

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BRONXVILLE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2008 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 200 PONDFIELD ROAD, BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

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PRESENT: Mary C. Marvin Mayor  
Glenn D. Bellitto Trustees  
William H. Barton, Jr.  
Anne W. Poorman  
Robert S. Underhill

ALSO PRESENT: Harold Porr III Village Administrator

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**WORK SESSION & EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM and in attendance were Mayor Marvin, Trustee Bellitto, Trustee Barton, Trustee Poorman, Trustee Underhill, and Village Administrator, Harold Porr.

The Trustees reviewed the regular monthly meeting agenda; discussed the re-opening of Palumbo Place; and, reviewed the work of planner, Frank Fish, regarding the 2008 Community Plan update.

At 7:15PM, on motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Bellitto, the Trustees entered Executive Session to discuss labor contract negotiations and personnel matters in police, court, Village Attorney and parking offices.

On motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Barton, the Trustees re-opened the work session and entered into the public session at 8:05PM.

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Mayor Marvin called the meeting to order at 8:07PM.

**REPORT BY CHIEF OF POLICE**

Chief Satriale announced the detective assignment of Bart Sandarciero effective December 1, 2008. He stated that Officer Sandarciero has been a member of the police department's patrol division since January 2002. He is the department firearms instructor, and a bicycle patrol officer. He is well known and liked in the community as well as the department.

Officer Sandarciero thanked everyone for this assignment and introduced his family.

Chief Satriale then announced the promotion of Joseph Murray to sergeant effective December 15, 2008. Officer Murray has been a member of the police department's patrol division since October 1994 and is also a part of the bicycle patrol.

Officer Murray thanked the residents and trustees for allowing him to serve and also thanked his wife and daughter for coming.

**RESOLUTION – Appointment of Police Sergeant**

On motion of Trustee Bellitto, second by Trustee Poorman, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville appoints Joseph Murray to the position of probationary Police Sergeant, from the Westchester County Civil Service eligible list #77-650, for the Village of Bronxville Police Department, effective at 12:01AM on Monday, December 15, 2008 at an annual salary of \$97,348.00.

Before the attending officers were dismissed, Mayor Marvin thanked Officer Joseph Panzarino for a job well done in his negotiations on the PBA contract.

Chief Satriale then updated the community on events in the Village over the last few months:

1. BURGLARIES – on July 30, 2008 there was an arrest of four suspects committing a burglary; these individuals were responsible for six other burglaries in the Village since May. There has been one burglary since which occurred on October 12<sup>th</sup>. On Sturgis Road on October 15<sup>th</sup> there was an arrest of four suspects committing a burglary which was the identical method of operation as previously but no physical evidence to connect to October 12th burglary. Since then, there have been no residential burglaries unlike many communities who are struggling with burglaries.
2. STOP SIGNS - not intended to be placed on through roadways; not intended to slow down traffic, often cause accidents when placed at inappropriate locations.
3. LIBRARY LANE -crosswalk/guard was put in place during initial construction of new wing; removed when completed; not a safe location to put a crosswalk due to numerous turning conflicts and proximity of main intersection; encourage crossing at Pondfield Road/Midland Avenue with traffic signal; curb cuts will be filled in soon.
4. YOUTH - recent months has seen six juveniles ranging in age from 14-17 years old transported to Lawrence Hospital suffering from alcohol poisoning. Two of the 14 year old victims were found unconscious. Doctors have told us that if they did not receive medical assistance when they did it is likely that they would have died.  
The Village/police department and District Attorney's office have committed to increase our educational efforts. The department has trained an additional youth officer to expand their presence at the school. Chief Satriale has joined the Advisory Board of the Maxwell Institute which has committed to assisting in this effort. He urged residents to take note of the District Attorney's December 3rd column "Parents Count When Teaching Teens About Alcohol and Drugs". He will soon convene a Village Hall meeting and encourage all that are interested to join us as we combat this growing problem.
5. E-MAIL BLASTS – experimenting with an e-mail alert buddy system; worked well when activated; will expand upon system and hope to allow for sign up for new e-mail addresses; anyone interested can e-mail the Chief at [bpdcchiefcs@optonline.net](mailto:bpdcchiefcs@optonline.net).
6. Kraft Avenue/Cedar Street improvements coming soon.

Trustee Underhill asked about a drug arrest on school property.

Chief Satriale reported that the school had received information from a non-resident that a student was dealing drugs. The school did a search of the locker, which is their legal right, and found evidence of drugs and assigned assumption that the student was dealing. The student was charged with possession of a large quantity of drugs only.

Mayor Marvin thanked Chief Satriale for his report and for all of his new initiatives.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

### *Palumbo Place*

I want to address the entire Palumbo Place question in hopes of dispelling some misinformation that has reached residents.

As background, the Village government moved out of the trailers in May of 2007 and school administration has occupied them during the extensive flood mitigation and reconstruction project undertaken at the school. School staffers just recently moved back to their refurbished offices and the trailers are in the process of being dismantled and utilities and sanitary systems re-routed, etc. The Village will clean up the road and open it "one way" on a trial basis from Gramatan Avenue to Midland Avenue. The rationale for this plan has no relation to the need for, or convenience of, DPW staff parking. We have the same number of staff we had prior to the road closing and they will park in their former spaces. The one way option is an attempt at balancing two very legitimate interests – the convenience and alleviation of congestion for resident and many non-resident motorists and providing the safest possible workplace for our DPW employees.

Our DPW garage has not been updated since 1942 so the garage bays can neither house nor accommodate repairs of most of our modern equipment indoors. By necessity, we also have more vehicles and larger vehicles to house and our workers are often required to repair vehicles adjacent to two way traffic. I can think of no other community that has its public works complex in the midst of a busy two way street. We want to reduce the possibility of danger to our workers and motorists alike. We will also

vigilantly enforce near the Alden Place driveways so they are not used as a cut through and issue tickets accordingly.

In an effort to balance interests with awareness of mandated safety requirements, the Board is amenable to try the one way compromise, mindful that if it does not work, we are willing to change course. We feel a duty to provide the safest possible environment for all of our very dedicated employees and this is an attempt to upgrade their working conditions.

Unrelated but a serendipitous result of the success of the one way option would be the addition of 15 to 20 new parking spaces for use by all the schools, library and churches nearby.

#### Cable TV

There still seems to be some confusion for subscribers to both Cablevision and Verizon in accessing the Village and School public access channels.

We all only recently learned that the Verizon school channel has not been installed. Verizon activated the library connection labeling it “educational” since most school meetings are broadcast from there. The Village has since clarified the arrangement and Verizon promises to move quickly to schedule the necessary installation in the school building. Village meetings are broadcast on Verizon Cable Channel 47.

As for Cablevision, they are currently going through a “digitalization” program, resulting in variations in programming. All customers with a cable box should be able to receive local programming without a problem on the same channels we have had for years. Those few without a box should get one (for free) from Cablevision before the end of 2008 or else they will experience static where they once had programs. Those customers who have a “QAM Tuner” in their TV set will find the public access channels in the Channel 99 range. I am told 90% or more of Bronxville customers have boxes and will not have a problem with local service. If you have problems with local programming call Cablevision at 1-800-353-9821 for a direct answer to individual questions.

#### Police Department

A great deal of positive activity has occurred in our police department in recent weeks. Most importantly, I want to congratulate our officers on the arrests in the burglary incidents in the Village as well as the recovery of the car and apprehension of a suspect in a recent car theft. The car theft was an opportunistic crime. A resident was warming a car in the driveway with the keys in the ignition. Remember to be very vigilant and do not leave a running car unattended at this time of year.

This past week, Officer Joseph Murray was promoted to a vacant sergeant's position and Officer Bart Sandarciero as a new detective.

We also came to agreement with our PBA on a contract offering a modest pay raise, increase in educational incentives and a contributory health insurance plan. Given these difficult economic times, both parties believe this to be a fair and beneficial compromise.

#### Property Tax Information

As an important reminder, all residents who are eligible for any type of tax exemptions – Veteran, Senior or STAR – must file their applications by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our tax assessing department is in the final phase of completing inspections on capital improvements made in 2008 in time for the official New York State property valuation date of January 1, 2009. The tentative tax roll will be published February 1<sup>st</sup> and residents receiving any kind of change will be notified the first week in February. Grievance night will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup> so as not to conflict with the Bronxville School winter vacation.

#### Public Works

The Trustees and our Department of Public Works have become increasingly frustrated with the speed and quality of repairs done on our streets by United Water and Con Edison. Too many metal plates and poor paving repairs are appearing throughout the Village so in the coming months we will be bringing forward legislation and fines to address the problem. The Village spends too much money caring for our roads to accept shoddy and delayed repairs by our utilities.

#### Metro North Update

Metro North has also recently sent out an inspection team looking for track anomalies that could be adding to the noise and vibration levels, including a thorough review of the ballast mat installation.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Bronxville High School girls' cross country team and the Bronxville High School varsity boys' soccer team on winning State championships. This is no small feat for a school district of our size and I am particularly proud that they are also truly scholar athletes.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Bellitto** reported on green initiatives. He met with Joanna Atkinson and Robin Thompson of the RSA this past weekend. The RSA fosters environmental changes on local levels. They gave a lot to think about and spoke about teaming up with neighboring communities. The RSA mantra is "think big, start small, take action".

Police – Trustee Bellitto thanked the officers for their hard work. There has been a lot of upward movement in the department. The PBA agreement was settled without mediation or arbitration and includes raises for the next three years; healthcare premium payment percentages for officers, eligibility for compensatory time, increase in annual educational allowance. The goal of the Trustees is to protect the taxpayers.

Parking – reported on the revenues for the month.

Trustee Bellitto said that the Village government is keeping in mind the difficult times for residents.

**Trustee Underhill** gave no report this month.

**Trustee Poorman** reported on the library. The mold was checked out and it was determined that it was inactive and not harmful. It will be scrubbed off and no further action is required.

Chamber of Commerce – the Chamber held a successful "Light up the Town" event last weekend. The new location gave a more festive feeling and drew more of a crowd. They hope to continue this format.

**Trustee Barton** stated that the Palumbo Place decision was made knowing that everyone would not be happy. It will be monitored and Trustees are willing to listen to comments/feedback.

Public Works – the new garbage schedule will go into effect as of January 1, 2009.

Finance – the Village is in terrific financial shape.

Mayor Marvin said that the Village will be vigilant about maintaining Palumbo Place.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Underhill, second by Trustee Barton, the Board approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 17, 2008, as drafted.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – 2008 Bronxville Community Plan Update**

On motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Underhill, the Board opened the public hearing at 8:54PM.

Mayor Marvin reported that tonight the public hearing was on the draft of the Bronxville Community Plan as prepared by our Planning Board and Design Review Committee.

In essence, the Community Plan recommended to be done every 5 years provides:

- historical and current data on the physical, economic and social conditions in the Village
- discusses goals and objectives

- identifies planning issues
- makes recommendations intended to guide future development.

Mayor Marvin reported that the public will be heard from tonight. The Trustees have the document and are in the process of reviewing it in anticipation of a joint sub-committee meeting of Trustees and members of the Planning Board to produce a final plan.

It is a voluminous document. The result of hours of work and she thanked all the members of the Planning Board, Chairman Donald Henderson; Sub-committee Chair, Eric Blessing; Vice Chair, Anna Longobardo and members Adrienne Smith, Maryann Palermo and Jim Murray and Design Review Committee members, Chair, Anna Longobardo,; Jeff Faville and John Colquehoun for an extraordinary volunteer effort.

Mayor Marvin asked for substantive comments and said they will duly record them. She asked that the public not note punctuation or grammatical errors since the Village has a consultant and proofreader who is noting them.

Mayor Marvin noted Chairman Henderson of the Planning Board was in attendance. She asked him to offer anything he would like and thanked him for all his efforts.

Chairman Henderson gave a brief overview of the Plan. He commented that it is to be used as a guide for the Planning Board for the future. It forces us to think about where we are and where we are going. He asked that it receive wide distribution and visibility.

Mr. Thomas Wolff, 230 Pondfield Road, inquired about the maps and if they were reviewed prior to being put in the Plan. He had some difficulty with some of the descriptions on the maps.

Chairman Henderson replied that they had not been reviewed for this version of the Plan. He would be happy to meet with Mr. Wolff to review his concerns.

Mayor Marvin said the Plan is an important document to review and promised that the Village would do a better job of getting it out to the residents.

On motion of Trustee Poorman, second by Trustee Bellitto, the Board closed the public hearing at 9:06PM.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION – PBA Contract**

On motion of Trustee Poorman, seconded by Trustee Barton, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bronxville hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into a collective bargaining agreement covering the period June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2011 pursuant to the terms of the November 21, 2008 stipulation of agreement entered into between the negotiating committees for the Village of Bronxville and the Bronxville Police Taylor Act Committee, and authorizing the appropriation of the funds therefore.

Village Administrator, Harold Porr, announced the resignation of Village Attorney, Lino Sciarretta. Due to a change in work status, Mr. Sciarretta is not able to remain on as Village Attorney. The Trustees are looking for a new attorney and will announce a replacement at the January 12, 2009 meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Mr. Thomas Wolff, 230 Pondfield Road, announced that the semi-annual tax payments are due at the end of the month and that the special exemptions (Senior and Veterans) need to be renewed annually.

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There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM by motion of Trustee Bellitto, second by Trustee Underhill.

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Harold Porr III

Village Administrator/Village  
Clerk