

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, January 6, 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 Feldman	Trustee Levitt
Village Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Slippen

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Wiegman called the meeting to order at 8:25pm; 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 unanimously with a vote of 4-0.

General Fund	\$139,958.62
Water Fund	\$ 8,803.59
Sewer Fund	\$ 3,215.30
Capital Fund	\$364,288.90
Trust Fund	\$ 5,602.06
Total	\$521,868.47

3. Mayoral Appointments:

Appointment of Village Prosecutor

Mayor Wiegman advised that during the interview process for the Village Prosecutor position Trustee Raskob expressed interest in the position. Mayor Wiegman advised that Mr. Raskob has a long history and expertise in Vehicle and Traffic Law and his in-depth knowledge about the process makes him a perfect candidate for this position. Mayor Wiegman advised that Mr. Raskob holds a Bachelors Degree from Boston University and a Law Degree from Touro Law School; Mr. Raskob practiced Land Use Law in New Jersey and Personal Injury Law in New York City before opening his own firm specializing in Traffic Law. Mayor

Wiegman advised that he is pleased to introduce the appointment of Casey Raskob to the position of Village Prosecutor for the current Organizational Year.

On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI and seconded by TRUSTEE LEVITT the appointment of Casey Raskob to the position of Village Prosecutor was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; with a 4-0 vote.

#### Appointment of Village Trustee

Mayor Wiegman advised that with the appointment of Casey Raskob to the position of Village Prosecutor the Mayor, under Village Law, is authorized to make an appointment to fill a Trustee vacancy. Mayor Wiegman announced that he is pleased to announce that he will be appointing Maria Slippen to the vacant Trustee seat. Mayor Wiegman advised that Ms. Slippen holds a Bachelor's Degree from Fairfield University and has been a member; a co-leader and a president of many organizations from the Croton Community Nursery School, Croton Caring Committee, Girl Scouts, Croton AYSO Youth Soccer, Croton Arboretum, Carey E. Tompkins PTA and the Croton Harmon Education Foundation Annual Winter Fundraiser. Mayor Wiegman advised that Ms. Slippen currently serves on the Village Recreation Advisory Committee and represents Croton on the Town of Cortlandt's Comprehensive Plan Committee as well. Mayor Wiegman advised that Ms. Slippen runs a Media and Communications Consulting practice while she raises a young family with her husband Jeff Slippen. Mayor Wiegman advised that under Village Law this appointment will be for the balance of the 2014 Organizational Year and should Ms. Slippen wish to continue as a Village Trustee she will have to run for the office in the November 2014 election to fill out the remaining second year of the term.

Trustee Gallelli and Trustee Levitt stated that they are happy to consent to Maria Slippen's appointment as Village Trustee to fill the vacancy left by Casey Raskob's appointment as Village Prosecutor.

Trustee Davis stated that he understands that this is a Mayoral appointment but felt that this should have been opened up to interviews to see who would have been interested.

Mayor Wiegman stated that he did not want to leave the seat vacant because the Board has a full slate of topics coming up and while there was an interview process it was held discreetly.

Mayor Wiegman gave the Oath of Office to Maria Slippen.

### Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Wiegman advised that he is recommending Christine Wagner to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Andrew Levitt. Mayor Wiegman advised that Ms. Wagner earned a Bachelor's Degree from the College of New Jersey and a Law Degree from Georgetown University Law School; after seven years of practice in New York City specializing in Labor and Employment issues Ms. Wagner joined General Electric Capital where she works as their Legal Counsel in the Retail Finance Department. Mayor Wiegman advised that Chairman Seth Davis put forth Ms. Wagner's name as his first choice for the vacancy and we are pleased to appoint Ms. Wagner this evening.

On motion of TRUSTEE DAVIS and seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI the appointment of Christine Wagner to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term vacated by Andrew Levitt was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; with a 5-0 vote.

### Ratifying the 2014 EMS Slate of Officers

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

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2012 Mayor Wiegman appointed a Citizens Advisory Committee to explore options and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the future delivery of services by the Croton Emergency Medical Services office, and

WHEREAS, the EMS Citizens Advisory Committee presented their findings and recommendations to the Board of Trustees at a work session on October 22, 2012, and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2012, the Board of Trustees officially accepted the recommendation of the Croton EMS Citizens Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2012 the Board of Trustees at the recommendation of the Village Manager appointed the Director of Emergency Management, Richard Nagle, to the position of Acting Department Head of the Croton EMS department, and

WHEREAS, as Acting Department Head of the Croton EMS, Mr. Nagle was charged with working with the volunteer members of the Croton EMS get a slate of officers for the year 2013, and

WHEREAS, officers of the Croton EMS serve a one (1) year term that expires at the end of each calendar year, and

WHEREAS, the following individuals have been named officers of the Croton EMS to serve during the year 2014: William McCabe, Captain; Philip Dinkler, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant; Anita Dominello, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, William McCabe will remain as President and Treasurer of the Croton EMS and Anita Dominello will be Secretary of the Croton EMS.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees hereby ratifies the appointments of William McCabe, Captain, Philip Dinkler, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and Anita Dominello, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of the Croton EMS for the year 2014.

Mayor Wiegman gave the Oath of Office to William McCabe, Captain, Philip Dinkler, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and Anita Dominello, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

#### DISCUSSION:

Trustee Gallelli stated that she is very happy that they have agreed to serve our Village again; this is what makes this Village work and thanked them for their service.

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Letter from Craig Smith from C Square Limited Design Associates dated December 11, 2013 advising of the filing of a Special Permit Application on behalf of Hudson National Golf Club to expand the existing Club House building located at 40 Arrowcrest Drive.

Mayor Wiegman advised that Hudson National Golf Club continues to be very proactive in its thinking of their premises here in the Village and adding value for their members which also makes the facility a bigger and better asset for the community as a whole.

On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI and seconded by TRUSTEE DAVIS the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York hereby

refers the Special Permit Application to the Planning Board for their review and comment.; Motion approved with a 5-0 vote.

DISCUSSION:

Trustee Gallelli stated that this appears to be a very nice improvement and wished them good luck during their approval process.

Mayor Wiegman advised that the leadership of Hudson National met with member of the Board to discuss some of their long range goals. Mayor Wiegman said that this is a very positive situation between the Village and the Club.

b. Letter from the State of New York Department of Taxation & Finance Office of Real Property Tax Services dated November 22, 2013 advising of the Village's Special Franchise Assessment

c. Letter from Patrice O'Connor, State of New York Department of Public Services dated November 2013 advising of their Winter Outreach and Education Campaign to provide energy efficiency and financial assistance.

d. Letter from Carol Hirsh of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) asking the Village to support their 2014 public awareness campaign that provides support and education to those families and individuals affected by mental illness; the letter requested permission to tie ribbons on the main streets during the month of May

On motion of TRUSTEE DAVIS and seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York hereby approves the placement of ribbons during the month of May in conjunction with NAMI's Public Awareness Campaign; Motion approved with a 5-0 vote.

DISCUSSION:

Trustee Gallelli said that she would like to know where the ribbons will be placed.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that about a dozen ribbons will be placed in high foot traffic areas such as Croton Landing, Grant Street, and Riverside Avenue.

Trustee Slippen asked if there is some type of outreach campaign that goes along with the ribbon program so that the community will know what these white ribbons mean.

Village Manager Zambrano stated that Ms. Hirsh could not attend the meeting this evening but we certainly can have them do a presentation before the Village Board and the community at future Board meeting.

- e. Letters from Cablevision dated November 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and December 27 advising of channel line-up changes.

## 5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION-AGENDA ITEMS

Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor Avenue, Croton on Hudson, extended best wishes to Trustee Slippen. Mr. Wintermeier asked Ms. Slippen if she can comment on the Acquisition of the Gouveia property and the Croton Point Avenue Project. Mr. Wintermeier stated that he cannot think of anymore who is more qualified for the Village Prosecutor position than Casey Raskob and stated that this was a good decision by the Board. Mr. Wintermeier asked if the Village Prosecutor position includes benefits. Mr. Wintermeier encouraged the Board to support the NAMI organization's request in supporting their awareness campaign.

Trustee Slippen responded that she is not comfortable having just been appointed to her new position but will be happy to share all her opinions at future meetings.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that the Village Prosecutor does not receive any benefits other than Retirement Benefits if he chooses to join the Retirement System.

Kate Fabian, 18 Thompson Avenue, Croton on Hudson, stated that the Board has made a fantastic choice in appointing Maria Slippen; she has had the pleasure of knowing Maria for the last several years and has worked on many Boards with her; she is an extremely competent person and is dedicated to the community and her family; one of her strongest abilities is her ability to communicate and have open communication and engage people in dialogue.

Clay Tiffany, Ossining, New York, asked if the National Golf Club is owned by Trump.

Mayor Wiegman said that the National Golf club is not owned by Trump.

## 6. PRIOR APPROVED RESOLUTION:

a. On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI seconded by TRUSTEE LEVITT the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; with a 3-0 vote.

WHEREAS, the Village currently has one open position in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Police Chief Anthony Tramaglino has conducted an extensive background check of Eric Peterman and recommends the hiring of Mr. Peterman,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that Eric Peterman of Croton-on-Hudson, NY is hereby appointed as a Police Officer at the salary of \$56,689.31, effective Monday, January 6, 2014 in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Westchester County Department of Human Resources.

#### DISCUSSION

Trustee Davis advised that because the Police Academy Training Program began today it necessitated that this resolution be adopted at a Special Meeting in order for the candidate to be eligible to attend this program.

Mayor Wiegman advised that Mr. Peterman is a resident of the Village; a decorated Iraq Veteran and is highly qualified.

#### 7. RESOLUTIONS:

b. On motion of TRUSTEE DAVIS, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York; with a 5-0 vote.

WHEREAS, the existing wood bridge crossing at 340 Grand Street and the culvert crossing Pumphouse Road at the well fields were damaged during Tropical Storm Irene; and

WHEREAS, Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers (D&B) has submitted a proposal to provide engineering services to include the assessment and preliminary design work of the bridge and culvert structure; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the assessment report and preliminary design is \$27,000,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Village Board hereby authorizes the Village Manager to sign the proposal with Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers in the

amount of \$27,000 for the assessment and preliminary design work of the bridge and culvert structure.

#### DISCUSSION

Trustee Gallelli asked if the Village has received any money from FEMA for this work.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that after Tropical Storm Irene the Village only received reimbursement from FEMA for "in-kind" replacement. Mr. Zambrano explained that the Village was not successful in convincing FEMA that in order to replace the bridge the Village would have to spend a lot more money and we subsequently received \$5,930.86. Mr. Zambrano advised that the Village did receive \$26,776 to make repairs to the culvert.

c. 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 5-0 vote.

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2006, the Village and Nextel of New York, Inc. entered into a Communication Site Lease Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Nextel uses the site located at 1 Van Wyck Street for a communications facility; and

WHEREAS, by mutual agreement the Village and Nextel desire to terminate the lease agreement effective March 31, 2014,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Village Board hereby authorizes the Village Manager to sign the lease termination agreement with Nextel of New York, Inc. for the site at 1 Van Wyck Street, effective March 31, 2014.

d. On motion of TRUSTEE DAVIS, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton on Hudson; with a 5-0 vote

WHEREAS, in the 2013-2014 capital budget the Village Board approved funding for 2 Stryker Lift Systems in the amount of \$44,000; and

WHEREAS, the actual cost of the lift systems came to \$46,336,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Treasurer is authorized to transfer \$2,236 from the general fund account A4540.4220 EMS supplies to the capital account H4540.2000.14275.

DISCUSSION:

Dick Nagle, 88 Radnor Avenue, Croton on Hudson, explained that the Striker Lift System is a mechanical lift that helps raise stretchers onto ambulances and will reduce the chance of injury to our EMS workers. Mr. Nagle said that they work beautifully and will protect the safety of both our patients and EMS staff.

7. CITIZEN PARTICPATION-NON AGENDA ITEMS

Bob Wintermeier, 43 Radnor Avenue, Croton on Hudson, addressed an incident involving an accident with one of our DPW vehicles and asked who is going to cover the insurance claims if any.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that all claims will be forward to the Village's Insurance Company for their review.

Clay Tiffany, Ossining, New York, referred to an experience he had with Croton Police Officer Aaron Bernhardt. Mr. Tiffany praised him for being very fair, sensitive and honest during this incident and appreciates how he handled the situation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting held on November 25, 2013. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 3-0, Trustee Levitt and Trustee Slippen abstaining.

Trustee Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Annual Organizational Meeting held on December 2, 2013. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 4-0, Trustee Slippen abstaining.

Trustee Levitt made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting held on December 2, 2013. Trustee Davis seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 4-0, Trustee Slippen abstaining.

Trustee Gallelli made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 2, 2014. Trustee Levitt seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 3-0, Trustee Davis and Trustee Slippen abstaining.

#### 8. REPORTS

*Village Manager Zambrano* congratulated Trustee Slippen to the Board; he and the staff are looking forward to working with her.

*Village Manager Zambrano* congratulated the new slate of officers at the Fire Department; William Vlad Chief, Matthew Mansfield 1<sup>st</sup> Chief and Chris Colombo 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief and additionally thanked all the volunteers for the countless hours that they sacrifice away from their families throughout the year to serve our community. Mr. Zambrano advised that more than sixty volunteers did standby duty overnight at the firehouses during the recent storm.

*Village Manager Zambrano* thanked the Public Works crew for their hard work in clearing Village streets during the recent storm.

*Village Manager Zambrano* advised that effective January 6<sup>th</sup> Westchester County is offering free Flu-Shots; information will be posted on the Village's Web-Site.

Village Treasurer Bullock wished the Board and community a happy New Year and hoped that 2014 will be a good year for everyone. Ms. Bullock welcomed Trustee Slippen. Ms. Bullock said that it was a pleasure working with Casey Raskob as a Village Trustee and looks forward to working with him in his capacity as Village Prosecutor.

*Trustee Davis* welcomed Trustee Slippen to the Board.

*Trustee Davis* advised that while the Board was attending the swearing in ceremony at the Fire Department this evening the Fire Department received a fire call which then delayed ceremony and subsequently the start of this meeting. Trustee Davis said that is great to know that we have a very dedicated Fire Department that is always quick to respond.

Trustee Davis thanked Casey Raskob for all his years of service; he enjoyed sitting next to him and the many different viewpoints he would bring; he will be missed as a Trustee but at least we get to have him as Prosecutor.

*Trustee Slippen* stated that she is delighted to be appointed as Trustee and to serve Croton in this new roll.

*Trustee Slippen* advised that the Croton Harmon Education Foundation Dine-Around Fundraiser will be held on January 25th; information and tickets can be found on their Web-Site – [www.crotonfoundation.org](http://www.crotonfoundation.org)

*Trustee Slippen* advised that the Croton Caring Committee Drive continues through February; those interested in donating may do so by going onto to their web-site [www.crotoncaring.org](http://www.crotoncaring.org) or by mailing a check to 38 Penfield Avenue.

*Trustee Slippen* advised that the Arboretum is planning an “Annual Tree I.D. Walk” on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Trustee Gallelli* welcomed Trustee Slippen to the Board.

*Trustee Gallelli* said that in addition to congratulating and thanking our new Fire Chiefs for their service she would also like to thank out-going Fire Chief John Munson for his service.

Trustee Gallelli asked Village Treasurer Bullock to comment on how the on-line utility payment program is working.

Trustee Bullock advised that quite a few residents did utilize the on-line payment system; she does not have the exact count at this time but will have it available for the next meeting.

Trustee Gallelli asked when the Board will receive the mid-year Budget review.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that they will have the numbers at the second work session in January.

Trustee Gallelli reminded everyone that there is no skating at the Duck Pond until the green flag is posted; there are very strict rules and regulations by both Westchester County and New York State that Croton must follow before anyone can skate on the Pond.

Trustee Gallelli wished everyone a happy New Year and that she looks forward to a very busy and challenging year.

Trustee Levitt congratulated Trustee Slippen; she is a terrific choice and a great addition to the Board.

Trustee Levitt congratulated Casey Raskob on becoming the Village Prosecutor; he is ideally suited for the job but will be missed on the Board.

Trustee Levitt stated that the Croton Harmon Education Foundation Dine-Around is a terrific event; the money goes to a good cause and is a great opportunity to meet other people in the community.

Trustee Levitt congratulated the Fire Department Officers; we should all recognize that they are all volunteers and do a lot of work for our community.

Trustee Levitt wished everyone a happy New Year.

Mayor Wiegman stated that the Village begins 2014 with good momentum on many important projects; our fiscal house is in good order; we maintained our top Municipal Bond Rating; our expenses are at or below budget and our revenues are holding up as budgeted. Mayor Wiegman advised that major accomplishments of the past year include the adoption of the Harmon Rezoning initiatives that will assist those commercial property owners who wish to reinvest and redevelop their parcels and a work plan which will begin this year for ridding two of our long suffering neighborhoods of the persistent ground water problems they have experienced. Mayor Wiegman stated that the major theme of many of our projects that are underway is what he calls the "next generation horizon projects"; we are making improvements to the physical structure of our Village in a proactive and high quality manner so that the next generation will not have to worry about replacing water pipes, repairing bulkheads and improve road intersections; these improvements will last thirty to fifty years. Mayor Wiegman stated that many of you within an earshot of the Croton Yacht Club will have heard the pile driver that is busy replacing the steel bulk head for the Marina; that work scope came in under the anticipated budget and is on track for completion later this year and is both taller and thicker than the damaged one which is being replaced. Mayor Wiegman advised that another "next generation horizon project" will be the Croton Point Avenue Gateway Improvements that will make it safer to travel between the Harmon Business District; the Route 9 Highway; the Croton Harmon Station; the Rail Yard and Croton Point Park. Mayor Wiegman stated that this Federal co-funded work will help undue the poorly designed interchanges that the Federal and State bureaucrats left Croton when the future I-487 Interstate was only partially built in the mid 1960's. Mayor Wiegman advised that the Village reached a long-term lease agreement with the Yacht Club to ensure the future of affordable boating for Croton residents for the next generation and beyond. Mayor Wiegman advised that we have set in motion the Village's acceptance and endowment for "Gouveia Park" to preserve this open space for parks, recreation and education uses for generations to come through the generosity of Mrs. Laurel Gouveia. Mayor Wiegman advised that the Village has begun the planning work for upgrading our well field pump stations and treatment system so that the Village may continue to provide its

residents with high quality drinking water for decades to come. Mayor Wiegman advised that we continue to modernize the operation of our train station parking lot to insure that the lot continues to lower what we would have had to raise in property taxes; the net revenue from the parking lot for the current fiscal year is likely to be around two million dollars. Mayor Wiegman said that in the realm of policies and procedures the Village is looking at numerous areas for improvement; we have seen a surge in permit applications for solar electric systems by residents and businesses and we are therefore examining how to streamline the permitting process for solar electric systems to lower the costs and accelerate the process. Mayor Wiegman advised that we have also seen a spike in "home based occupation" over the past decade; our Village Code reflects what home occupation was in the 1930's and 1940's and since a lot has changed we are examining our Village Code in an attempt to meet the needs of home based workers today. Mayor Wiegman stated that Croton was the first Village in New York to become a member of the Energy Improvement Corporation; a new local Non-Profit Development Corporation set up in 2013 to help property owners implement and finance energy improvement measures in their buildings; this inter-municipal collaboration gives our property owners access to assistance that Croton would never have been able to have developed on its own. Mayor Wiegman advised that we are also looking into additional opportunities for shared services and cost savings in a number of areas. Mayor Wiegman stated that we are also trying to communicate as openly as we are able to about the activities taking place in the Village; the Village has just opened a Facebook page where we will begin to announce events and activities. Mayor Wiegman stated that the challenges that we face are numerous; many of our major buildings are in need of serious and significant repairs; all the property parcels in our Village have not been revalued for decades creating some deep inequities and fairness across parcel owners. Mayor Wiegman advised that we continue to face significant unfunded State Mandates in the Tax Levy Cap as do all other communities throughout New York State but he is sure that with all the talent and expertise and will-power that we have attracted to Croton no challenge is too great. In closing Mayor Wiegman stated that he looks forward to working with all of you in 2014.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Slippen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion; approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14pm

Respectfully submitted

Judy Weintraub, Board Secretary

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Paula DiSanto, Village Clerk