

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting February 11, 2014

The Board of Trustees for the Village of Cold Spring held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at Haldane Central School Music Room, 15 Craigsides Drive, Cold Spring, NY beginning at 7:30 pm.

Attending: Mayor J. Ralph Falloon and Trustees Campbell, Francisco, Hawkins and Hustis

Also Attending: Michael Liguori, Village Attorney; Ellen Mageean, Village Accountant; Richard Shea, Town Supervisor and Council Members Merandy, Montgomery and VanTassel, Putnam County Legislator Scucimarra, Chris Morrin from the office of Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney

Representatives of the United States Postal Service: Joseph Mulvey, Real Estate Specialist; Neal Fitzpatrick, Manager Post Office Operations

Members of the public as per **attached** sheet

Mayor Falloon opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Joseph Mulvey of the USPS described the public process and timelines involved in relocating the retail services of the Cold Spring Post Office. The postal service is seeking community input on potential retail sites with approximately 900 square feet of space located within the village.

The meeting was opened for public comment.

Several Garrison residents and members of the Town Council expressed their concerns about the relocation of the sorting and delivery operations from Cold Spring to the Garrison Post Office. Residents spoke about quality of life issues presented by the changes at the Garrison Post Office site. The **attached** letter from Diane Travis provides a summary of the problems encountered.

Tom Allen and Jackie Snyder of Nelsonville offered an alternate location for the post office at their commercial property in Nelsonville.

Michael Armstrong, chair of the Special Board, referenced Section 5.9 of the Comprehensive Plan which recommends that the post office remain in a commercial area of the village. He supports the separation of the retail and sorting services of the Cold Spring Post Office but recommends finding a more suitable location. He suggested investigation of a location for retail operations within the commercial area, perhaps at The Nest or on property south of The Nest. In his opinion, keeping the Post Office in Cold Spring is essential, as it is part of the identity of Cold Spring, particularly the post office boxes.

Shirley Norton supported location of the retail post office services near the Foodtown location because at least sixty seniors are dependent upon these services.

Joseph Patrick suggested consideration of locations at 125 Main Street (corner of Kemble Avenue), 37 Main Street (near the railroad tracks) and in the same location next to Foodtown.

Janice Hogan of the Marion Avenue Neighborhood Association spoke of the complex problems encountered by locating services in a residential area.

Anne Impellizzeri spoke about the contribution to the sense of community and connection that the post office provides.

Nancy Montgomery of the Town of Philipstown Council asked for copying the town on all correspondence on this issue.

Kathleen Foley proposed allocating an area of the expanded Foodtown grocery store for postal service retail operations which would offer a “one-stop shop”.

Frank Haggerty suggested expanding hours of operation to decrease the square footage required. He recommended relocation close to 9D & 301, such as the Powers and Haar building.

After a short break, the board focused on their monthly meeting agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Hustis moved to approve minutes of the following meetings: 1/14/2014, 1/28/2014, 1/31/2014, and 2/4/2014 and seconded by Trustee Francisco and unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- The budget requests for the 2014/2015 fiscal year have been sent out to the department heads and the boards. Budget requests should be submitted by February 21, 2014. The tentative budget will be prepared and copies of the budget will go to the Board of Trustees by March 20, 2014.
- A preliminary calculation of the property tax cap, which is based on the information included on the NYS Comptroller’s website, indicates that the allowable levy growth factor for the FYE 05/31/2015 is 1.48%. Last year, the village was below the tax cap by approximately \$15,000, which gives the Village a carryover of approximately \$11,000 for the FYE 05/31/2015. Because of this carryover, the Village is able to increase taxes by \$35,000, without this carryover taxes can be raised by \$24,000. The tax levy is the total dollar amount that can be collected from taxpayers. It includes the general fund tax as well as the Firemen’s Service Award.
- In January 2013, the NYS Comptroller implemented a statewide fiscal monitoring system to identify local governments experiencing fiscal stress. The goal of this system is to inform municipalities of budgetary challenges facing their locality so that action can be taken to avoid fiscal crisis. Each municipality was given a score ranging from 0% - 100% based on a review of their 2013 AUD (Annual Financial Update Document). The higher this score is the more fiscal stress the municipality is under. The Village scored a 12.5% which gives us a classification of “No Designation.” The Comptroller’s office looked at different indicators including but not limited to:
 - Percentage of fund balance to total expenses
 - Operating deficit
 - Cash Ratio
 - Short Term Debt Issuance

The Village only received points in the indicator of percentage of fund balance to total expenses. Our percentage was 13.9% (general fund only) which resulted in 2 points out of total for that indicator of 8. In order to receive a designation of “Susceptible to Fiscal Stress” a municipality would need a score of at least 45%.

REPORT OF WATER AND WASTEWATER

G. Phillips and Bart Clark, P.E. of Oakwood Environmental Associates reviewed the most recent inspections of the Upper and Lower Reservoir Dams. Items discussed included actions that need to be performed by contractors and activities that can be handled in house. Monitoring points will be affixed to the face of the Upper Dam to be checked over time to see if there is any movement in the rock face. Vegetation and small tree removal to prep for surface concrete repairs will take place in early spring.

It is anticipated that the final design for the aeration and electrical upgrades to the treatment facility will be ready for board consideration of funding and project timelines, at the end of March. The Market Street Pump Station should be ready for board consideration by the end of March as well.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Seven permits were issued, eighteen inspections performed, twenty-seven certificates of occupancy were issued and ten complaints were received.

POLICE AND JUSTICE COURT

Vehicles illegally parked during snowstorms continue to be a problem. Police have issued 115 parking tickets for seasonal parking violations. Further, the department has been enforcing a law which allows impounding vehicles that have delinquent tickets totaling \$200 or more.

The Justice Court collected \$12,338.00 during the month of January.

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY REPORTS

Zoning Board of Appeals- Since 1/14/2014 no new applications have been received. The ZBA closed the hearing for the Peehl Hall application on 1/17/2014 and will render a determination by 3/19. Next meeting is scheduled for 2/21/2014.

Town of Philipstown- There will be a meeting between the Village Board and the Town Council on 2/26/2014 to discuss a water district and prospective building department consolidation. Hudson Fjord meeting was announced.

Chamber of Commerce: there is excitement about new businesses anticipated on Main Street

Historic District Review Board- A CLG Grant has been submitted for updating the code and design standards. Review of the Larson-Fischer survey data is ongoing; the board is reviewing their application process to simplify and improve instructions to property owners. Vice Chair K. Foley asked for a report on the response to the RFP for The Grove.

Tree Advisory – Committee has met to organize research assignments for preparation of recommendations to the Village Board about a Tree Management Plan and Tree Ordinance for public trees.

Putnam County- Trustee Campbell attended a follow up meeting at Putnam County on sharing sales tax revenue sharing. Meghan Taylor of Putnam County Economic Development Corporation is making arrangements to attend a future board meeting.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mayor Falloon and Trustee Francisco are meeting with the Cold Spring Boat Club in an effort to develop some “common ground” and to continue to negotiate as with other leases within the village.

Trustee Campbell asked for future discussion on hiring an alternate school crossing guard for emergency situations.

Trustee Francisco spoke of the progress in working with the boat club to develop a framework which would be useful in obtaining public comment. He expressed optimism about the process.

Mayor Falloon stressed the importance of clearing snow around fire hydrants and abiding by the sidewalk ordinance which requires clearing sidewalks of snow and ice.

CORRESPONDENCE –NONE

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS- Mayor Falloon moved to appoint Jeffrey Phillips as chair of the Recreation Commission and seconded by Trustee Campbell and unanimously approved.

BILL APPROVAL- Trustee Campbell moved to approve payment of the audited bills and seconded by Trustee Hustis and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Armstrong submitted the **attached** Special Board report and spoke about a proposal to establish a Working Group consisting of seven to nine residents, to include boat club members, special board members, and other interested parties to develop concept plans for the Boat Club site in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. He called for an open process in which the village determines a concept for the entire boat club site and then to work out any legal agreement.

Michael Bowman spoke about maintaining an open, transparent process in boat club negotiations and asked if a quorum of the board members should be negotiating with the boat club.

Cathryn Fadde pointed out problems encountered by Main Street businesses with temporary no parking signs being placed on both sides of Main Street for extended periods of time to accommodate snow removal. Several residents spoke about the need for additional snow removal in various locations within the village.

With regards to the boat club site, Donald MacDonald, resident and architect, recommended developing common goals first then to unleash the designers.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Saari, Village Clerk