

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, October 20, 2008 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Schmidt	Trustee Brennan
Treasurer/Manager Zambrano	Trustee Gallelli
Village Attorney Staudt	Trustee Konig
	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	\$35,172.56
Water Fund	1,147.73
Sewer Fund	1,577.33
Capital Account	2,880.40
Trust & Agency	0
Total	\$40,778.02

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Schmidt opened the Public Hearing amending Chapter 204 of the Village Code; Taxation; exemption in assessments to veterans who served during the Cold War period.

There were no comments from the floor. Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing. Village Manager Zambrano read the following resolution:

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

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has recently made available to Veterans who have served during the Cold War periods, an exemption in their assessments for a period of up to 10 years to reduce their taxes because of their service; and

WHEREAS, Local law Introductory No. 7 of 2008 has been drafted making this exemption available to residents of the Village,

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held and closed on October 20, 2008,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts Local Law No. 7 of 2008 amending Chapter 204 Taxation of the Village Code.

Discussion: Trustee Gallelli asked why the resolution reads “up to 10 years”. Village Manager Zambrano replied that it is meant to last for 10 years; it can be extended.

Local Law 7 of 2008

Section 1. Chapter 204 of the Code of the Village of Croton on Hudson is hereby amended by adding thereto a new Article VII which shall read as follows:

ARTICLE VII, Cold War Veterans Tax Exemption

§ 204-27. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to make available to Veterans who have served during cold war periods, an exemption in their assessments for a period of up to 10 years to reduce their taxes because of their service pursuant to § 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York.

§ 204-28. Exemption granted; limitations.

Qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation up to a maximum of \$12,000 of assessed value for the Basic Exemption and \$40,000 of assessed value for the Disability Exemption. The applicable maximum assessment shall be multiplied by the current Equalization Rate each year to determine the assessment exemption amount.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

4. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

a) A request from Mark Duncan, Recreation Supervisor requesting permission to hold the Annual Goblin Walk on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 2:00 P.M.; they will be starting at the Municipal Building and ending at Vassallo Park. Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Trustee Brennan, approved unanimously.

b) A press release from Cablevision regarding their WIFI network extension in high-traffic locations across Long Island, Connecticut and Westchester/Dutchess service areas. Trustee Gallelli stated that she just got a mailer that this has been activated in the Croton-Harmon station.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (agenda items):

None

6. 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, the Croton EMS needs portable radios to ensure proper communications between members of Croton EMS and 60 Control; and

WHEREAS, the EMS department has received three quotes for these items; and

WHEREAS, Albany Communications has supplied the Village with the lowest quote for 30 radios at a total cost of \$8,100; and

WHEREAS, \$120,000 was approved in the 2007-08 budget for these radios, however, the radios were not available for purchase during this time and the \$10,000 was not used; and

WHEREAS, the 2008-09 budget does not include an amount for the radios,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is authorized to approve the proposal from Albany Communications for 30 radios for the EMS Department at a total cost of \$8,100

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the amount of \$8,100 should be charged to account number A4540-2000 – EMS equipment,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Treasurer is authorized to transfer \$8,100 out of the contingency account number A1990.4000 to account number A4540.2000.

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 Town of Cortlandt owns a sheltering facility for dogs that from time to time are seized by animal control officers, said facility is located on Arlo Lane; and

WHEREAS, the Village is desirous of utilizing said facility for its animal control officers use upon seizure of any dogs; and

WHEREAS, it is agreed that there shall be no costs or expenses incurred to the Village unless additional costs are incurred specifically to the Village's use of the facility; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Cortlandt for the use of the Towns' dog shelter located on Arlo Lane.

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 Croton Landing and Riverwalk improvement project is near completion; and

WHEREAS, the contract presently allows for a small amount of landscaping in the area of the stormwater management ponds; and

WHEREAS, after review by the Village Engineer, Hahn Engineering and a Landscape Architect, it is recommended that additional landscaping be added to improve the aesthetics of the park; and

WHEREAS, Bradhurst Site Construction Company has provided a proposal for the additional landscaping in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is authorized to approve the proposal from Bradhurst Site Construction Company for additional landscaping not to exceed \$30,000.00,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the amount of \$30,000.00 should be charged to account number H7140.2103.07148.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Village Treasurer is authorized to transfer \$30,000.00 out of the contingency account number A1990.4000 to account number H7140.2103.07148.

Discussion: This is for Croton Landing additional landscaping. Village Manager Zambrano- this is the landscaping that will make the Park complete. Trustee Brennan-all came together as a Board that this is the final act that needed to be taken care of; some of the landscaping will be done in the spring. Mayor Schmidt-it is a great project, have had to bear the over runs, the public will be very pleased; the inaugural walk will be Thursday at 2 pm and at that time it will be officially opened to the public.

7. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (non-agenda items):

Susan O'Donnell Corliano, 14 Van Wyck St., regarding the black walnut tree discussed at the last meeting, stated that she has lived here since January and has spent about \$6,000 this summer to improve their land; droppings from this tree has dented her car and hit her mother, adding that some of the black walnuts are bigger than a golf ball; a large branch fell; she handed out pictures of the branch and her daughter; she stressed that if it is a matter of cost, there is a possible replacement tree on the other side of the wall. Ms. Corliano added that the walnuts are all down, the droppings have been cleaned up and the tree was trimmed by them for now; they have until spring to do something.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 6, 2008 as corrected. Trustee Olver seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimous approval.

8. REPORTS:

Village Manager Zambrano reported that last week they started to conduct training on workplace violence to train employees; the process has not been completed, NY State has more to do; there may be a need to set up another training session for those who were unable to attend, including board members. Mayor Schmidt added that they will also be setting a tolerance policy which will put these techniques in place. Village Manager Zambrano stated that he is working on a new employee manual which will include these policies. Mr. Zambrano reported that in October, notices are sent for delinquent taxes; residents can come into Village Hall from 8:30 to 4 or call 271-4781.

Trustee Konig reported that the Waterfront Advisory Committee is going to be meeting about the cell tower that is coming in by the DPW garage. Trustee Konig stated that the Goblin walk will be at 2 pm. She added that the Croton Landing opening will be on Thursday at 2 pm.

Trustee Olver reported that the matter of the cell tower is moving forward, which should improve reception; there still are dead zones throughout the Village; it is a slow process; people want good reception, but not towers; he wants to move ahead with the FIOS agreement, but haven't heard from Verizon yet. Village Attorney Staudt stated that the Village enacted the law as Verizon requested, he sent a letter about this and he contacted the outside counsel and asked them to push this forward. Trustee Olver added that the infrastructure is all in place, awaiting successful negotiations. Trustee Olver added that there are numerous Halloween events coming up; it is time to paint storefronts, the Goblin Walk on Saturday, the CET Halloween parade Friday afternoon and Friday evening is Halloween; please drive super carefully, especially Friday evening. He reminded everyone that we are all pushing for the best possible America; destruction or stealing of yard signs is un-American; please take the opportunity to talk to kids about what we stand for and explain differences of opinion and talking things out.

Trustee Gallelli reported that the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee met last week to discuss the recent bicycle week and they are developing a master plan. Trustee Gallelli added that she is looking forward to the Croton Landing opening. She reported that the daffodil planting was quite successful; they planted 911 daffodils in the center of Benedict Blvd. Trustee Gallelli stated that she had the pleasure of seeing the Great Pumpkin Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor and she recommend it highly; people can look on line at www.hudsonvalley.org for ticket information.

Trustee Brennan reported that tonight the Board had the first interview with a prospective candidate for Treasurer. Trustee Brennan reminded the public that on October 28th, they will have the Harmon Development Committee open meeting; please come; they all want to hear what people think on that subject. Trustee Brennan added that the leaves are starting to gather and asked if there are leaf pickups scheduled. Village Manager Zambrano replied that the schedule will be posted shortly. Trustee Brennan congratulated the Croton Harmon football team and their coaches for their outstanding season. He asked Village Engineer O'Connor for an update on Benedict Blvd. Mr. O'Connor reported that Acocella Contracting will be moving forward with the concrete; milling bids are due tomorrow; Benedict Blvd. is about 50% done; binder installation should begin tomorrow and if normal temperatures continue, it may be completed before the first snow.

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Mayor Schmidt encouraged people to bag leaves; do not put leaves in piles at the curb or in plastic bags; the DPW has paper bags for residents; vacuuming will not start until in November and CTY may be used to notify residents when leaves will be collected in their area. Mayor Schmidt agreed that it will be great to open Croton Landing; there will be a grand opening later this year or early next year. Mayor Schmidt reminded everyone that this Election Day there will be a change in polling sites; Washington Engine Co. will be shifted to the Grand Street firehouse; this has to do with County regulations regarding handicapped access to buildings.

Trustee Brennan made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Olver seconded the motion; approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Bradbury
Phyllis A. Bradbury, Secretary

Village Clerk