

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, September 15, 2014 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 Davis
Village Attorney Staudt	Trustee Slippen
Village Treasurer Bullock	

The following officials were absent:

Trustee Levitt
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1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:00pm; everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the following Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Vouchers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Davis and approved with a vote of 4-0.

General Fund	3,683.38
Capital Fund	8,217.66
Total	\$11,901.04

Trustee Davis made a motion to approve the following Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Vouchers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Slippen and approved with a vote of 4-0 vote.

General Fund	\$84,796.43
Water Fund	4.32
Sewer Fund	-
Capital Fund	36,144.22
Trust Fund	1,261.22
Total	122,206.19

3. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Letter from Ralph Mastromonaco, P.E. dated July 10, 2014 advising that Amberlands Realty Corp. is requesting a zoning change from the RA25 (One Family Residence) to the C-1 (Central Commercial) for a 2.7 acre parcel located at #1 and #5 Baltic Place.

Trustee Gallelli advised that this piece of property is located at the north end of the Village at Albany Post Road and Baltic Place. Trustee Gallelli advised that there are currently three commercial uses there; a bank, restaurant and dental office, that are all in the Town of Cortlandt but the parking lot, currently Zoned RA25, is in the Village of Croton.

Mayor Wiegman advised that when the sub-division was approved as an RA-25 it included this last lot in the Village even though it is being used as a parking lot. Mayor Wiegman explained that the Zoning Board of Appeals granted a Variance in 1995 so that the residentially designated parcel could be used for commercial parking; this proposal will bring the property into conformance with its current use.

b. Letter from John Corlett, Director of Traffic Safety and Government Affairs, AAA of New York, congratulating the Village of Croton on winning the "AAA Golden Award" in the 2014 Community Traffic Safety Award Program.

#### 4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION-AGENDA ITEMS

Joel Gingold, 55 Nordica Drive, Croton on Hudson, indicated that traffic safety has been stated as the reason for the Croton Point Avenue Project but the Village had received a safety award from the AAA of New York in 2013 and now 2014. Mr. Gingold stated that he felt that in light of two successive Gold Traffic Safety Awards there is no need for this project.

Bob Anderson, 33 Franklin Avenue, Croton on Hudson, asked if the residents would have the opportunity to view the Village Manager's contract prior to its approval and why the contract was not available on the web-site. Mr. Anderson asked how information gets on as an Agenda item if they have not been discussed in a work session.

Mayor Wiegman stated that the Village Manager's Contract was pulled from the Agenda because the Board had some additional questions to discuss with the Village Manager. Mayor Wiegman stated that the Village Manager's contract will be made available once it is in its final draft.

Trustee Gallelli advised that not every item on a Regular Meeting Agenda is discussed at a Village Board Work Session; some agenda items are automatically put on the Regular Meeting Agenda based on timing or have been developed by staff as part of their regular work.

Trustee Davis stated that residents can certainly look at the Village Manager's last contract.

Virginia Calcutti, 19 Hunter Place, Croton on Hudson, asked if the Village Manager is being represented by an attorney

Village Manager Zambrano advised that from a labor agreement perspective negotiations between an employee and the Village Board are treated similar to when the Board negotiates union contracts. Village Manager Zambrano stated that if he chooses to be represented by an attorney this would be something that he would pay for himself.

Roseann Schuyler, Olcott Avenue, Croton on Hudson, asked if the Village Manager's contract will be made public when it is placed on the next Regular Meeting Agenda.

Mayor Wiegman responded by saying that this is the Board's goal.

Village Attorney James Staudt stated that there are times when it is appropriate not to release a labor related contract until it is voted on but he very much doubts that this will be the situation with respect to the Village Manager's Contract especially if the Board's questions are resolved.

Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor Avenue, Croton on Hudson, considers the Village Manager's Contract not to be personal and compared it to the Governor and the President releasing their tax returns. Mr. Wintermeier suggested that salaries be either reduced or capped.

Mayor Wiegman stated that the Governor and President hold elected office and have Federal Requirements to meet which an appointed staff person does not. Mayor Wiegman advised that Village Manager Zambrano voluntarily capped his salary for several years and has been very forthcoming in setting an example.

Village Manager Zambrano stated that during the first four years as Village Manager he voluntarily did not take a salary increase. Mr. Zambrano added that even though his contract does not call for him to contribute to health insurance he began contributing when the rest of the administrative staff

began contributing a year and a half ago because it is the right thing to do. Mr. Zambrano said that he has been doing his part and giving back and these are things that, to his knowledge, no other Manager in the County has done. Mr. Zambrano stated that most of the Managers in Westchester County make a lot more and their benefits are a lot higher than what the Village of Croton provides to the administrative staff. Mr. Zambrano stated that he gives a lot to this job; it is not just a nine to five job for him; he is committed not only during the week but on weekends and holidays as well.

#### 5. RESOLUTIONS:

a. On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI seconded by TRUSTEE SLIPPEN the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; with a 4-0 vote.

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has analyzed the 2013/14 year to date budget and recommends the following budget transfers as detailed in the attached schedules;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village Treasurer is authorized to make the following budget transfer to the 2013/14 General Fund budgets as follows:

#### **GENERAL FUND**

INCREASE		
Department	Item Description	Amount
A3120	4000 Police – contr.	5,100
A5010	4000 DPW adm. – contr.	1
A7140	4000 Plygrds. & Rec. – contr.	190
A7550	4000 Celebrations – contr.	132
Total Increases		\$ 5,423
DECREASE		
A3120	2000 Police – equipment	846
A3120	4200 Police – supplies	2,000
A8560	4000 Shade trees – contr.	2,577
Total Decreases		\$5,423

b. On motion of TRUSTEE DAVIS, seconded by TRUSTEE SLIPPEN, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; with a 4-0 vote.

WHEREAS, D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program teaches young people ways to resist peer pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, retired Police Officer Gabrielson has taught the D.A.R.E. program in the Croton Harmon School District for several years; and

WHEREAS, each police officer who teaches the D.A.R.E. program must complete a training course and be certified; and

WHEREAS, the Croton Police Department does not have another certified Police Officer to teach the D.A.R.E program; and

WHEREAS, retired Police Officer Gabrielson has agreed to teach the program as a part-time employee of the Village until another Officer has completed the required training class,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Village Board of Trustees authorizes the Village Treasurer to transfer \$6,500 from the Police D.A.R.E. over-time account A3120.1240 to Police Part-time personnel service account A3120.1100.

DISCUSSION:

Trustee Davis explained that this is not new funding; we are transferring the funding that was already in the budget for this program from the police overtime line and moving it to the part-time personnel line. Trustee Davis added that he has some doubts as to the effectiveness of this program in preventing drug use as compared to other programs but having Police Officers involved in drug education is a positive thing because it introduces our youth to Police Offices in a positive way rather than a negative way.

Mayor Wiegman stated that the program not only helps with drug education the program also helps students understand peer pressure and bullying and gives the students someone that they can go to should they need to.

6. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION-NON AGENDA ITEMS

Virginia Calcutti, 19 Hunter Place, Croton on Hudson, stated that she was concerned with who was going to continue to run the DARE Program when Officer Gabrielson retired and is happy to see that he is coming back to continue to run the program for the Village.

Lino J. Sciarretta, Esq. from the Law Firm of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker; stated that he is here this evening on behalf of Greentree Realty LLC, the owners of the transfer station at 1A Croton Point Avenue, to inform the Board that they are going to proceed with an application for the re-issuance of the "Special Permit" for that site and that they look forward to working with the Board with respect to that process.

Village Attorney Staudt asked that the Board not comment at this time because this property is the subject of an active litigation.

Winn Chesnard, 64 Farrington Road, Croton on Hudson, asked if the Art Show participants paid to be at Senasqua Park since extra personnel was provided during the event.

Mayor Wiegman advised that the Village did not provide extra personnel for the Art Show event; the Village does have Park Rangers on duty and in this case we deployed all of the Rangers to Senasqua Park for this event; there were no additional costs to the Village.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that the Village Board authorized the joint Art Show with the Croton Council of the Arts and the Village as a way to bring people down to the waterfront. Mr. Zambrano stated that because this was a co-sponsored event the Village did not collect any fees. Mr. Zambrano advised that the event was very successful; the Board will hold a debriefing meeting to discuss planning for next year's event and there has been some discussion to charge the exhibitors a fee next year.

Trustee Gallelli advised that she attended the Art Show and was overwhelmed how successful it was for a first time event. Trustee Gallelli stated that it is our policy to allow Village groups and committees to use our parks as long as we have notification in advance. Trustee Gallelli stated that so many people came out on a beautiful day not only to enjoy the art work but to make use of our fantastic park that otherwise would not be utilized to that extent.

Roseann Schuyler, Olcott Avenue, Croton on Hudson, asked if the public can get a status of the litigation with Greentree. Ms. Schuyler stated she hopes that the members of the Board will take heed that not so long ago the taxpayers of this Village spent a lot of money to close that operation down and hopes that everyone understands that this seems to be what the public opinion of this Village is.

Village Attorney Staudt advised that the Village is represented by outside counsel assigned by the Village's Insurance Company. Mr. Staudt advised that there has not been a lot of activity other than some discovery and written demands.

Mr. Chesnard stated that there is a very serious safety issue at the corner of Farrington Road and Riverside; cars are parking in the "No Parking Here to Corner" space making it extremely difficult to make left hand turns without having to pull halfway into the intersection. Mr. Chesnard stated that he has not seen one car being asked to be moved, ticketed or towed and is concerned that there is going to be a very serious accident.

Mayor Wiegman asked the Village Manager to follow up on this with the Police Chief.

#### 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Slippen made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting held on September 2, 2014. Trustee Levitt seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 4-0.

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on September 2, 2014. Trustee Slippen seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 4-0.

#### 8. REPORTS

Village Manager Zambrano responded to a question posed at the last Board meeting from John O'Connor asking why the Fire Counsel receives a portion of the payment for fire protection services for the Mt. Airy Fire District. Mr. Zambrano advised that he reviewed the New York State General Municipal Law Section 209-d and an Opinion from the State Comptroller's Office where it gives the Municipality the legal guidelines to split those payments.

Village Manager Zambrano reminded residents that the Village does provide on line payments for tax and utility bills and encouraged everyone to use the system.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that winter is coming and reminded residents that they have several options to receive notifications from the

Village; through the Village's web-site, Facebook and the Cable Channel. Mr. Zambrano also encouraged residents to sign up through the Web-Site to receive automatic notifications as well.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that the Village also has a "Special Needs Database" and encouraged residents to sign up if you have a family member with special needs; it is a way to help our residents in case of an emergency; all information is kept confidential.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that he attended the recent Fire Department Inspection and the Arboretum's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration.

Trustee Davis advised that he also attended the Fire Department Inspection and congratulated former Chief John Munson for receiving an award for logging in the most calls for the year.

Trustee Slippen encouraged residents to participate in Westchester County's Pilot Program called "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em". Trustee Slippen stated that this program encourages homeowners to mulch their leaves and leave them in place on the ground instead of placing leaves to the curb or bagging them for pick up by our Public Works Department. Trustee Slippen stated that this program will not only help the environment but will help to eliminate costs associated with picking up leaves. Trustee Slippen stated that more information about the Pilot Program will be on the Village's Web-Site.

Mayor Wiegman advised that he has been mulching his leaves for several years now and it takes less time than bagging and dragging them to the curb

Trustee Slippen announced that the Village, School District and members of many of the youth and adults programs held a meeting to discuss how we are all going to manage the limited amount of our field space. Trustee Slippen stated that it was great to have everyone in the same room discussing what their goals will be moving forward. Trustee Slippen thanked John Bouchard, Parks Foreman, for an outstanding job on the fields.

Trustee Slippen advised that she also attended the 9-11 Memorial, the Arboretum event at the Yacht Club and will also be participating in the "ShopRite Help Hunger" event this Wednesday.

Trustee Gallelli advised that she will also be attending the "ShopRite Help Hunger" event this Wednesday; this event enhances ShopRite's commitment to work against hunger.

Trustee Gallelli advised that overall this was a great weekend; starting with the 9-11 Remembrance Memorial Dedication; the Arboretum's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary celebration at the Yacht Club as well as the Art Exhibition at Senasqua Park. Trustee Gallelli stated that we are a River Town and is happy to see things happening on our River.

Trustee Gallelli advised that residents can now sign up for the "34<sup>th</sup> Annual Harry Chapin Run against Hunger" that will be held on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> by going to their Web-Site; [www.runagainsthunger.com](http://www.runagainsthunger.com).

Village Attorney Staudt asked for an Executive Session with the Board following the close of the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Wiegman announced that the 9-11 Remembrance Memorial is now complete and the ownership will now be transferred from the "Foundation" to the three municipalities; Buchanan, Town of Cortlandt and Village of Croton; an Inter-Municipal Agreement will be prepared for the management of the site going forward.

Mayor Wiegman congratulated the Arboretum on the celebration of their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Mayor Wiegman advised that there have been a number of water shut-offs over the last couple of days; some of them have been planned as part of the transition to the temporary water mains but we had one incident where a pipe needed repair and we were not able to alert the residents. Mayor Wiegman apologized for the inconvenience and asked for the public's patience.

Mayor Wiegman advised that a presentation will be made tomorrow evening in the Community Room sponsored by the "Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition" from 6:30pm to 9:00pm; several experts will talk about what a "Carbon Free/Nuclear Free" future might look like.

Mayor Wiegman advised that the Village received quite a few responses to the "Request for Qualifications" to serve on an "Ad Hock Committee" that will discuss potential uses for the Gouveia property. Mayor Wiegman advised that the Village hopes to have a committee together by early October.

There being no further business to come before the Board; Trustee Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and to enter into an Executive Session for advice of Legal Counsel. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion;

the motion was approved with a 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Weintraub, Board Secretary

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Paula DiSanto, Village Clerk