village to "relax" parking enforcement as well as allow the general public to park for free at the station. Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the request with the usual caveats. The motion was seconded by Trustee Olver; unanimous vote in favor.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (agenda items):

- a) Taylor Vogt, a Croton resident and freshman at Pace University, gave a presentation of a project he started last year entitled The Wave of Green; participants are encouraged to wear a piece of green clothing during meetings & actions; the philosophy is to do whatever you can to help such as picking up a piece of trash on the ground, turning out a light when you leave the room or bicycling to work; one of the primary activities is a "Day of Green" in conjunction with Earth Day; on June 15, 2008, the first Day of Green was implemented with a Croton clean-up with six participants who filled up 9 trash bags; September 27, 2008 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Green Croton Community Cleanup; for more information, log on to the [waveofgreen@gmail.com](mailto:waveofgreen@gmail.com) web site. Trustee Brennan suggested putting this information on the Village's web site.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

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

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2006 the Village Board approved a proposal from Hahn Engineering for construction services for the Riverwalk/Croton Landing Project; and

WHEREAS, the amount in the original proposal has been reached and Hahn Engineering has supplied us with an additional proposal in the amount of \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, this amount will be split 65/35 between the County and the Village; and

WHEREAS, Hahn Engineering has committed to the Village that the project will be completed by October 15<sup>th</sup>,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to approve the proposal from Hahn Engineering in the amount of \$35,000 for the construction services for the Riverwalk/Croton Landing project.

Discussion: Village Manager Zambrano stated that the Village's commitment is 35%; we pay the full amount and submit a voucher to the County for reimbursement. Trustee Gallelli stated that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> straight meeting where resolutions have been brought to the Board for additional work; she has asked for an accounting of funds allotted and has not yet received it. Village Manager Zambrano replied that he is working on this with Village Engineer O'Connor and will have the report shortly. Mayor Schmidt added that this is a project that has a lot of add-ons and unexpected or expected items that were not included in the original scope. Trustee Brennan asked Mr. Zambrano to please give details of each overrun item, not just figures. Trustee Gallelli added that she agrees substantial portions of over-expenditures were for unexpected items, but finds it disturbing that we are always signing up for projects without giving the public a realistic number of costs. Trustee Olver added that it would be very helpful to have a global picture of this project. Mayor Schmidt stated that this is something that has historically happened in the Village; some departments are right on the nose during the bidding process; however, with big projects such as this, you

cannot anticipate everything. Trustee Brennan asked Mr. Zambrano to also give a percentage of total over-runs in relation to the whole job; construction especially along the riverfront will have things come up that are unseen and he would not have approved the over items if he didn't feel that the Village Engineer and Hahn Engineering were correct in asking for these additional items. Village Manager Zambrano added that with a project like this when working with the County, there were a lot of things that needed changes and it was hard for anyone to get these numbers precisely. Trustee Gallelli stated that she is not in any way opposed to the completion of this project, but the incremental increase of spending has gotten lost. Trustee Konig wondered if there is a way for Village Engineer O'Connor to point out the things that he took advantage of circumstances to take care of necessary work now rather than down the road since equipment was there already. Mayor Schmidt stated that he would like to see, on almost all projects in the Village, a start date, where the project is, how completed it is and if it is under or over budget.

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

WHEREAS, the Treasurer wishes to open both sides of the General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer fund budgets to cover the cost of operating expenses, amending the 2007-2008 General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund budgets as detailed in the attached schedules;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village Treasurer is authorized to amend the 2007-2008 General Fund, Water Fund and Sewer Fund budgets to reflect these changes

Discussion: Village Manager Zambrano stated that on a yearly basis, certain departments end up with money left over and budgeted on one line and then redistributed to other departments under the same management. Certiorary funds of \$240,000 were refunded to the golf course; the rest of the items are housecleaning; not additional funds but reallocation.

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

WHEREAS, the Village Manager, Deputy Village Treasurer, and staff periodically review capital projects, and

WHEREAS, after the last review, it was determined that several projects had been satisfactorily completed and in need of additional funding; and

WHEREAS, after the last review, it was also determined that several projects had been satisfactorily completed and left with a surplus of funds; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and General Municipal Law, a municipality's governing body must approve the closing of completed

projects and authorize additional funding as necessary or authorize the transfer of balances back to the respective fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Treasurer is hereby authorized to transfer funds as necessary either to or from fund balance or to debt service as detailed in the attached schedule effective May 31, 2008.

Discussion: Village Manager Zambrano stated that there are two schedules: the 1<sup>st</sup> is projects that have cost over-runs; the 2<sup>nd</sup> portion had funds left over and are being returned to specific funds which legally have to go back for repayment of the bonds; all projects were approved previously by the Board.

6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (non-agenda items):

Lisa Cohen, Old Post Rd. No., stated that she saw Kieran Murray make a pretty clear presentation of results of the Harmon Development study; she came away with the feeling that some board members are not ready for the public to receive information at this time and asked when the information will be made public. Mayor Schmidt replied that it is not that the public is not ready, but the Board does not feel ready and would like time to discuss further. Trustee Konig added that she had a personal problem with having a work session for this; she doesn't see what the rush is; she is not opposed to it, but the Board appointed a committee to look at commercial space and they came back with housing along with commercial; the two studies came to about \$15,000 for consultants. Mayor Schmidt added that they are working as fast as they can, but this needs to have a thoughtful look; the Village will have to live with this for a long time. Trustee Olver stated that he is in favor of all due deliberation, but the Board does need to proceed; expenditures keep climbing; and there is a need to look hard to increase income; this is one way to help the Village to grow and increase the tax base in ways that don't reach into taxpayers' pockets; October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the work session date for discussion among Board members; after that, there should be a televised presentation. Trustee Gallelli added that an informed discussion can only be enhanced by having the benefit of interested public to see the presentation and ask questions. Trustee Brennan stated that they have been pretty open with two work sessions and it has been on our web site; the public has been talking about it; before making any type of zoning changes, the area must be looked at but the density of the proposed project makes him want to be very slow and deliberate; he is not sure they will have a televised presentation. Trustee Konig stated that if it is presented it will appear that the Board is promoting the proposal; there has been five hours of discussion and the business owners are not turning up; the Ad Hoc committee was asked to look into what business owners need. She added that she feels that the Committee has gotten a little divisive with the Board and the community; they need to sit down and discuss the report; it may appear to developers that the Village is going to change their zoning. Trustee Gallelli stated that if people are concerned that a presentation appears to have approval of the Board, this can easily be taken care of with a disclaimer; there have been three sessions with property owners and they were well attended; they are interested and this is what property owners have indicated will make it more desirable to develop their property; this has assumed some level of controversy, primarily because most of the residents have not seen the proposal and the public may ask a lot of questions; she is firmly behind showing this presentation on a televised format so the public can see what the Board has

seen. Trustee Olver stated that this is not an agenda item; the issue is a procedural one; at last week's work session a lot of questions were asked and answered, but there was no opportunity for citizens to ask questions; how can this process be opened in such a way that the many interested citizens can be heard. Mayor Schmidt stated that the Board does need time to discuss this and figure out where to go from there; decide how to proceed. Trustee Gallelli added that this is a proposal to present possibilities to property owners.

Mike DePalma, a resident who has lived in the Village all his life, stated that 150 units would increase taxes on the Village residents. He questioned how many business owners live in the Village. He noted that there are 40 new students in the high school this year and 150 families will bring a lot more students to schools; he feels they don't need an additional 150 units in this Village. Trustee Gallelli stated that she hopes Mr. DePalma has an opportunity to pose these questions to the committee. Trustee Brennan replied that this is a concept only. Trustee Olver stated that this is a zoning change proposal, not a proposal for a development; it will give property owners the opportunity to redevelop their property or develop groups of properties with a single frontage of business with parking in the rear; if some owners did choose to redevelop along these lines, there would be a handful of rental units created; if everybody in Harmon had the capital to redevelop immediately, there is a possibility of 150 units, but it is not likely to happen. Trustee Konig stated that this proposal has been prepared and the divisiveness has come because there have been meetings held where the entire Board was not invited and interviews to newspapers on things they have not discussed yet; if this committee believes in the proposal, then maybe it is time to have a new committee with new people with different ideas; she feels that this committee has worked against the Board and she thinks the committee is the problem, not the report. Mike DePalma added that people cannot afford taxes going any higher. Trustee Brennan stated that this is a committee; they give advice, we make the decision; the committee is strictly advisory. Trustee Olver added that people need to know there is a fundamental difference of view on the Board; some feel particular problems are not being addressed; addressing the right kind of zoning change, not necessarily that which is in this report, would encourage reinvestment that is not being done now; we need to find other ways to raise revenues; this is one way to do it if it is done right; need to take time; others on the Board feel the business climate in Croton is worrisome and that is the fundamental division. Trustee Brennan replied that he is absolutely worried about the business climate and taxpayers of the Village; for the past 3 years, the Village tax has gone down through wise management and wise spending; they have been able to hold the line on budgetary expenses and save the Village money; he believes in the free market; other river towns have a lot of empty stores, everyone is facing the same economic hardship; they must look at the Village-wide situation; they are trying to answer this economic problem with residential density; he is not sure that is the way the Village should go; the meetings have not been secretive; on a piece of paper it looks great, but how will it affect the Village as a whole.

Alexander Kaspar, stated that he is not a resident, but he has received quite a number of calls and e-mails from people he did not know who were all concerned about things that occurred at a recent Board meeting; his concerns are different than most. Mr. Kaspar gave his background; he has some interest in farming and agriculture; his hobby is writing legislation; he has had all but one passed and signed by the governor over the past few years. He added

that sending materials to Vermont is not a good thing to do; he is willing to beat the price the Village is now paying; his business is not being closed down. Mr. Kaspar read a memorandum regarding organic composting; the basic thing is that if everyone in the nation composted, it would reduce the amount of coal-generated electricity by 21%; not everyone will do back yard composting; 2 months ago the Vermont resources board fined the Vermont composting company \$18,000; another composting company in Vermont has very serious problems and will be closed down eventually; he has certain litigation matters in Putnam Valley which have been going on for 10 years; he is just 15 miles from Croton; he will send his own trucks to pick up leaves and turn them into a wonderful product; in 2006, Westchester County's southern tier spent 53 million dollars on disposals; you thought you would be saving taxpayers money, but the County taxes will have to fork out the extra money; leaves and twigs are harder to deal with than just leaves; he doesn't see a money saver here; composting is good; keep it here and encourage people to compost. Mayor Schmidt replied that the Village has a commitment to composting and will work with residents to encourage composting; if there are some misconceptions on what was going on with his business, he apologizes; the Village has signed on with County thinking something might happen; they could meet with Mr. Kaspar and open up a dialogue; the Village is not locked in with the County on any long-term basis. Mr. Kaspar replied that nobody has called him since the Village began negotiations with the County. Trustee Gallelli thanked Mr. Kaspar for coming; they may have been misinformed about the status or continuation of his business. Mr. Kaspar presented his business card: Valley View Organics.

Anthony Gagliotti, a lifelong resident, was Assessor, Fire Chief, Asst. Building Inspector, and has been very involved in the Village; no one ever comes around to ask those who know what is going on in the area; the Village should pick the brains of those who know instead of hiring consultants; the Village will pick up some revenue from the Harmon development, but the school taxes will kill us and traffic would be murder; don't put more congestion in a place that is busy now; Croton can never be a business area because it is too spread apart and has always had 3 separate business areas; making Harmon a commercial area will only split the little business we have; it will never be a commercial area; he added that the empty stores are two restaurants and a gas station, these are not the businesses to be in today; other things will come in; the whole country is having the same economic problems; nothing is going to happen until the economy improves; putting a 35 ft. building would block the view of people on Young Ave.; you don't change zoning when it is not feasible or right. Mr. Gagliotti asked what happened with the Croton Dam; he has now read they want to raise the spillway; in 1955, the dam cracked and the spillway was lowered; has that been corrected. He added that regarding the Dog Park at Black Rock, what happens to feces and urine when it rains and flows into Silver Lake; there was swimming there 60 years ago along with Senasqua and Silver Lake; now only Silver Lake allows swimming and it has a large hill to climb. He added that the Duck Pond at one time has springs coming from the ball field; land was given to the Fire Dept. and was dug up; they gave land to the Little League; storm drains in Harmon flow into the Duck Pond and it doesn't freeze any more; there is algae growing; it should be filled in and make a nice park. He added that he feels that the sewer plant should be sold; the town has an easement to go to the building in the back and could put a building and parking in and get on the tax roles. In the future, he foresees paid drivers for the Fire

Dept. because it is hard to get volunteers; he sees one firehouse with drivers in the future; the Village now has three different firehouses.

Joanne Minnett, 5 Van Cortlandt Place, stated that she is a concerned citizen who looks for change, progress and growth but quality of life should not change; her wish is for Croton to remain small with little store front family-owned business, not White Plains; her family has lived in the Village for 11 years and shop elsewhere; this is the first year the Village has pushed for growth; people must unite and assist in fostering a good community; this committee should have included residents of Young Ave. to represent the neighbors who would about the business and a real estate agent; the Village should think strongly about the impact on residents in that area, such as deliveries, parking, added customers, traffic whatever will have an impact on this area; Mayor Schmidt is looking at ways to get owners and business through the red tape quickly and painlessly; his mission is to make properties more viable to business, but all have to realize that this does not happen at the flip of a switch; the Village cannot tell an owner who to rent to; this will take a lot of time; we are in a recession right now and everything and everybody is feeling the effects of that; take some small steps now and pave the way to the future. Ms. Minnett suggested buying the Riverside Four restaurant and turn it into municipal parking to earn money but take a step back and think about the whole picture, not just a piece.

Emily Prince, who has lived 6 years in the Upper Village, stated that zoning has not been discussed for that area; the Wondrous Things business is missed and asked if that space is being considered in future plans; it was a beautiful, attractive shop; is anything happening to that location? Mayor Schmidt replied only that he knows people are inquiring about it, but there is a bit of a problem contacting the landlord right now. Trustee Konig replied that they cannot determine what business goes into a building; this is up to the landlord. Trustee Brennan added that there is a need for entrepreneurs to come forward and contact the landlord; government is very limited about what it can do; market forces have to take their toll and move forward. Trustee Gallelli added that when you look at other communities with viable, vibrant commercial areas, those communities have come together through their municipal government to develop a marketable package to make it attractive for people to come; this includes examining the zoning for that area. Trustee Olver added that there is a role in government to make sure they are not standing in the way of free market; this is the time we should be planning and taking steps to make a better business climate; those out front will catch the wave of recovery; he doesn't want Croton to be left behind. Trustee Brennan stated that the Village has 3 distinct areas of shopping, not one; to keep viable areas, perhaps ease restrictions on things like signage; zoning is not always the answer; it effects everyone in the neighborhood. Ms. Prince stated that she needs to come to meetings and find out what is the future; something has to change; there are so many fabulous towns in Westchester that are still bustling; she wants to stay here and shop here. Mayor Schmidt stated that they have gone through a lot of streamlining steps to allow business to go though the process quicker; need to be more aggressive about bringing businesses in; this will not be done overnight; we have viable businesses here right now; need to go to business to step up to the plate to provide what residents want; unification and code enforcement is very important; they have put together a team to look at code enforcement. Trustee Gallelli added that it is no secret that she chaired the Comprehensive Plan; there is no inconsistency with

this proposal; the Comprehensive Plan is available on the web site; the fundamental reason villages were formed was to give individual areas control, hence zoning; there are many places that have no zoning; Villages are incorporated so they have that kind of control.

Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor Ave., stated that he is not for nor against this proposal; he is still studying it; it must be considered in conjunction with two other documents; he hates the Comprehensive Plan and is on record of opposing it, especially Floor Area Ratio; to see his ideas, write to him at [wintermeier@progidy.net](mailto:wintermeier@progidy.net) and he will explain his objections. Mr. Wintermeier added that regarding the Harmon Development report, there is misinformation about the dates of presentation and which side people are on. Mr. Wintermeier added that someone was taking shots in the blog at a new business in the Village; that person should apologize to the consignment shop. Trustee Gallelli replied that this was on the NCN blog. Mr. Wintermeier added that they have not heard from the Planning or School Board; they haven't heard from the lawyers; this is changing zoning and they should be heard from; there are rumors about public housing; priorities should be for seniors and those who have lived in the Village a long time; affordable housing means paying less taxes. He added that a single entry and exit to the parking facility would cause traffic problems; there is no rush; take a good look before deciding on anything; there is a lot to discuss; residents should stay cool, read and learn. Mr. Wintermeier added that everyone should shop locally; it probably costs 8 to 10 dollars to get to White Plains and back.

Mayor Schmidt ended that they will consider everyone's comments; there are a lot of points to be taken into consideration.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of an Executive Session held on July 28, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

Trustee Olver made a motion to approve the minutes of a Special Board Meeting held on August 21, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Brennan seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on August 21, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on August 27, 2008. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 2, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Konig seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

The Board agreed to put aside the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 8, 2008, awaiting clarification.

8. REPORTS:

*Village Manager Zambrano* reported that last Friday he, Trustees Olver and Gallelli attended the opening of the Historical Society exhibit which will be open until early spring. He reported that he attended the last meeting the Seniors had at Senasqua Park; he will be attending their meetings once a month. Mr. Zambrano reported that he has received a letter from NYS that the Safe Routes to School grant application submitted by the Village will not be funded. He also received a memo from Chief Tramaglino that the Police Department has received about \$25,000 worth of equipment from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, including 2 cameras with high speed license plate readers, mounted on a police car and linked to a laptop. Mr. Zambrano also received an e-mail from Historic Hudson Valley/Van Cortlandt Manor that they will not have any bonfires this year at their pumpkin event; however, they have asked to use the train station parking for overflow parking if needed. Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the request, Trustee Olver seconded to approve request; unanimous Board approval.

*Trustee Konig* reported that she attended the ZBA meeting last week and the ZBA members would like to talk to the Village Board about a couple of concerns. Trustee Konig reported also that at the Recreation Advisory meeting there was some talk about teen nights and middle school nights; they agree that for the teen nights, the magic formula has not been found; however, middle school night was jumping; they are doing a great job with that; the committee also wants to go over a few things such as the dog park. Trustee Konig added that the Dog Park is an example of a committee recommending one thing and this board going ahead as it saw best. Regarding the Cortland Community Center, Sue Snyder has been talking to Supervisor Puglisi and they will connect with Trustee Brennan. Trustee Konig stated that tonight was practically a public hearing on something that was not ready to come up; it is an interesting proposal; she is having a problem with it being presented one more time by the committee who has a certain spin on it; she doesn't want to give the appearance of promoting the proposal and doesn't think there is a need to rush into a special session in October. Trustee Konig added that she has a problem with the make up of committee members which has turned political and is not working for her as a Trustee; committees are not necessarily forever and can be disbanded.

*Trustee Olver* stated that we, as a Board, have not yet found a process that allows us to move forward with serious recommendations, from a professional group of people, that are aimed at a critical problem in the Village; he will continue to work with everyone on the Board and everyone on the committee to ensure a full and deliberate debate is held on these issues in a way that will allow all points of views to be aired fully. He reported that there is a wonderful exhibition in this building's first floor mounted by the Historical Society about Croton in the 1930s; they have done a great job as usual, but this is special. Trustee Olver reported that the Conservation Advisory Committee has been meeting and will be coming before the Board with some recommendations in the near future; he hopes citizens will participate and put in their point of view; they will be talking about energy use in the municipality itself; he urged everyone to take heed of simple things to do to lower energy use; nobody is perfect in this regard, but see what you can change in your home or business and see if there is something you can do in the next month or two and make the changes; a little up front money may be required, but will pay

off for everyone. This is bike week and a number of businesses are giving discounts to those coming in on a bike and have a helmet. He added that he was sorry they did not get through the first cut of the Safe Route to School application, but would still like to move forward with this to make walking to school safer than it is now.

*Trustee Gallelli* reported that Bike Week is a wonderful concept to get everyone thinking about biking to work, school, the railroad station and to shop; over 30 merchants are offering discounts if you arrive in a bike with a helmet or with one of the flyers; special recognition was given to Rob Olsen and all members of the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee; the end of Bike Week is the Tough Man Triathlon on Sunday which can be a great community event; it is a half triathlon starting at Croton Point Park. Trustee Gallelli stated that regarding the Safe Routes to School grant application, she is sorry the Village did not get it; a lot of tremendous work was put into putting this grant together by a lot of people; she read that five communities got several million dollars from this grant and many sounded like our grant proposal; she believes this was a top notch application and would like to know where Croton's application differed from those who got funded. Trustee Gallelli added that she would like to follow up with Mr. Kaspar; she believes he may be offering prices and services that may be better or competitive to those from the County. Trustee Gallelli added that she believes that a presentation is the only way to have an informed discussion about what was discussed tonight, although it is on the web, it is easier to understand and have questions at a presentation; she is strongly in favor of having this presentation within the next 4 weeks. Trustee Gallelli asked Village Manager Zambrano to describe the process to fill the vacant treasurer's position. Village Manager Zambrano stated that two Sundays ago, an ad was posted in the Journal News and also published the same ad in other papers and newsletters; they are requesting that resumes be sent to Paula DiSanto, Village Clerk; they will be accepting resumes through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and will have interviews immediately after that; he hopes to have a selection shortly after that and come to the Board for approval; perhaps in 6 weeks.

*Trustee Brennan* stated that he will be in touch with Councilwoman Lindau from Cortlandt regarding their new community center; Sue Snyder has a directive from Mayor Schmidt to work closely with Cortlandt to make that community center work as best as possible for all residents of Croton. Trustee Brennan reported that most of the Trustees and the Mayor were at the fire inspection a few weeks ago and it was a great inspection; everything was top notch; kudos to all firemen. Trustee Brennan added that Thursday there will be an energy meeting. He stated that he is also sorry about the Safe Routes to School application; a lot of work went into this. Trustee Brennan reported that regarding the Harmon Development Committee, people are inquisitive and asking questions which is just fine; they had a couple of work sessions which were advertised and open to the public and the proposal is on the web site; it is his belief that from where this committee was set up to go and where it is now, is completely different; everything has to do with zoning which impacts and affects the whole village. Trustee Brennan wished the HS football team, and all fall sports teams, the best of luck.

*Mayor Schmidt* reminded everyone about Taylor Vogt's Wave of Green on September 27<sup>th</sup> to help clean up Croton and spread energy awareness. Mayor Schmidt announced that the Croton Rotary Club Car Show is September 28<sup>th</sup> at the train station, 11 am to 4 pm; this year they will have a classic car painted by Croton HS students and will have the opportunity for students to sit

in the car and have their pictures taken. Mayor Schmidt added that the Safe Routes to School project started with just getting a sidewalk from Maple to PVC and grew to a large project; it doesn't mean they will not do this project; it may be done in parts and reapply to that program to see if money can be obtained in the future. Mayor Schmidt stated that they are struggling with an issue of stores which are closed, how zoning works or doesn't work, looking at revitalization of the community and many other things; they will have an extensive work session talking about these issues; this is healthy discourse to have this discussion going on; there is a need to inform ourselves, the public and other groups and the Board will be working through all that; they are doing a lot of work; each are deeply concerned with Croton, that's why they run for office.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Olver seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury

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Phyllis A. Bradbury  
Secretary

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Village Clerk