

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, NY was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2016 at the Municipal Building, Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

The following officials were present:

Mayor Schmidt	Trustee Anderson
Village Manager King	Trustee Gallelli
Village Treasurer Bullock	Trustee Pugh
Village Attorney Feldman	Trustee Walsh

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:00pm; everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Trustee Walsh made a motion to approve the following Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Vouchers. The motion was seconded by Trustee Anderson and approved with a vote of 5-0 vote.

General Fund	\$105,799.66
Water Fund	\$3,781.16
Sewer Fund	\$1,090.00
Capital Fund	\$97,514.07
Trust Fund	\$2,140.00
Debt Fund	-
	\$210,324.89

3. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Letter from Priscilla Read, Secretary; "Westchester Coalition against Islamophobia" dated October 5, 2016 urging the Village of Croton to adopt a resolution affirming its commitment to protecting Muslims' civil rights and security as it defends the Constitutional rights of all Croton residents.

b. Letter from Scott Horecky dated October 12, 2016 thanking the Croton Police Department for their handling of a situation at the Croton Landing Riverwalk on October 11, 2016.

c. Letter from John Ghegan, Chairman; American Legion Fox Eklof Post 505 dated October 4, 2016 inviting the Board to the 2016 Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th at the Veteran's Monument at Veteran's Corner.

4. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY EMAIL

E-mail received from Vanessa Sednek asking why was the change implemented at the "dummy light".

Village Manager King explained that when the "dummy light" had broken and it was functioning as a blinking red light the Village found that the traffic flow was better. Village Manager King added that the Village also felt that having a three-way stop intersection would force cars to stop for pedestrians rather than being able to turn on the green at the same time a pedestrian might be crossing. Village Manager King advised that we are still in the experimental stage; the Village will be reviewing this for another couple of weeks before a permanent decision is made.

Mayor Schmidt stated that this is also part of our "Slow down Croton" initiative; when the traffic light was not working and it was operating as a flashing red light we received a lot of compliments from the community because traffic was moving slower through the "Upper Village". Mayor Schmidt stated that the Board will discuss this further with the Police Chief once he returns from his vacation. Mayor Schmidt stated that it has been a little disappointing to see how many people are poor drivers and reminded everyone that a stop sign is a stop sign; a flashing red is a flashing red light; the speed limit is thirty (30) miles per hour and vehicles must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEM

Joel Gingold, 55 Nordica Drive, Croton on Hudson, stated that he has a document entitled "Estimated Costs and Revenues for the Gouveia Park" dated January 14, 2015 and "Gouveia Operational Costs" put together on July 20, 2015 and asked Trustee Pugh why the costs are more and revenues less than what was stated in these reports. Mr. Gingold stated that in light of the actual numbers he continues to believe that accepting this property was not a good idea.

Trustee Pugh stated that he would have to review the documents before he could comment.

Priscilla Read, Secretary, Westchester Coalition against Islamophobia, 7 Saxon Wood Road, White Plains, NY; urged the Board to support the resolution against Islamophobia.

Dr. Mir Saleen stated that he has been practicing in Croton for the last forty years; he is a past president of the "Westchester Muslim Society" and past Chairman of the "Muslim Westchester Center" and stated that he has never encountered any kind of bias by the Croton community.

Marina Guvenc, 92 Maple Street, Croton on Hudson, stated that she supports the resolution against Islamophobia and hopes that the Croton community will support this.

Melissa Hinnen, Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church, Croton on Hudson, urged the Board to support the resolution against Islamophobia.

John Ghegan, 54 Young Avenue, Croton on Hudson, stated that people need to be educated, the resolution may be a good idea but feels that it is also a waste of time because it will not solve the problem.

Mayor Schmidt stated that part of what Ms. Read and the Westchester Coalition against Islamophobia is asking the Board to defend are the Constitutional Rights of all citizens. Mayor Schmidt stated that when Board members are sworn in to office they are sworn to defend the Constitution of the State of New York and the Constitution of the United States and we all take that very seriously. Mayor Schmidt stated that the Village has very strict rules in our "Employee Manual" that specifically addresses this and we are a community that rallies around people of difference and what he envisions is a resolution that reaffirms everyone's right to be protected under the Constitution of the United States.

6. RESOLUTIONS:

a. On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE WALSH, 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 Village is in the seventh year of a grant from the U.S. Department of Health Human Service and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration under the Drug Free Community Support Program; and

WHEREAS, the local grant program is known as the Croton Coalition Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse and consists of representatives from 12 sectors of the community; and

WHEREAS, Student Assistance Services Corporation has provided a contract for services in support of the Croton Coalition Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse including providing technical assistance support for the implementation of the project and evaluation support for the administration and programmatic reporting requirements of the grant project; and

WHEREAS, the contract costs will not exceed \$8,918.00 of which the entire amount will be reimbursed under the grant program,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is authorized to execute the agreement with Student Assistance Services Corporation in support of the Croton Coalition against Alcohol and Drug Abuse for an amount not to exceed \$8,918.00.

DISCUSSION:

Trustee Gallelli stated that we have been involved with "Student Assistance Services" since the program was first funded; they have done a good job in terms of assisting the "Coalition" and they have provided excellent programs.

Mayor Schmidt advised that this program is fully funded by Grant money from the Federal Government and the Village serves as a pass-through for these funds.

b. On motion of TRUSTEE WALSH, seconded by TRUSTEE ANDERSON, 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 Village Board of Trustees has received a request for a special permit modification from Skyview Rehabilitation & Healthcare to allow for an administrative office building renovation project on their property located 1280 Albany Post Road, and

WHEREAS, this special permit modification request is a Type II action which requires no further processing under SEQRA review,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Village Board hereby refers the special permit modification request from Skyview Rehabilitation & Healthcare to the Planning Board as required by law for recommendation back to the Village Board of Trustees.

DISCUSSION:

Ed Custer, Director of Environmental Services, explained that Skyview would like to relocate staff from their skilled nursing home building to a private home on the property and to convert that home for their administrative staff.

c. On motion of TRUSTEE GALLELLI, seconded by TRUSTEE WALSH, 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 Croton Volunteer Fire Department, Village Mechanic, and East West Fire Apparatus Consultants have assessed the condition of Rescue 18, a 1993 International/Cayel Craft Heavy Rescue, and recommend it be replaced due to its age and condition; and

WHEREAS, a set of plans and specifications for a replacement rescue apparatus has been developed and bid in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, a bid opening for the purchase of a replacement apparatus was advertised on October 6, 2016 and opened on October 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received from Hendrickson Fire Rescue Equipment of Islandia, New York for a demonstration heavy rescue apparatus consisting of a Spartan Chassis and Rescue 1 Body in the amount of \$506,269; and

WHEREAS, this amount includes a certain amount of necessary equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer Fire Department has reviewed the bid and supports the award of the contract to Hendrickson Fire Rescue Equipment of Islandia, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief estimates that the additional amount of work necessary to equip the truck will not exceed \$165,000, which includes the projected cost of SCBA in the 2017-18 Capital Plan; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2016 the Village Board approved the necessary bond resolution for this purchase in the amount of \$750,000,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to award the contract to Hendrickson Fire Rescue Equipment of Islandia, New York in the amount of \$506,269 for an as built fire rescue apparatus,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this amount be charged to capital account H16318.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Schmidt explained that the \$506,269 is for the cost of the truck; the additional costs of \$165,000 is for "SCBA" gear that is anticipated to be purchased in the next Capital Plan. Mayor Schmidt stated that he is happy that we were able to come to an agreement on this.

Matthew Mansfield, Chief, Croton on Hudson Fire Department, thanked the Mayor, Village Manager King and the entire Board for providing the Fire Department with equipment that will allow them to maintain the level of protection that Village residents have come to expect. Chief Mansfield also thanked all of his volunteers and the "Rig Committee" who have been working on this for the past three and half years. Chief Mansfield explained that this is an "as built" vehicle and is hoping to have it in service by Thanksgiving.

Trustee Anderson asked Chief Mansfield to explain the primary function of the rescue vehicle.

Chief Mansfield advised that a rescue vehicle does not carry water or hoses; it is a "rig" that carries the "jaws of life" as well as hydraulic pumps and air-bags that can lift heavy equipment and provide water rescue as well.

Trustee Anderson asked how large is the rescue unit and how many members are needed on a call.

Chief Mansfield advised that there are approximately twenty members and the number of crew members depends on what type of call it is.

Trustee Anderson stated that he admires everything that the Fire Department does for the community; he asks these questions because we are in a constrained financial environment and we have to be aware of the dollars we spend. Trustee

Anderson asked Chief Mansfield to explain the difference in cost by going with an “as built” as opposed to a custom apparatus.

Chief Mansfield stated that the cost for a custom apparatus would have been between \$675,000 and \$690,000 as opposed to the \$506,269 for an “as built” apparatus. Chief Mansfield stated that we are also going with a “demo” that we hope to have by Thanksgiving so that we do not have to continue to spend money on maintaining the current apparatus.

Trustee Walsh thanked the volunteers for their service to the Croton community and for working with the Board on this.

Trustee Gallelli stated that she is happy that we are finally going to get this equipment.

Mayor Schmidt thanked Village Manager King for all her hard work on this.

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

WHEREAS, improvements to the Gouveia Park property are needed in order to open it for public use, including widening the entrance, widening of the driveway and the creation of a parking area; and

WHEREAS, a bid for improvements to Gouveia Park was advertised on September 23, 2016 and opened on October 6, 2016; and

WHEREAS, eight bids were received of which Woodland Manor LLC of Patterson, New York was the low bidder in the amount of \$218,600; and

WHEREAS, Village staff reviewed the proposals and recommends awarding the contract to Woodland Manor LLC of Patterson, New York in the amount of \$218,600,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Village Manager is hereby authorized to award the contract to Woodland Manor LLC of Patterson, New York in the amount of \$218,600 for Gouveia Park improvements,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this amount be charged to the Gouveia Park Trust Account T93997.

DISCUSSION:

Trustee Gallelli stated that she is very happy that we are moving forward; we've had the Gouveia Park for approximately eighteen months and, as in most new acquisitions, we are making adjustments to the property. Trustee Gallelli stated that in this case we are making adjustments to the opening on Albany Post Road as well as providing parking. Trustee Gallelli stated that she anticipates that once this is done we should have a lot of opportunities to use the park and come to understand what a wonderful piece of property we now have.

Trustee Walsh stated that he served on the original Gouveia Park Committee; the Committee proposed widening the entranceway and putting in some parking spaces and is glad that we are moving on this and that we are taking the money from the endowment for those costs. Trustee Walsh stated that we inherited this property and now we have to do the best we can with it.

Trustee Anderson stated that he agrees that we have to do the best we can with it now but he is steadfast in his opposition with the fact that we took this property; this burden is going to fall on the shoulders of the taxpayers; he does not see half the uses that have been proposed; trees will need to come down if you want to see the river and the estimates for ADA compliance are absurd. Trustee Anderson said that he is glad that we are going to open it up and put in a couple of benches so that people can go in there and sit down and have lunch but other than that he does not see any way that we are going to make money to support this in the future. Trustee Anderson stated that this was a bad acquisition and we are now off the books with approximately \$40,000 in tax revenue.

Trustee Gallelli stated that this was going to come off the tax revenue no matter what; it was either the Village taking the property or two or three other non-profit organizations that were offered it that were tax-exempt. Trustee Gallelli stated that it is her opinion that overall it is better for the Village to be in charge of what is happening on a piece of property of this size than some other tax-exempt institution. Trustee Gallelli stated that parks and recreation are one of many services that municipalities provide to its residents and having parks and having them well maintained and useful for a variety of purposes is costly; parks do not make money but the value of parks is that they improve property values. Trustee Gallelli stated that we received a million dollars which is not something most of our

parks came with and most of our parks were purchased. Trustee Gallelli stated that we've had many of our parks for many years and over the years we have made substantial investments in those parks and in the last two years we have spent approximately a million dollars. Trustee Gallelli stated that our residents use our parks and is hopeful that the Gouveia property is going to join that group of parks.

Trustee Walsh stated that as a Committee they had discussed this point that there was no guarantee that another tax-exempt organization was going to take this property and that it may not have gone off the tax rolls.

Trustee Gallelli stated that a Church was interested as well as Westchester County but there was also a fallback in the "Will" that if none of those non-profit organizations wanted the property then it was up to the Executor and the family to find another organization.

Mayor Schmidt stated that he had contacted the "Land Trust" and the "Town of Cortlandt" and they were both not interested in the property because they felt it was a very high maintenance piece of property. Mayor Schmidt stated that people take property when it is forest and trees and you do not have to do anything with it because it can be just green space or for conservation. Mayor Schmidt stated that according to the document that was approved by the prior Board this park was going to make money.

Trustee Gallelli stated that it can't make any money until it is opened but making money does not mean it is going to be self-sustaining because no park is self-sustaining and believes that down the road we will be looking at this very differently.

Mayor Schmidt stated that the Gouveia property should have been self-sustaining; this has put a burden on our DPW staff and Recreation Department from being able to get other things done and we can barely maintain the parks that we currently own. Mayor Schmidt stated that the million dollars will not cover the costs to get the existing structure to a position where people can walk into it; it is not ADA compliant and it is a building that has not been maintained; the property needs to be cleared and well as installing fencing to make the property safe. Mayor Schmidt stated that we have already used more than \$300,000 from the endowment.

Trustee Pugh asked Village Manager King when the park would be accessible to the public.

Village Manager King stated that she believes the bids came in higher than expected because the contractor is going to have to get a New York State DOT "Entry Permit" and while it is not a big construction project she does not believe that the contractor will want to start unless they have the assurance that they will be able to get to the driveway. Village Manager King stated that once they provide the Bonds and Insurance they will get a "Notice to Proceed" from the Village and then they can apply for the permit.

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

WHEREAS, the Village Treasurer wishes to open both sides of the General Fund budget to transfer \$36,667 from the General Fund DPW Personnel Services Accounts A5110.1000 and A5010.1000 to the Water Fund Distribution Personnel Services Account F8340.1200 as follows:

GENERAL FUND

Increase

A9901.9020 Transfer to Water Fund	\$36,667
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Decrease

A5010.1000 DPW Admin. Personnel	\$10,600
A5110.1000 ST. MAINT. Personnel	\$26,067

WATER FUND

Increase

F1000.5031 Transfer from General Fund	\$ 36,667
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Increase

F8340.1200 Water Distr. Personnel	\$ 36,667
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Treasurer is authorized to amend the 2015-2016 General Fund budget to cover the personnel expenses of DPW employees who worked in the Water Department during the 2015-2016 budget year.

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

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has analyzed the 2015/16 year to date budget and recommends the following budget transfers as detailed in the attached schedules;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village Treasurer is authorized to make the following budget transfer to the 2015/16 Water Fund budgets as follows:

WATER FUND

INCREASE

Dept.	Item	Description	Amount
F8320	1200	Supply- Pers. O.T.	\$10,068

Total Increases			\$10,068
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DECREASE

F8310	1200	Water. Adm. pers. O.T.	\$10,068
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Total Decreases			\$10,068
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7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – none

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the Quasi-Judicial minutes dated October 4, 2016 was made by Trustee Walsh and seconded by Trustee Gallelli. Motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Trustee Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting held on Monday, October 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Trustee Anderson and approved with a vote of 5-0

9. REPORTS

Trustee Pugh advised that the Harry Chapin run was a very successful event.

Trustee Pugh advised that the Conservation Advisory Council will hold their first installment of the "Green Living Series" entitled "Climate Change in Your Own Backyard" on Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00pm at the Croton Library.

Trustee Pugh advised that on October 22nd the Daffodil planting will take place from 9:00am to 11:30am at Benedict Blvd.

Trustee Walsh stated that the Harry Chapin run was a great event; with the addition of the 5K run/walk participation was up over sixty percent.

Trustee Walsh stated that the annual Fire Fair was a great event for the community.

Trustee Walsh advised that he attended the Girl Scouts "Father/Daughter" Dance.

Trustee Walsh commended the Croton Police Department for their handling of the traffic flow during the "Blaze" events.

Trustee Gallelli stated that both the "Harry Chapin Run" and the "Fire Fair" are great community events and she was happy to have participated in both of them.

Trustee Gallelli stated that the "Drug Take Back Day" will be held this Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm and encouraged residents to come down with their unused prescription drugs to dispose of them safely.

Trustee Anderson said that he attended the "Fire Fair" as well and it was a great event.

Trustee Anderson stated that if you cannot come to the "Drug Take Back Day" you can always bring them to the Police Station and dispose them in the container that is provided at the Police Station.

Trustee Anderson advised that this coming Wednesday evening the "Hudson River Barge" meeting will be held here at Village Hall.

Village Manager King advised that the "Elliott Way" bids will be opened this Thursday and looks forward to seeing the results.

Village Manager King advised that we are in the middle of the "Farrington" project and we are hoping to get the road patched before the winter so that we can plow the roadway and keep it in a safe condition.

Mayor Schmidt advised that the "Goblin Walk" will be held on October 29th and asked that everyone be careful walking the streets on Halloween; our Police Officers will be in the schools giving safety tips to our students.

Mayor Schmidt advised that the "Sustainability Committee" continues to plow through their work and looks forward to a report from them within the next few weeks.

There being no further business to come before the Board; Trustee Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Pugh seconded the motion; the motion was approved with a vote of 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35pm.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Weintraub, Board Secretary

Paula DiSanto, Village Clerk