

Monthly Town Board Meeting
January 8, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Philipstown held their Monthly Meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York.

PRESENT:	Richard Shea	Supervisor
	Nancy Montgomery	Councilwoman
	John Van Tassel	Councilman
	David Merandy	Councilman
	Michael Leonard	Councilman

Supervisor Shea opened the meeting with a Salute to the Flag by Cub Scout Troop 1406.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of November 20, 2014 – Adopt Budget, were reviewed

Councilman Van Tassel made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of November 20, 2014 – Adopt Budget, are hereby approved as presented.

The Minutes of the Bid Opening of November 24, 2014, Sale of VFW, were reviewed.

Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilman Van Tassel, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Bid Opening of November 24, 2014, Sale of VFW, are hereby approved as presented.

The Minutes of the Monthly Town Board Meeting of December 4, 2014, were reviewed.

Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Monthly Town Board Meeting of December 4, 2014, are hereby approved as presented.

The Minutes of the Weekly Town Board Meeting of December 10, 2014, were reviewed.

Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Weekly Town Board Meeting of December 10, 2014, are hereby approved as presented.

The Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of December 17, 2014, were reviewed.

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Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of December 17, 2014, are hereby approved as presented.

The Minutes of the Year End Meeting of December 29, 2014, were reviewed.

Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Year End Meeting of December 29, 2014, are hereby approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CB – Councilman Leonard reported on the December 16, 2014 meeting. Two applications were discussed: 1) Horton Road, LLC – Conservation Subdivision - East Mountain Road North, Horton Road and Route 9, and 2) Doug Banker, a property located at 9D/Hudson River. The Board also discussed Stormwater Management and Councilman Leonard reported that discussions were held with the president of the CV Clubhouse and a meeting is being scheduled for April 2015.

RECREATION – Councilman Van Tassel reported that the Recreation Commission met on December 10, 2014, at which time financial reports were read and adopted, along with minutes. Councilman Van Tassel then introduced Recreation Director, Joel Conybear, who proceeded to give a report on the Winter Carnival, which is being held on Saturday, February 7th. Mr. Conybear then reported on activities to be held, i.e., opening of the ice skating rink, connecting with the Cold Spring Chamber of Commerce for an ice sculpture display on February 6th on Main Street in Cold Spring, and the formation of a fields committee. Mr. Conybear stated that Recreation is soliciting for volunteers. Lastly, the Spring Book will be coming out February 4th.

RECYCLING – Councilwoman Montgomery stated that she was interested in finding someone to help at the landfill when the current employee needs to have the day off. She added that there have been problems with people dumping household garbage, which is not accepted at the landfill.

PLANNING BOARD - Councilman Merandy reported that there was no meeting in December. The Planning Board will be meeting on Thursday, January 15th at 7:30 p.m. at Julia Butterfield Library.

ZONING – Councilman Van Tassel reported that there was no meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

HIGHWAY – Councilman Van Tassel reported that no report had been received. He added that he had asked the Highway Superintendent to attend Wednesday's (1/7/15) workshop and tonight's meeting to discuss plowing or not plowing at

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Recreation. Councilman Van Tassel added that the Highway Superintendent refused to attend and was planning on meeting with him tomorrow to discuss this matter further. Supervisor Shea added that he would like to get the issue worked out and that he believes that, speaking for the entire Town Board, the Town should not be going out to contract for town facilities when the Town has a fully-staffed and equipped town highway department – that it wasn't too much to ask the Town Highway Department to take care of the town facilities.

BUILDING & LAND ACQUISITION – Supervisor Shea reported that someone would be looking at a proposal for an elevator in Town Hall to see what can be done and what the cost would be. With regard to the VFW and the Dahlia House, Supervisor Shea stated that the Board members have to discuss moving things out of both facilities.

Supervisor Shea then stated that the Town Board will be meeting with the Veterans to see what their plans were.

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATOR – Legislator, Barbara Scuccimarra, informed the Town Board that the Legislator's met with the Putnam County Community that Cares Coalition to review a survey that was conducted at Haldane School. The Coalition works with communities to reduce underage drinking and substance abuse. Legislator Scuccimarra mentioned that the meeting was held at the library to review results. She added that it was upsetting to see what the local children are taking part in. Legislator Scuccimarra stated that Sheriff Smith has also added extra patrols on the western side of the county, which has already made a difference. Other items she discussed were the boiler problem at the American Legion hall, which caused the hall to close for a few days. The problem has been corrected and the hall will re-open on January 9. Next item was the truck traffic cutting through Canopus Hill Road, which she thought about discussing with the GPS people but didn't. She did, however, discuss with Highway Superintendent Chirico to advise him of the situation. Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she plans on driving through Canopus Hill Road to make sure that there are signs there and she will also speak with the Sheriff's office for patrols and ticketing of drivers. She then stated that there were 53 confirmed cases of the flu in Putnam County and recommended that people get the flu shot. Lastly, she recommended that residents go onto the county website and check out the Land Use Leadership Alliance Training Program.

Councilman Van Tassel asked Legislator Scuccimarra if she had any inside information pertaining to Adam Siebling, who was not re-appointed to the position of Director of Emergency Services. Legislator Scuccimarra responded that she had no information.

Upon completion of Legislator Scuccimarra's report, members of the Town Board raised issues regarding recent articles in the PCNR concerning a news conference that was held in December in front of the PCNR offices announcing

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that the County had secured State Economic Development Grants in the amount of \$1.8 million for Putnam, for which ½ of the amount was to go to the western agencies or projects. Councilman Merandy questioned why the news conference was held in front of the PCNR instead of the Town Hall and why Town officials were not invited? Legislator Scuccimarra responded that the conference was set up by County Economic Development Chief, Meghan Taylor, along with public relations assistance. She added that she was just an attendee. Supervisor Shea commented that he was “put off” because there was no mention of the hours he spent co-writing a grant for the Scenic Hudson Fjord Trail, nor was he invited to the conference. He added that the conference “smells of politics.” Supervisor Shea requested that Legislator Scuccimarra inform the Town Board of any future meetings.

Next, Supervisor Shea addressed a recent story in the PCNR regarding tax bills. Supervisor Shea stated that Philipstown’s budget was the lowest it could be, at which Legislator Scuccimarra disagreed. She stated that they are low but percentage wise – not as low as they should be. She added that taxes have increased and residents and seniors are having difficulty paying taxes and keeping their homes. She mentioned that school taxes were another factor.

Councilman Merandy then brought up meetings involving the Butterfield project and stated that the Town Board has not been invited to any of those meetings. He spoke of the recent senior meeting held on December 13, 2014, at Chestnut Ridge, which was scheduled by Legislator Scuccimarra. Supervisor Shea interjected that the Town of Philipstown was one of the first municipalities to get behind the project and sign on for supporting it. Councilman Merandy asked Legislator Scuccimarra if, as the Town’s representative, didn’t she feel the need to contact the Board members? Legislator Scuccimarra responded that she has been in contact before. Councilwoman Montgomery expressed her feeling about not being invited, adding that maybe the County will fund the project exclusively and that’s why the Town Board is not invited, which would be ideal. Councilman Merandy then commented on the fact that the “Paper” was not invited, but the other publication did attend. Legislator Scuccimarra informed Councilman Merandy that the development of the Butterfield project has been a long process and has gone on too long. Councilman Merandy stated that it seems that the whole future of the village could be totally changed – to put a time limit on that is concerning to him – that he thinks the future of the village, if it takes 3 years or 5 years, it’s well worth it. Councilman Merandy stated that the senior center has been used to manipulate the whole town and has been the thing that is driving this and the seniors won’t get this. He added that whatever board you’re on you’re the villain if you’re against it. If you have a question you’re an obstructionist. Councilwoman Montgomery then asked if there was any indication in any of the meetings with the seniors as to what is expected of the Town. Legislator Scuccimarra responded that nothing was discussed.

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Supervisor Shea stated that he appreciates Legislator Scuccimarra's efforts on her work with the seniors. Councilwoman Montgomery stated that she would not read the PCNR because it "vilifies" her and the rest of the Town Board members every month. Councilwoman Montgomery added that she and Supervisor Shea were depicted as not caring about the seniors and that the County cut services from the Office of the Aging to the seniors. Legislator Scuccimarra disagreed and stated strongly that no services were cut – what was cut was to make the services more efficient. Councilwoman Montgomery stated that the town added monies to the budget for the seniors.

TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
MONTHLY REPORT OF TOWN SUPERVISOR
MONIES RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 8, 2015

GENERAL & PART-TOWN FUNDS

Town Clerk Fees – 11/14	\$ 468.27
Town Clerk Fees – Dogs – 11/14	237.50
Recreation Fees – 11/14	21,252.56
P. C. Cemetery	1,933.75
Justice Fees – 1/14	5,751.00
Building Fees	12,479.00
Tax Collector – Butterfield Library – Full Pay	275,999.30
Tax Collector – General A Partial Pay	300,000.00
Bank Interest	20.76

HIGHWAY FUND

General Check – Gas	\$ 461.97
Liberty Mutual Insurance – Damage	3,165.75
NYS CHIPS – Program	85,693.97
NYS DOT Storm Relief	4,767.20
Putnam County Gas	1,443.20
General Gas	503.74
Vazquez Drain Oil	185.50
Worker's Comp	2,534.62
Putnam County Gas	599.76
Bank Interest	53.88

CONTINENTAL VILLAGE WATER DISTRICT

Bank Interest \$ 2.11

CONTINENTAL VILLAGE PARK DISTRICT

Bank Interest \$ 5.34

AGENDA

- 1. Honorary Resolution for Robert Dean, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.**

RESOLUTION #46-15

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Van Tassel, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery, and unanimously carried;

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is a vital force in the development of our youth through its many programs which encourage the ability of its members to do things for themselves and especially for others; and

WHEREAS, one of the major objectives in the Scouting program is to develop citizenship through community involvement and, in addition to working for citizenship merit badges, Scouts are encouraged to participate in community service projects; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dean is a member of Troop 437 and has not only proven himself to be an outstanding member of the Boy Scouts of America, but has attained the highest honor bestowed on a Scout – the Eagle Scout Award; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout Award is a distinction that will follow him throughout life and will be a beacon to others of the leadership quality and commitment this young man has shown; and

WHEREAS, Robert Dean constructed and installed sitting benches along the walking trail around Quarry Pond at the North Highlands Town Park. The wooden benches were set in concrete and will remain a permanent fixture at the park for all residents to enjoy;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Philipstown recognizes Robert Dean as worthy of this highest honor and encourages him to continue his commitment to excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown and Officers of the Town, do hereby inscribe upon the minutes of our official acts, congratulations to Robert for his accomplishment.

2. Honorary Resolution for Steven Casement, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout

RESOLUTION #47-15

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Leonard, seconded by Councilman Merandy, and unanimously carried

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is a vital force in the development of our youth through its many programs which encourage the ability of its members to do things for themselves and especially for others; and

WHEREAS, one of the major objectives in the Scouting program is to develop citizenship through community involvement and, in addition to working for citizenship merit badges, Scouts are encouraged to participate in community service projects; and

WHEREAS, Steven Casement is a member of Troop 437 and has not only proven himself to be an outstanding member of the Boy Scouts of America, but has attained the highest honor bestowed on a Scout – the Eagle Scout Award; and

WHEREAS, the Eagle Scout Award is a distinction that will follow him throughout life and will be a beacon to others of the leadership quality and commitment this young man has shown; and

WHEREAS, Steven Casement created a sports equipment swap room at the Claudio Marzollo Community Center where he installed commercial shelving units around the perimeter of the room, stocking the shelves with various new and used sports equipment ; and

WHEREAS, Steven organized a collection campaign throughout Philipstown to obtain new and used sporting equipment, which is now a self-sustaining operation, whereby residents can donate or acquire sporting equipment that they may have a use for;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Philipstown recognizes Steven Casement as worthy of this highest honor and encourages him to continue his commitment to excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown and Officers of the Town, do hereby inscribe upon the minutes of our official acts, congratulations to Steven for his accomplishment.

3. Code Enforcement Monthly Report.

Town Clerk Merando read the Monthly Report.

4. Resolution scheduling a Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law to amend the Town Code, Chapter 175, Section 175-10 "Allowable Uses," Section 175-30, "Supplementary Dimensional Regulations," and Section 175-60, "Purpose and Applicability," in regard to Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

Town Clerk Merando stated that she received a response from the Planning Board and the County and a public hearing needs to be scheduled and Notice of Public Hearing advertised on January 14, 2015.

RESOLUTION #48-15

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Merandy, seconded by Councilman Leonard, and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing be held on January 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. on a proposed Local Law to amend the Town Code, Chapter 175, Section 175-10 "Allowable Uses," Section 175-30, "Supplementary Dimensional Regulations," and Section 175-60, "Purpose and Applicability," in regard to Wind Energy Conversion Systems.

5. Schedule Workshops/Meetings. No workshops or meetings scheduled.

6. Any other business that may come before the Town Board.

Supervisor Shea addressed an article that recently appeared in the PCNR on taxes. He stated that on a factual basis the PCNR was painting a picture that the Town Board was "jacking" taxes up. He mentioned that a senior mentioned that their taxes went up \$200.00. Supervisor Shea added that in order for someone's tax bill to jump up \$200.00 would mean that they would have to have a home that was valued over 2 million dollars. Supervisor Shea stated that the average for the village tax bill went up between \$10.00 and \$20.00; average town went up \$30.00 and \$40.00 – overall, bottom line of the Town's budget equaled 2.74%. He stated that when people hear the tax cap being 2%, that's not entirely accurate, that the Town is given a growth factor – there are not exceptions with this. He added that the tax cap works good for the state – the state passes mandates down to the municipalities and they say "deal with it." Supervisor Shea added that the Town was dealing with things like multi-peril insurance going up 21% in 2011, and the Town cannot operate without multi-peril insurance. He stated that just looking at this year alone, a Workmen's Compensation bill was up 13%; that retirement in New York State, which is not discretionary, jumped up 9.7% this year; the Philipstown Ambulance Corp needed a new ambulance, so working within the budget, the Town was looking at all these increases. Supervisor Shea remarked that the Town Board needed to address the town hall building too. Supervisor Shea explained that the Board did stay \$40,000 under the allowable limit for the tax cap and met the New York State mandate, which meant that taxpayers will receive their New York State refunds.

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Supervisor Shea expressed his feeling about any articles being written such as this one – as a courtesy – he should be given a call as the Chief Budget Officer – and he wasn't called. Instead, the Town Clerk was called (Tina interrupted stating that she was FOIL'd). Supervisor Shea changed his comment stating that she was FOIL'd and it was not fair to call the Town Clerk. He then explained that the budget line on the overall budget was 2.74%, which is the levy, but the Town was under the 1.56% guideline in the tax cap formula. Supervisor Shea stated that it was a real job to adjust the budget and keep the numbers down. He said, "we don't spend monies we don't have to – we don't have a lot of discretionary spending – we don't spend money on things that are not absolutely necessary, and we do hold the line." Supervisor Shea then went on to discuss the carryover from 2014, which was \$97,500, which meant that the Town was under the cap and this year the Town was \$40,000 under the cap. Supervisor Shea remarked that when people are making claims that their tax bill jumped up \$200.00, he just didn't see that happening and would like to see that specific bill. Councilman Van Tassel stated that the bill wasn't from Philipstown. Councilwoman Montgomery added that she was sure that this was as a result of whatever was read in the newspaper. Supervisor Shea then stated that he would appreciate a courtesy call if any articles were going to be written.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she has received several calls from people saying their taxes have gone up – not just Philipstown alone, but the County as well. She added that she spent time with Lisa Johnson of Real Properties and announced that if anyone has any questions, just call Ms. Johnson, who will spend time with them. Legislator Scuccimarra remarked that Philipstown is the only town in the County where property values have gone up – property values in every other town have either stayed the same or gone down.

Councilwoman Montgomery reported that she and Cecily Hall of the Recreation Commission, attended the senior's monthly meeting and was working on an event. The event was called "Philipstown, I Remember 1955," and was being held to help bring seniors, young folks, and the entire community together to see what was happening in Philipstown in 1955. Councilwoman Montgomery asked that people bring in photos or any paraphernalia from that period. The event will take place on February 12, 2015 at the Julia L. Butterfield Library.

VACANCIES

CV Park District Advisory Committee (3)
CV Water District Advisory Committee (3)

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy and unanimously carried that the General Vouchers in the amount of \$672,768.19 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstracts 12A & 1.

Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilman Van Tassel and unanimously carried that the Highway Vouchers in the amount of \$130,401.15 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstracts 12A & 1.

Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried that the CVPD Vouchers in the amount of \$1,423.82 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstracts 12A & 1.

Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy and unanimously carried that the CVWD Vouchers in the amount of \$7,136.12 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstract 1.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard to close the Town Board Monthly Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joan B. Clauss
Deputy Town Clerk