

Monthly Town Board Meeting
April 3, 2014

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.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of March 6, 2014, were reviewed.

Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy and unanimously carried, that the Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of March 6, 2014, are hereby approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CB – Councilman Leonard reported that there was no meeting this month because the applicants were not ready, mostly due to the winter weather. He expects that within the next month they should be ready to go. He would like to remind everyone that the Conservation Board not only decides handling applications coming in, but also assists people that have questions. The people on this board have a wealth of knowledge with all kinds of skills and are able to answer all your questions.

RECREATION – Councilman Van Tassel reported that he and Councilwoman Montgomery attended this months meeting. The financial report and minutes were read and approved. Upcoming programs, spring and summer, were discussed as well as the conditions of the fields, which were under snow at the time. Prior to the meeting the commission interviewed a candidate for the position on the board. Director Stickle had asked him to read and accept the resignation of Stephanie Hawkins from the Recreation Commission and that the position be advertised in the paper. He said they do have two candidates currently applying for the position, but welcome more applications. The next meeting is still uncertain due to a death in the family of one of the members. As soon as it is scheduled it will be posted on the Town website and the Recreation Commission website.

RECYCLING – Councilwoman Montgomery said that there was nothing new, but she did meet with Roger Chirico to discuss what the possibilities might be to expand. Councilman Merandy and she will visit a recycling center in Kent and she will visit another one in Hudson, New York. In the future she feels a lot will come down in mandating and a time will come that we will have to do a lot more and she wants to be prepared for that.

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PLANNING BOARD - Councilman Merandy reported that the meeting was cancelled and has been rescheduled for April 10. He read what will be on the agenda: Drake Petroleum, Lanza – River Home LLC, Getz, 20 Nazareth Way, Olspan Warehouse, Manitou Properties and RDR Equities. Councilwoman Montgomery noted that the date of the meeting is a change in the regular schedule.

ZONING – Councilman Van Tassel reported that he attended the March 10 meeting at which time there was a Public Hearing for Will & Gabriel Volvo. They also discussed a letter received from Dana Raymond. The next meeting, which was scheduled for April 14, has been cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

HIGHWAY – Councilman Van Tassel read the report submitted by Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico, which is on file at the Town Clerks office.

BUILDING & LAND ACQUISITION – Supervisor Shea said that they did look at the Recycling Center and that the roof and garage doors on the building needed to be repaired. Councilman Van Tassel has gotten a price on the roof repair. They are looking forward to rehabbing that building and making better use of it.

BUTTERFIELD LIBRARY - Gillian Thorpe reported that Friends of Butterfield are conducting their annual membership appeal. Anyone interested in becoming involved should contact Jane D’Emic at the library. The library is participating in an IMPACT survey on library technology, which will help shape services in the future. The survey can be found on their website. Big Truck Day is just around the corner – June 1st from 11 – 2 pm. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Gillian Thorpe at the library. National Library Week is April 13-19th. Check out the calendar at butterfieldlibrary.org to learn more. Local artists are invited to host an opening reception and sell their works at the library – no fees. Contact Luanne Morse at 265-3040. Their annual report is now on the website. She extended an invitation to the Board to visit the library to discuss future goals (i.e. senior citizens). They do home deliveries for seniors/homebound. A recent concern is security (drugs use on the property) and she has asked the police to step up patrols.

Councilman Merandy asked her (as President of the School Board) what was happening there. She said that things are tough and they have a \$700,000 gap to make up. They are only getting about \$82,000 from the gap elimination money. The increase this year is 1.09%, which is about \$125,000. They are in really dire straights and so are looking at doing some cutting.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR REPORT - Legislator Scuccimarra thought it would be appropriate to touch on the County Executive’s State of the County Address – “Halfway to the Future Putnam Economy, Where Did Our Money Go”: 32.3 million for Social Service Programs, 31.5 million Public Safety, 11.6 million Health Services and 26 million for Debt Service. The monies came from: Sales Taxes 54.3 million, Real Property Taxes 44.1 million, Department Revenues 36 million, and State & Federal Aid 24.6 million. She noted that 70% of our budget goes to unfunded state mandates. She said that she applauds Senator Gipson who has come up with a lot of fantastic initiatives to reduce mandates and

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help with mandate relief. You can check the website to see other things the County Executive brought forward.

One thing that hits home here and is appropriate with St. Christopher's and Walter Hoving Home being here tonight is an app called www.putnamcountycare.com. This site is to get information out to the public as fast as possible with regard to getting help for suicide prevention, alcoholism, along with the regular police, fire information. This site will also provide information on where to get help and the warning signs. There were two proclamations at the last meeting; one being to declare this month "Alcohol awareness Month", the other "Peers influence Peers". The Haldane PTA is sponsoring "Drug Crisis in our Backyard" on April 23, at which time the Salomores will be presented. This couple lost their son a few years ago and they are now going around to bring awareness about the drug problem. On April 24 from 6-7pm Senator Ball will be doing a round table to be pro active on this situation at the Palladium Center in Carmel. April 26 is medication "take back" day at Putnam Hospital Center.

Legislator Scuccimarra said that she did meet with the Garrison Post Office and it was very informative. They are trying to address all the concerns of the neighbors on that road.

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**TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN
MONTHLY REPORT OF TOWN SUPERVISOR
MONIES RECEIVED AS OF APRIL 3, 2014**

GENERAL & PART-TOWN FUNDS

Rec, Community Paper Recycling	\$46.15
Building Fees 2/14	7,341.00
Argonaut Ins.-Dahlia House Damage	4,374.93
C.T.V. Fees (2013)	12,788.00
C.T.V. Fees (2013)	19,506.00
Justice Fees 2/14	4,439.00
Justice Fees 2/14	2,633.00
T.C. Fees (dogs) 2/14	375.00
T.C. Fees 2/14	263.26
Bank Interest	175.59

HIGHWAY FUND

P. C. Gas	396.44
P. C. Gas	1,519.62
Bank Int.	243.21

CONTINENTAL VILLAGE WATER DISTRICT

Bank Interest	1.95
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CONTINENTAL VILLAGE PARK DISTRICT

Bank Interest	19.05
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AGENDA

1. Presentation from Senator Terry Gipson

Town Clerk Merando introduced Senator Terry Gipson. Senator Gipson said that they are in the midst of an ongoing local governments tour and he is the ranking member of the State Senate Local Government Committee. He is trying to get around to his more than 30 local governments (towns, cities, villages) at least once a year just to update us on what they are doing in terms of dealing with local government issues. Of course you can always reach out to him at any time during the year. He read through a variety of the things they are working on that relate directly to Philipstown and then would open it up to questions. One of the biggest reasons for him being here is to engage in a discussion of things that we may need, that they may not be aware of. Brian Kelly, Director of Government Operations was also present to take notes and hopefully they will leave with some good ideas.

Senator Gipson went on to discuss this year's budget and gave an overview of a number of items that they are working on: unfunded mandates, "Good Neighbor Act" which is for property owners who do not maintain their property, a "tool" that could help senior citizens stay in their homes by reducing their property taxes, lime disease research and a big portion of a \$90 million grant for parks.

Supervisor Shea asked for guidance on state funding for historic buildings like our town hall. He thanked him for his support and was glad that he is our State Senator.

2. David Gerber, Director of Counseling and Marianne Taylor-Rhoads, Chief Operating Officer from St. Christopher's Inn to discuss the drug epidemic.

Town Clerk Merando introduced David Gerber, Director of Counseling and Marianne Taylor-Rhoads, Chief Operating Officer of St. Christopher's Inn. Councilwoman Montgomery said that Supervisor Shea and she had a conversation a couple of weeks ago regarding this crisis that our community is faced with and wanted to continue the conversation by bringing our neighbors from Garrison who have presented a model, like no other, that has a proven success rate. So they were invited here tonight to continue the conversation on this scary subject.

Mr. Gerber said that they understand the fear and frustration we are experiencing since they are experiencing it too. This is the worst he has seen in many years. He wanted people to understand how we got here. In 1996 the pharmaceutical companies claimed that less than 1% of patients would become addicted to these new drugs – Vicodin and Oxycodone. They sold this idea to major organization like the Joint Commission of Health Organization and the Psych Commission, who then cited doctors for not prescribing enough medication for pain to their patients." He went on to explain that these drugs are very expensive so addicts turn to heroin to satisfy their cravings. Heroin is widely available and inexpensive to buy. Mr. Gerber's advice to parents is to "lock up your medications".

Marianne Taylor-Rhoades, COO of St Christopher's Inn went on to reiterate what Mr. Gerber said. She said, "Heroin is no longer a street junkie drug – it is now a white middle class kid's drug. Marijuana was once the #1 illegal drug of choice for high school students; now heroin is #1." Ms. Taylor-Rhoades went on to say that St. Christopher's runs an all inclusive rehab model for adult men, which is technically a day treatment program, but they are able to offer shelter services at no cost to their clients through the generosity of the Graymoor Friars of Atonement and their benefactors. They have 170 beds and are filled to capacity with a waiting list at this time. She also lamented that there is not much help available for young people on this side of the county.

Councilman Van Tassel asked Ms. Taylor-Rhoades "as a father of an 8 and 10 year old when do I have to start this conversation about drugs"? She told him that it should start now. "You should tell them not to take any pills other than from their parents". Councilwoman Montgomery said that there are a lot of organizations, but St. Christopher's has a model that is all-inclusive. We have to wake up and realize that this is a public health issue and need to address it like tobacco and obesity. She said that Putnam County and the Federal Government are trying to get this area designated as a HIDA (high density drug area), which will get us more funding for crime prevention. The state announced that they will be allocating 7.95 million for treatment and we hope we can get some of that. Councilman Van Tassel said that he saw an advertisement about Narcan, similar to an epipen, that is being distributed which can hopefully save lives.

3. Resolution authorizing Supervisor Shea to sign the contract between Putnam County Real Property Tax Services and the Town for all required documents in connection with real property taxes.

RESOLUTION #71-2014

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Supervisor Shea to sign the contract between Putnam County Real Property Tax Services and the Town of Philipstown to prepare the necessary documents for property taxes.

4. Resolution authorizing Supervisor Shea to sign the letter of intent with regard to the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Supervisor Shea said that Councilwoman Montgomery and Code Enforcement Office Kevin Donohue have been working on this – in order to avail us of certain federal/state programs as far as grant monies and recovery funds you must have an all hazards plan for your town. The county has been given a grant and we are going to work with them, under their umbrella, to get our all hazards plan done so we can access these funds and work with the county when we have emergencies. Councilwoman Montgomery said hopefully there will be an opportunity for the County to come out and interview residents here to pinpoint hazards. Councilman Van Tassel said that after hurricane Sandy and Irene it was

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evident where our problems are. Supervisor Shea had a good meeting with the county and will be getting a status check on that and then we will avail ourselves of federal funds.

RESOLUTION #72-2014

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

WHEREAS, the County Hazard Mitigation Plan is necessary to enable the County to apply for Federal Disaster Mitigation funds and FEMA money; and

WHEREAS, the solicitation by the County of input from Towns and Villages is required, and it is in the Town of Philipstown's best interest to participate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Philipstown hereby authorizes Supervisor Shea to sign the letter of intent to participate in the Putnam County Hazard Mitigation Plan Project.

5. Resolution to re-appoint David Klotzle as Wetlands Inspector and Natural Resource Officer and authorize Supervisor Shea to sign the agreement for fiscal year 2014.

Supervisor Shea noted this was just a technical change.

RESOLUTION #73-2014

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby re-appoints David Klotzle as Wetlands Inspector and Natural Resource Officer and authorizes Supervisor Shea to sign the agreement for fiscal year 2014.

6. Resolution referring a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 175-8 to change the zoning designation from "OC" to "HC" to the Putnam County Division of Planning and the Philipstown Planning Board. (Patel's property, 3577-3585 Route 9, Cold Spring, NY)

Supervisor Shea said this change for zoning is for the Countryside Motel whose owner came to the Town to say that he could not do what he would like to do out there with the current zoning designation – so in order to help him the Board decided to make this change.

RESOLUTION #74-2014

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

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves referring a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 175-8 to change the zoning designation from "OC" to "HC" to the Putnam County Division of Planning and the Philipstown Planning Board with the only change being that we are not going to set a Public hearing date at this time.

7. Resolution authorizing Town Clerk Merando to advertise for proposals for the 2014 landscaping at the Town's Cemeteries.

Supervisor Shea said that this is one area that we will be missing Betty Budney as she really did a great job for the town in maintaining the cemeteries. For many years they had been overgrown. Betty knew where all the cemeteries were even cemeteries not on this list but on private property. There is a lot of history there and they need to be maintained. He noted that every year we also get Haldane to do a project before Memorial Day.

RESOLUTION #75-2014

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Town Clerk Merando to advertise for proposals for the landscaping at the Town's Cemeteries.

8. Supervisor Shea to appoint a board member to oversee cemetery maintenance.

Supervisor Shea asked if anyone would step up to take this position. Councilman Leonard agreed to take on the job. With that Supervisor Shea appointed Councilman Leonard as the Board member to oversee the cemetery maintenance.

9. Resolution authorizing a donation in the amount of \$300 to the Nelsonville Fish & Fur for this year "Kids Fishing Day" scheduled for May 4, 2014.

RESOLUTION #76-2014

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the donation in the amount of \$300 to the Nelsonville Fish & Fur for this years "Kids Fishing Day" scheduled for May 4, 2014.

10. Resolutions setting the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting schedule as follows:

The Zoning Board Meeting shall be held at the Philipstown Town Hall on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

Town Clerk Merando noted that she received a letter from Robert Dee, Chairman of the Zoning Board requesting that this change be made since there has been some confusion with the website and the Town Code which lists the meetings as the 2nd and 4th Mondays.

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RESOLUTION #77-2014

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board changes the meeting schedule for the Zoning Board of Appeals from the second and fourth Monday's of every month to the second Monday only, effective immediately.

The Zoning Board Meeting shall be held at the Philipstown Town Hall on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm.

11. Resolution authorizing Supervisor Shea to sign the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Cortlandt with regard to shared equipment.

Supervisor Shea said that they are making motions toward consolidations and sharing services, that we already share services with the municipalities of Fishkill, Cold Spring, Cortlandt and Putnam County. This takes the burden off the taxpayer in that everybody does not have all this equipment. It allows us to loan equipment and also receive equipment and services.

RESOLUTION #78-2014

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Supervisor Shea to sign the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Cortlandt for shared equipment, including, but not limited to, trucks, buses, and other vehicles and equipment.

12. Code Enforcement Report

Town Clerk Merando read the report submitted by the Code Enforcement Officer, Kevin Donohue, copy of which is on file in the Town Clerks Office.

13. Schedule Workshop/Meetings

April 9, 2014	@7:30pm	Workshop – discussion on Town owned buildings & infrastructure
April 23, 2014	@7:30pm	Workshop – Villages of Cold Spring & Nelsonville to continue discussions on combining building departments
April 30, 2014	@7:30pm	Pre-board

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

Supervisor Shea said that with all the work that we do we do not often get to point out the things that we succeed on; one being the work that was done on Hudson Way – where a

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resident, who had a failed subdivision, left the road in terrible condition and was not going to do the work that had been agreed to in their planning board approval. Fortunately we did have a bond on the property so we were able to go to court and quickly take that bond money. We were then able to do the work before the winter. Supervisor Shea thanked everyone who worked on that project.

Supervisor Shea said they are still working with the Village of Cold Spring and finishing up on the consolidation efforts and the fjord trail.

Supervisor Shea talked about a presentation they had last night on solar power purchase agreements and said that they are strongly considering installing a solar facility on top of the Recreation building to generate electricity. They were told last night that we could generate up to 53% of our electric use, at no cost for the installation and we would own it in 5 ½ years. The provider mentioned that we could get an energy audit so we could drop our usage. He went on to say that they are excited about this and will be following up on this. They are going to meet next Wednesday to talk about this building and other buildings in town and their disposition. Supervisor Shea said that we need to maintain them as you would with your own home. We need to make a serious effort to fix this building and make better use of the building next door. This may mean that we have to divest ourselves of some properties we own, by consolidating our services into smaller or more efficient spaces and making these buildings more energy efficient. The public needs to know that we need to maintain this building and preserve our history.

Councilman Van Tassel said that Roger Chirico contacted him about a mile marker that was knocked down at Old Albany Post Road that needed to be repaired and he has received one price and has asked two other local masons to bid. He did meet with Mrs. Duran on Indian Brook Road (the property is below Dick's Castle bridge) where water is coming off Route 9D onto her property. He contacted NYS DOT and is waiting for a call back from an engineer.

Councilwoman Montgomery thanked Stephanie Hawkins for her service on the Recreation Committee.

AUDIENCE

Catherine Garnsey asked the Board if we (the Town) had a municipal channel and whether or not we were expanding it. Supervisor Shea responded that yes we do. Councilwoman Montgomery said that we are working on the municipal channel with Cablevision. Supervisor Shea said this is a great resource that is underutilized. Councilwoman Montgomery said that this is a work in progress.

Joe Larese who lives on Oak Hill Drive off Lane Gate Road, read today in the Putnam County News & Recorder about a Town Board meeting on a possible cell tower being put on the landfill site. He is interested in getting information on the status on that. Supervisor Shea said that they had a meeting/regular workshop last Wednesday with a

tower company that came in and who is looking for coverage for the Route 9 corridor that they do not have now. The landfill is not totally utilized and this could generate some revenue for us so they are cautiously exploring this possibility. He said, "The tower cannot go on the cap of the landfill". One thing he would say is that whether or not the town does this... it could still go on private property and we would lose revenue while the cell tower still goes in. Supervisor Shea noted that the benefits would be: EMS antennas could go on the tower, highway radios and County use. The tower company has offered to put a generator at the site for emergency services when there are outages. He did meet at the site today with the tower company and their engineers. They will come in and make another presentation as to where this can go and the needs. Based on that we will proceed with a plan of what the tower will look like on the site. The last thing we are looking to do is disturb people. Mr. Larese's concern is that there are quite a few residents that it might affect and he just wishes that he had been made aware of this before having read it in the paper. He hopes that they get the same courtesy as other residents have gotten with regard to issues they have come forward with. Supervisor Shea said this is not just going to happen without the people within proximity of the site giving input. Councilman Merandy said that he understands the residents concerns.....this is at the beginning stages and they will be notified when and if this proceeds.

Mr. Steve Sterling also lives near the site and wanted to share a couple of cautionary tales because he thinks it is important. His brother in Pennsylvania took some of his property and allowed a cell tower company to build on it. What he found out was that he had no control and the tower company kept building on it and eventually he had to give up his property. The lesson we need to understand is that these companies are very aggressive. We need to make sure that we understand that this is an extremely complicated contract and an extremely sophisticated industry. At the end of the day their business is the future of that business and not this community.

Mr. Clive Bullard said that he lives right next-door and asked where the tower would actually be. Supervisor Shea said it would not be on the cap, but on the ground. He asked about where the entrance would be. Supervisor Shea said it would be on the south side off of Route 9. Councilman Merandy explained that it looks like they are looking at going south down in the valley. Mr. Bullard asked how tall the tower would be. The board said that they did not know at this time. He asked how long before they would know. Supervisor Shea said that it would be a few weeks before they would meet again and then once they met they would see what everybody thinks about it.

Bob Juby, East Mountain Road, said that last year the board was gracious enough to come up with Superintendent Chirico and the engineer to walk the road and the washed out section. The road has been done very well this year, but with the rain the other day it washed out. Something needs to be done with the area around the metal grate. Councilman Van Tassel will contact Superintendent Chirico tomorrow.

Andy Chmar announced that on Sunday, April 27, 2014 the Hudson Highland Land Trust will have a presentation focusing on energy conservation and measures that residents can undertake themselves. They will focus on three different components of energy

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conservation: community wide conservation, new home construction/renovation, and what can a homeowner do to improve their home now. There will be a break out session in the afternoon. Lunch will be served – free.

Dave Vickery said it has come to his attention that up on Route 9 where the new traffic light is that there is not adequate signage for what the County road name is.

VACANCIES

Recreation Commission (2)
Board of Assessment Review (1)
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 \$86,188.53 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstract 3A & 4.

Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard and unanimously carried that the Highway Vouchers in the amount of \$53,272.01 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstract 3A & 4.

Councilman Van Tassel made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard and unanimously carried that the CVPD Vouchers in the amount of \$966.65 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstract 4.

Councilman Merandy made a motion, seconded by Councilman Van Tassel and unanimously carried that the CVWD Vouchers in the amount of \$6,442.60 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstract 4.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Merandy made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard to close the Town Board Monthly Meeting at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Theresa Crawley
Deputy Town Clerk