

Monthly Town Board Meeting  
August 2, 2012

The Town Board of the Town of Philipstown held their Monthly Meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m., at the Continental Village Fire House, 12 Spy Pond Road, Garrison, New York.

PRESENT:	Richard Shea	Supervisor
	Betty Budney	Councilwoman
	Nancy Montgomery	Councilwoman
	John Van Tassel	Councilman
	David Merandy	Councilman
	Edward W. Doyle	Town Attorney

Supervisor Shea opened the meeting with a Salute to the Flag.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Monthly Town Board Meeting of July 12, 2012, were reviewed.

Councilman Van Tassel made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Budney and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Monthly Town Board Meeting of July 12, 2012, are hereby approved as presented.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CB** – Councilwoman Montgomery said that she had already given her report at the July meeting. She noted that there will not be a meeting in August.

**RECREATION** – Councilman Van Tassel reported that he and Councilman Merandy attended the July 31<sup>st</sup> Recreation Commission meeting. Amber Stickler presented the financial report that is available at the Town Clerks office. She reported that July was the biggest month in the history of the Recreation Dept. The fall book came out yesterday and was included in the PCNR. The Friends of Philipstown Recreation will be hosting the “Castle to River Run” on Sunday October 7, 2012. To register for the event, please go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or call the Recreation Department at (845)424-4618. There was continued discussion on several projects – the fields issue, boiler replacement and security. The next meeting will be on August 28, at the Recreation Dept.

**RECYCLING** – Councilwoman Budney had nothing to report this month. She reminded everyone that the Recycling Center is open every Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. They accept recyclables and electronics.

**PLANNING BOARD** - Councilwoman Montgomery reported that the July meeting was postponed due to the storm/power outage. It was postponed to August 16, 2012. There was one site visit to SNK Farms with the Town Engineer and Town Planner.

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**ZONING** – Councilman Van Tassel reported on the last meeting at the July Town Board Meeting. Traditionally there is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 10, 2012.

**HIGHWAY** – Councilwoman Budney read the monthly report submitted by Highway Superintendent Roger Chirico. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office for anyone wishing to review. She also wanted to say that scrap metal and white goods are accepted at the landfill. Supervisor Shea said that in the last week the Town has received over \$300,000 in FEMA Funding making the to-date amount \$450,000. He said, "We have a long way to go since we filed for \$1.9 million". Regarding Knollwood Lane he contacted the Highway Superintendent who is going to see what can be done to eliminate the runoff problem and noted that there were prior designs for a retention pond on file but had never been installed (Supervisor Shea said that was on a former plan, but not on the approved plan). The Highway Superintendent spoke with the Wetland Inspector and a retention pond can be installed, but more tests must be done. If the Town decides to go that way then he would have to come up with a cost estimate and arrange a meeting with the Wetland Inspector to go over any procedures that he may be concerned with. Supervisor Shea said that he thinks that they will go with this. Councilwoman Montgomery was wondering if the owner of the adjacent property would provide (inaudible). Supervisor Shea also would like to reach out to John Scanga to see if there is anything that could be done jointly and that would benefit both.

**BUILDING & LAND ACQUISITION** – Nothing to report.

**GVFD** – No report. Jamie Copeland was not in attendance.

**TOWN OF PHILIPSTOWN  
MONTHLY REPORT OF TOWN SUPERVISOR  
MONIES RECEIVED AS OF AUGUST 2, 2012**

**GENERAL & PART-TOWN FUNDS**

Justice Fees – 4/12  
Justice Fees – 4/12  
Recreation Fee – 4/12  
NYS Grant Shared Services Study  
T.C. Fees – 4/12  
T.C. Fees –4/12  
AW Scrap Metal  
Bldg. Fees – 4/12  
Bldg. Fees – 5/12  
Hudson Baylor  
Interest

**HIGHWAY FUND**

Gen. Fund Gas  
P. C. Gas  
P. C. Gas  
Haldane School Sand/Salt  
Bank Interest

**CONTINENTAL VILLAGE WATER DISTRICT**

Bank Interest

**CONTINENTAL VILLAGE PARK DISTRICT**

Clubhouse  
Interest

## AGENDA

### **1. Representatives from Central Hudson to discuss tree cutting in the Town of Philipstown.**

Supervisor Shea introduced Michael Gallucci of Central Hudson who was there to give a presentation on their tree cutting policy.

Mr. Gallucci, Director of Line Clearance, explained how they operate with regard to maintaining trees around lines. In order to trim, clear and remove they prioritize by substations based on reliability data (outages, frequency and duration). They use this data to develop a plan and the work is done in four (4) year cycles. This work is done for several reasons: the safety of the employees, the public, emergency responders, and for reliable service to their customers. Their main goal is to supply reliable electric service and they know that 40% of the outages are tree related. In order to improve the service they have to maintain their corridors (right of ways/easements). They have been sensitive to homeowners in this area and over time they have allowed some give and take. With the current storm frequency and the types of storms they have had more work to maintain these corridors.

Mr. John Maserjian, Director of Media Relations, talked about the investment they have made in tree trimming, and the results they have seen so far. He noted that they have actually tripled the investment made annually in tree trimming as opposed to 10 years ago. It has been a significant step up in what they are doing and the reason for that is because they have seen very positive results. The State Public Service Commission sets reliability standards, which they are required to meet, and the program they have in place will meet these standards. If they fail to meet these standards, in the frequency and duration of the outages, they are subject to some pretty hefty fines. So the State is trying to provide the incentive for the utilities to make sure that the work that they do is effective. Central Hudson is following best practices that other utilities have established. The 10-foot clearance on the side of the lines does balance reliability with esthetics.

An audience member asked what he meant by 10 feet – 10 feet on each side? Mr. Gallucci said yes 10 feet on each side. She asked about the clearing on Route 403 and Cat Rock Road. They were not sure what was being done there, but would look into it.

Barbara Scuccimarra, former Councilwoman, said that it seems like there is an extraordinary amount of trees being taken down this year – why is it different from any other year? Mr. Peter McFarland, Arborist, responded that the trees taken down were fast-growing deciduous trees like oaks, not slower growing evergreens. He said, “for the most part they work from the spec’s and they are trying very hard to be consistent”.

Joyce Blum, a resident of South Mountain Pass, said that Central Hudson has never done clearing like what was being done on South Mountain Pass in the past. Every tree in the area was literally cut down to the ground and that is why she stepped in to stop it. She wanted to

know why they were “clear-cutting” and said that the Town Supervisor was her witness as was Mr. McFarland. Mr. McFarland explained that they were cutting to the specs, which were tall growing species underneath the primary wires on the right of way. They had not “clear-cut”.

Supervisor Shea, at this point, said that this discussion was starting to go in circles. He said that what he heard from the representatives is that they are trying to establish a more natural looking corridor and stated that yes; in the beginning it will no doubt look stark.

Another resident, Betsy Calhoun, had a question on values (with regard to the manicured lawn and unimproved area) and said that everyone’s values are different. She would also strongly ask that Central Hudson consider putting the lines underground as they do future work. Mr. Gallucci responded that they do not look at it as value vs. value, but as a corridor. So if some one has a manicured lawn they try to work with the customer to directionally get the tree to grow away from the line and they will work with them to do that. In an unimproved area they do selective timber harvest. He then went on to note the enormous cost to both the utility and the customer to bury all of the cables in this area. Mr. Maserjian offered a figure of \$10,000 a year per customer and all the land would have to be cleared.

Central Hudson’s representative offered different ways the residents are notified of the tree cutting plans. Mr. McFarland said that they go door-to-door and leave notification and/or door hangers. Councilman Merandy suggested that Central Hudson should work on a better notification system.

## **2. Presentation from the American Red Cross with regard to emergency preparedness.**

Ariel Ortiz, a volunteer for the American Red Cross, offered a presentation on how to be prepared for a natural disaster or other emergency. She asked, “what disaster or other emergencies happen in this area?” - the responses where; hurricanes, flooding, snow storms, earthquakes and fires (especially during dry summers). Ms Ortiz then asked who present was ready for such emergencies. She showed her “go bag” that she keeps in her car. Each person should have their own “go bag” either in their car or near the door in the house. The “go bag” should contain:

- water (3 days worth for emergency bag – 2 weeks for sheltering at home)
- non-perishable food items (same amounts as water)
- battery-powered or crank radio
- extra batteries
- first aid kit
- medications
- multi-purpose tool
- sanitation and personal hygiene items
- copies of important documents (medication list, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- cell phone with charger
- family and emergency contact info
- extra cash
- blanket

- map of area

Ms. Ortiz explained why emergency preparation is critical, and how to go about doing it. She said that it is also important to have a plan for where the family will meet in the event of an emergency and to make sure everyone knows how to get there.

For more information you can online at "Redcross.org"

**3. Resolution re-appointing John Maasik to serve as a member of the Recreation Commission to a 7 year term which will expire September 1, 2019.**

Supervisor Shea said we are fortunate to have John Maasik as a member

**RESOLUTION #110-2012**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby re-appoints John Maasik to serve as a member of the Recreation Commission for a 7 year term which will expire September 1, 2019.

**4. Code Enforcement Monthly Report.**

Town Clerk Merando read the monthly reports for July, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office for review.

**5. Schedule Workshops/Meetings.**

- Resolution setting Budget, Accepting Completed Assessment Roll for filing with Town Clerk for Valley Lane and a portion of Brookside Drive road improvement and setting the Public Hearing pursuant to Town Law 231(2) and 202(a). Roll call Vote.

**RESOLUTION #111-2012**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby sets Budget, Accepting Completed Assessment Roll for filing with Town Clerk for Valley Lane and a portion of Brookside Drive Road Improvement and sets a Public Hearing pursuant to Town Law 231 (2) and 202(a) for August 22, 2012 at 7:30pm. Roll Call Vote.

Supervisor Richard Shea	Aye
Councilwoman Montgomery	Aye
Councilwoman Budney	Aye
Councilman Van Tassel	Aye
Councilman Merandy	Aye

**6. Resolution authorizing Town Clerk Merando to advertise for bidders for the Indian Brook Road East Bank Stabilization Project. (Nunc Pro Tunc)**

**RESOLUTION #112-2012**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Town Clerk Merando to advertise for bidders for the Indian Brook Road East Bank Stabilization Project. (Nunc Pro Tunc)

**7. Resolution authorizing Town Clerk Merando to advertise for bidders for the Frazier Road Culvert Replacement Project. (Nunc Pro Tunc)**

Supervisor Shea thanked the Highway Department for the incredible job they have done with FEMA on these projects. He pointed out how much Maureen Etta has stepped up.

**RESOLUTION #113-2012**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Town Clerk Merando to advertise for bidders for the Frazier Road Culvert Replacement Project. (Nunc Pro Tunc)

**8. Any other business that may come before the Town Board.**

Town Clerk Merando had one item to add to the agenda and that is for Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corp. LOSAP. She noted that this was due back in May, but was only received yesterday. She noted that It is important to do this and get it out. Supervisor Shea asked Councilman Van Tassel if he had a chance to review and he said that he had.

**RESOLUTION #114-2012**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby approves the 2011 Sponsor Approval Form for the Service Award Program lists of all 2011 active volunteer ambulance workers of the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance

**RESOLUTION #115-2012**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Supervisor Shea to sign the 2011 Sponsor Approval Form for the Philipstown Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Length of Service Award Program.

Supervisor Shea wanted to make sure everyone knew about the work at the Garrison Metro North Train Station and that sections of it will be closed. He suggested the Cortlandt train station be used as an alternate.

Councilwoman Montgomery forwarded some information to Attorney Doyle and Joel Russell about what other municipalities are doing with regard to zoning with regard to hydro-fracking. She feels we should protect ourselves with something in the zoning code or a law and has asked them to look at the information.

Supervisor Shea said that a resident had complained, at last months meeting, about shrubs and trees blocking signs on Route 9 and he wanted to report that the DOT has taken care of that issue.

Councilwoman Budney announced that the Bicentennial Book was finished and now on sale for \$80.00. It can be picked up at the County Office, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel. If you have any questions you can call 845-808-1158 x 49342.

Supervisor Shea said that he and Councilwoman Montgomery attended the Jr. Firefighters graduation ceremony at the Chalet. Councilwoman Montgomery said it was a great program and that they were celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **AUDIENCE**

An audience member asked what was being done about the Old Albany Post Road drainage problem. Supervisor Shea suggested that she contact Roger Chirico and also reported that paving is on schedule for the fall.

Continental Village Fire Department President Renan Lisiecki asked the Town to consider a multi-year contract - three years as opposed to the one-year contract they have now - to save time. Supervisor Shea replied that he does understand their request and the Board would definitely talk about that.

Mr. Dave Vickery had a very short presentation with regard to the Knollwood Lane drainage problem. Supervisor Shea said that this had already been discussed earlier in the meeting and that he directed the Highway Superintendent to go out to assess the site and take a look at the retention pond design to see if it is sufficient. He asked the Wetland Inspector to go out to see if there has to be a wetlands permit issued on behalf of the town for the town to do the work and for the Highway Superintendent to ascertain whether the work can be done in house or if it is something we have to contract out.



**VACANCIES**

CV Park District Advisory Committee (3)  
CV Water District Advisory Committee (2)

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

Councilman Van Tassel made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried that the General Vouchers in the amount of \$60,361.71 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstracts 7A & 8

Councilwoman Budney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried that the Highway Vouchers in the amount of \$308,719.99 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstracts 7A & 8

Councilwoman Budney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried that the CVPD Vouchers in the amount of \$617.47 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstract 7A & 8.

Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilman Merandy and unanimously carried that the CVWD Vouchers in the amount of \$11,730.55 are hereby approved as set forth in Abstracts 7A & 8

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Budney to close the Town Board Monthly Meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Theresa Crawley  
Deputy Town Clerk