

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Monday, November 5, 2012 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Wiegman	Trustee Schmidt
Village Manager Zambrano	Trustee Murtaugh
Village Attorney Staudt	Trustee Raskob
Village Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Gallelli

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

Mayor Wiegman asked for a moment to reflect on all the hardship that has come upon us during Hurricane Sandy. Mayor Wiegman stated that we are grateful that we did not have any medical emergencies and fire instances during the storm; the Village continues to receive daily updates on road openings and closures from our Public Works Department and power restorations from Con-Edison. Mayor Wiegman stated that it has been a pleasure working with the entire staff and thanked the public for their patience as we got through this storm. Mayor Wiegman said that Croton was very fortunate to have Con-Edison Liaison Frank Tedesco assigned to Croton; Frank grew up in Croton and is very familiar with our community.

Village Manager Zambrano gave an overview of the process that Con-Edison goes through to restore power; it is a complicated process that takes time and coordination to repair damaged and down lines and to eventually restore power back to a community.

Superintendent of Public Works Marco Gennarelli gave the Board an update of what is happening around the Village. Mr. Gennarelli advised that Lexington Drive is the last road that remains closed at this time; trees have been cleared but Verizon wires are still down and are scheduled to be removed tomorrow. Mr. Gennarelli stated that Con-Edison is in the restoration mode but there are still some neighborhoods that are still without power. Mr. Gennarelli advised that the North Highland Pump Station continues to work on a generator and the Hession Hills Pump Station and Communication Building are still without power. Mr. Gennarelli advised that DPW staff is continuing to go through the Village picking up debris; normal sanitation pick-up has resumed and asked the community for their patience. Trustee Murtaugh asked Mr. Gennarelli if our efforts were stymied by Con-Edison and could we have gotten things done faster if we received more support from them. Mr. Gennarelli responded by saying that his crew did have to wait for Con-Edison to advise them when it was safe to go onto

many streets. Mr. Gennarelli explained that crews cannot remove any trees that are on power lines until they are certified by Con-Edison that the power has been shut and once the power has been shut, Con-Edison crews remove the tree limbs and then Croton DPW staff can remove them from the streets.

Trustee Schmidt commented that our entire area was overwhelmed and Con-Edison was stretched very thin; crews were called in to assist Con-Edison from many other states. Trustee Schmidt said that we are fortunate that Con-Edison did an extensive tree cutting program because this may have been even worse and they should look at continuing this program. Village Manager Zambrano advised that staff will be coming before the Board to discuss a tree trimming Program.

Trustee Gallelli stated that our entire DPW staff was on top of this storm even before it happened; they were so prepared for what was coming and the entire Department should be commended for their hard work.

Mayor Wiegman also thanked the Building Department staff for all their assistance during the storm.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Raskob made a motion to approve the following Fiscal Year 2012-2013 vouchers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gallelli and approved with a vote of 5-0.

General Fund	\$ 59,450.09
Water Fund	\$ 6,541.28
Sewer Fund	\$ 1,971.00
Capital Fund	\$ 35,995.68
Trust Fund	\$ 30.00
Total	\$103,988.05

3. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Letter from the Blood Drive Committee advising that the Community Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, December 2nd from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Croton Harmon High School.

b. Letter from Paul Elconin, Stewardship Coordinator, Open Space Conservancy advising that they have completed their annual conservation easement monitoring.

Village Manager Zambrano advised that he is requesting that the Board approve an Executive Order that would temporarily suspend the requirement for tree removal permits; Village Code Chapter 208 requires a permit to remove trees and under the Village Code the Village Manager, with Board approval, can suspend this requirement.

Trustee Schmidt said that he is concerned with tying it with the State of Emergency because it may take longer for residents to clean up. Mayor Wiegman said that we can control the length of the State of Emergency if necessary. Village Manager Zambrano said that this can remain in place until most of the things are taken care of.

Trustee Raskob said that he agrees with the concept but we should make it clear how long this order is for. Trustee Gallelli said that you really don't have to put an end date; you can use your discretion.

Trustee Schmidt asked if this applies to trees that are damaged. Village Manager Zambrano said that this is for trees that are leaning and that can cause danger or trees that were damaged and can cause a problem in the future.

Trustee Raskob asked when a State of Emergency can be removed. Mayor Wiegman stated when you feel it is a safe time to do so.

Trustee Schmidt asked if there is going to be some oversight and do homeowners still have to come in and request permission. Village Manager Zambrano said that the Building Department will oversee the process; the tree ordinance still has to be followed; this is just the waiver of the permit fee.

Trustee Raskob stated that there may be some potential for abuse but overall it is a good idea. Trustee Schmidt said that the resolution should include that homeowners still need to go through the process.

Mayor Wiegman asked Village Attorney Feldman to take a look at this and come up with some language that would satisfy what we are trying to accomplish. Village Attorney Feldman said that given the way the law is structured and what the Board is trying to do, Village Attorney Feldman said that she felt that the Board has addressed this the best way that they can. Village Attorney Feldman said that she has spoken with Village Engineer Dan O'Connor and they will be looking at ways to better address this in the future.

On motion of TRUSTEE MURTAUGH, seconded by TRUSTEE SCHMIDT, 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 October 29, 2012 a State of Emergency was declared in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson for a period of time beginning at 08:00 hours on the date of 29 October 2012 and continuing in effect until further notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Abraham Zambrano, Village Manager of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson by virtue of the authority bested in me by Section 24-a of Article 2-B of the Executive Law to temporarily suspend specific provisions of any Local Laws, ordinances or regulations, or parts thereof, if compliance with such provisions would prevent, hinder or delay action necessary to cope with the disaster, hereby temporarily suspend, for the period from the date of this Executive Order for five days, however, that upon reconsideration of all the relevant facts and circumstances, a suspension may be extended for additional periods not to exceed five days each during the pendency of the state of emergency, the following law:

Section 208-16 of the Village Tree Law to the extent those sections require a person who is removing a damaged or dangerous tree to obtain a tree removal permit from the Village Engineer.

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION-AGENDA ITEMS

Phyllis Morrow, 61 Nordica Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson, thanked the Fire Department for responding to calls during the storm. Ms. Morrow said that trees act as a buffer and the more trees that are cut down the more vulnerable other trees are.

Kevin Davis, 17 Wolf Road, asked if FEMA is going to reimburse us for lifting tree permit fees and when does the Village think they will have an estimate of damages. Mayor Wiegman responded that this is not something FEMA would reimburse; this is a self imposed policy decision that we are making. Village Manager Zambrano said that it is much too early to determine; staff is hoping to have all the numbers by the end of November.

Virginia Calcutti, 19 Hunter Street, Croton-on-Hudson, said that she is not that concerned with what we will be getting back from FEMA, she is more concerned in getting the Village back in shape. Ms. Calcutti commented that everyone did a great job and especially thanked Janine King.

Phyllis Morrow, 61 Nordica Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson, said that she heard that the waterfront was damaged and asked what is the condition of the

bulkhead. Mayor Wiegman said that there was significant water damage to the Yacht Club building but they have not been able to assess the damage of the seawall at this time. Mayor Wiegman said that there is quite a bit of debris along the waterfront but we have not made a full assessment at this time.

5. RESOLUTIONS:

a. On motion of TRUSTEE SCHMIDT seconded by TRUSTEE RASKOB, 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 Volunteer Fire Department Service Award Program was approved by referendum in 2003, and

WHEREAS, Penflex, Inc. provides actuarial and administrative services necessary to administer this program, and

WHEREAS, the Village has received the annual Service Fee Agreement from Penflex for the period November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to sign the 2012/2-13 Volunteer Fire Department Service Fee Agreement in the estimated amount of \$4,500.

b. On motion of TRUSTEE MURTAUGH, seconded by TRUSTEE GALLELLI, the following resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, New York:

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 3 of 2003 was approved at a regular Village Board Meeting held on October 7, 2003; and

WHEREAS, this Local Law called for the setting of Village Fees through Village Board Resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the fees for building permits and certificates of occupancy have been set by the Village Board; and

WHEREAS, the fee schedule does not provide for the waiver of certain fees for damage caused by hurricanes during a declared state of emergency, and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended by the Village Engineer that the Village Board consider waiving fees for building permits if the initial filing of the permit is within nine (9) months from November 5, 2012 and certificates of occupancy required for the repair of damage to buildings caused by hurricane Sandy, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board finds that the repair of damaged buildings is of great importance to the health, safety and welfare of the property owners and building occupants, and waiver of certain fees will streamline and assist with prompt repair of these damaged buildings,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Board of Trustees hereby amends the Master Fee Schedule to waive fees for building permits and certificates of occupancy for the repair of damage to buildings caused by hurricane Sandy provided that an application is submitted within 9 months from the date of this resolution and the Village Engineer certifies such damage was related to the hurricane.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Wiegman asked if this applies to structural damages only. Village Engineer Daniel O'Connor advised that building permits are required for structural damages but less invasive repairs such as shingle and gutter damages would not require a building permit to repair.

Trustee Raskob asked how much money we are talking about. Village Engineer Daniel O'Connor said that overall it is a few thousand dollars. Mayor Wiegman said that this is not money that we had budgeted for.

Trustee Gallelli suggested that we include in the resolution that permits be applied for within nine months from today's date.

CITIZEN PARTICPATION-NON AGENDA ITEMS

Phyllis Morrow, 61 Nordica Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson, asked the Board to look into Bloom Boxes, this technology exists and would not be vulnerable to power outages. Ms. Morrow also suggested that we put together a task force to document historical landmarks and sites throughout the Village.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Raskob made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2012 as amended. Trustee Gallelli seconded the motion. The Board approved with a vote of 5-0.

6. REPORTS

Village Manager Zambrano thanked the entire staff for a great job during Hurricane Sandy and for their continued dedication even after the storm. Mr.

Zambrano advised that our Con-Edison liaison will be with us until power is restored to the Village; there is quite a bit of work that needs to be done and top priority has been given to those areas that are on wells; Village Hall is open and will continue to be a warming center and a place for residents to re-charge their equipment. Mr. Zambrano advised that Westchester County was able to secure fuel from the Federal Government for municipalities that were having difficulty getting fuel for their operations. Mr. Zambrano advised that they will be working with FEMA, no meetings have been scheduled at this time but staff is very busy putting together bills. Mr. Zambrano addressed the concerns from the community regarding our elderly citizens and while Westchester County does have a "Special Needs Registry" the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, in conjunction with Westchester County, will also keep a list of those residents so that they are registered with Croton and can be contacted by our either staff and/or volunteers in the event of another emergency.

Trustee Schmidt thanked the staff for an incredible job. Trustee Schmidt said that in comparison to ten years ago the communication with Con-Edison has certainly improved; ten years ago we didn't have a Con-Ed Liaison or a Dick Nagel our Safety Officer who worked with all of our departments making sure that everything worked. Trustee Schmidt said that we will use these experiences from this storm as learning experiences that will help us tweak our system and improve it.

Trustee Schmidt said that not only should the County maintain the list of those "Special Needs Residents" but the Village should also do a better job keeping track of our seniors and is sure that the Village will have enough volunteers that would be willing to check on our seniors during situations like this. Trustee Schmidt said that when the power goes down, phone service is also cut off and we need to fix the gaps in the system so that cell service is improved throughout the community.

Trustee Schmidt advised that this Sunday the Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held at Veteran's Corner and encouraged everyone to attend and pay respect to our Veterans.

Trustee Schmidt advised that the Goblin walk and Arts Boutique was a success.

Trustee Schmidt reminded everyone that this Tuesday is Election Day. Trustee Schmidt said that it is unfortunate that the community elected to change the date of our Village Election to November; as he had predicted it would happen, our local election has been lost in the National Election and most residents do not even know that they are voting for local candidates; it has taken away the nature of our Village and there will continue to be costs to the Village.

Trustee Raskob said that he shares everyone's fatigue with the storm having just had his power restored today. Trustee Raskob thanked the Fire Department and Police for running around the Village rescuing people who were in jeopardy; Marco Gennarelli for his endless and timeless work during the storm; Dan O'Connor for his service to the Village during the storm; Janine King who stepped in while Village Manager Abe Zambrano was out of town, she did everything necessary and kept everyone informed and pulled it all together. Trustee Raskob said that Con-Edison did mobilize support teams from other states and was impressed that these trucks were here before the storm hit. Trustee Raskob said that since we are experiencing 100 year storms more frequently we should all look at ways to make our homes more self sufficient. Trustee Raskob said that a lot of good came out of this storm and thanked the staff and community for pulling together.

Trustee Gallelli said that the work that the Village team did was incredible; it started a week ago Thursday when preliminary emergency meetings were taking place with Dick Nagel our Emergency Coordinator and Janice King our Assistant Village Manager who also headed up the Village team. Trustee Gallelli stated that we had a terrific response from all of our department heads and it all came together. Trustee Gallelli said that she came to Village Hall most days to offer her help and sat in on conference calls with both the County and Con-Edison. Trustee Gallelli said it was incredible to listen to representatives from municipalities throughout Westchester updating everyone about the devastation and what was happening in communities throughout our County. Trustee Gallelli said that we were very fortunate to have a very good Con-Edison Liaison but up until the last couple of days most municipalities had only one Con-Edison crew in their community.

Trustee Gallelli advised that the Yacht Club is hosting a luncheon for our Veteran's following the Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th.

Trustee Gallelli reminded everyone that this Tuesday is Election Day; all of our Polling places are open and encouraged everyone to come out to vote.

Trustee Murtaugh thanked Village staff for a terrific job during the storm; especially thanked Janine King for stepping in and doing a superb job and spending countless hours at Village Hall. Trustee Murtaugh also thanked Superintendent Marco Gennarelli and his team; Village Engineer Dan O'Connor for all his hard work and the Police and Fire Departments.

Trustee Murtaugh addressed the fuel shortage this storm created and would like the Village to look at ways to relax our policy and put a process in place that would enable our Public Works' staff to be able to fill up their personal vehicles with gas from our Village supply. Trustee Murtaugh said that this would guarantee that our staff would be able to get to and from work in the event of another storm like this.

Mayor Wiegman stated that we had a very vigorous week and commended the community for working together providing food and homes to those who were without power. Mayor Wiegman said that our staff showed extraordinary professionalism throughout the storm and we found that Con-Edison reacted much better when the Village staff worked cohesively with them. Mayor Wiegman said that people came to Village Hall and there was a good amount of sharing that brought our community together and shows what a special place Croton is. Mayor Wiegman assured the community that anyone who called our Village and reached out to our Police Department during the storm with concerns over family members were checked on by our Police Department.

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

Respectfully submitted
Judy Weintraub, Board Secretary

Village Clerk