

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustee Suzanne LeBlanc, William Murphy, Kelly Myers, Jeannine Dirie, and Richard Moore

Absent: Trustee Mike Campbell

Others: David Radavanovic, Brian Martin, Alex Wade, Eyal Saad, George Terpening, Susan Bolitzer, Rosemary Brackett, Ed Quirk, Penelope Milford, Maggie Green, Bart Friedman, Joe Bisignano, Bob Ciarlante, Michelle Aizenstat and others

Mayor Robert Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:00pm. Trustee Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor

Rosemary Brackett spoke regarding the Partition Street Project. She quoted the Town/Village Comprehensive Plan saying land use should be compatible with the area. She feels that the Planning Board is ignoring community input and wants the Planning Board to issue a Positive Declaration concerning the project.

Maggie Green addressed the Board regarding the Partition Street Project. She also feels the project is moving along without community input. There are other possibilities for the site. She is very concerned about the blasting proposed by the developer – she asked who is responsible for any damage? Mayor Yerick replied that the contractor is required to carry insurance and Alex Wade added that a pre-blast survey would be done. Trustee LeBlanc encouraged Ms. Green to address her concerns to the Planning Board. Mrs. LeBlanc went on to say that the Village engineers are reviewing all the plans and communicating all concerns to the developers engineers. Ms. Green said her home developed cracks during the drilling at the library site.

Penelope Milford spoke saying she understands Ms. Greens concerns. Zoning laws should protect any misuse. Once a house is damaged, they're damaged. The Village is not used to big hotel complexes. It's difficult to see that area become developed. Trustee LeBlanc responded saying that the area has been vacant for 32 years. The Village needs developed properties to pay taxes.

Mayor Yerick added that change is inevitable – no one could afford to live here without change.

Michele Aizenstat spoke saying the Village has changed over the last 10 years that she has lived here. The Partition Street Project plan is not the only plan that should be considered – the project is too big and should be reigned in. There should be public access and the Village should negotiate with the developer. She does not want the Village to bend to the developer.

Mayor Yerick suggested that that all these comments should be directed to the Planning Board.

Rosemary Brackett asked if the Partition Street Project would be receiving tax abatements. The answer is no.

David Radavanovic remarked that the revenue generated to the Village by the project should not justify the project.

Susan Bolitzer spoke reading a letter (copy attached) with her concerns of the process followed by the ZBA regarding her appeal of the issuance of a Building Permit for a building on Oakledge Park. She felt that the ZBA did not discuss the appeal. She asked what is Alex Betke's role is – is there a conflict of interest? There was some discussion between Mrs. Bolitzer and Mayor Yerick.

Bart Friedman spoke saying a view of the waterfalls is synonymous with Saugerties – there should be public access.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the December 7, 2009 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstract for December 21, 2009: Water - \$8,222.77; Wastewater - \$11,119.59; General - \$30,060.48; Partition Street Project - \$470.00; Stormwater Separation Project - \$8882.65; Wastewater Upgrade Project - \$24,000.00. Motion was made by Trustee Dirie, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc presented Local Law #1/2010 to the Board. This law was originally presented on November 16, 2009, but was incorrectly numbered. This law sets to abolish the Village of Saugerties Police Department subject to a Permissive Referendum. Trustee Myers spoke saying she thought the Board had decided on a Mandatory Referendum. Clerk Mary Frank explained that the Board had hoped to hold a Mandatory Referendum however it was determined illegal. Trustee Myers said she was disappointed because she felt the Permissive Referendum puts an unfair burden on the public to circulate a petition to put the abolishment to a public vote. Trustee LeBlanc asked the Board to approve two Public Hearings on the Local Law – January 4, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Village Hall and January 14, 2010 at 7:00pm at the Senior Center on Market Street. The first public hearing will be to receive comments on the law itself and the second will be to receive comment on the law as part of the SEQRA process. Trustee LeBlanc then presented Resolution #12/2009 – this resolution names the Village Board as Lead Agency in the SEQRA process and sets the Public Hearing dates. The resolution was seconded by Trustee Moore and carried unanimously.

Eyal Saad presented the Board with a yearlong report (copy attached) documenting the building permits and certificates of occupancy issued for 2009. He advised the Board that 77 building permits were issued in 2008 and so far 77 permits were issued in 2009. He reminded residents to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowstorm.

Trustee LeBlanc had no economic development news. TV23 will have a new show featuring Greg Helmsmoortel and Nancy Campbell.

Trustee LeBlanc reminded the Board of the request from Livingston Street resident Paul Korczak. The ZBA denied his use variance appeal and he asked the Village Board for a remedy. Trustee LeBlanc, Alex Betke, Alex Wade and Eyal Saad have all discussed this issue. There are two options for the Village board to consider. The ZBA has requested that the Village Board take a hard look at the zoning map and zoning laws currently in place. Trustee LeBlanc has spoken with a planner who gave an estimated cost of \$50,000.00 to review the zoning. Grant writer Victor Cornelius will try to secure a grant for this project, however there are no guarantees a grant will be received. The Village Board could advise Mr. Korczak that he would have to wait for the Village to rezone the map. The second option would take 10 properties from the B1 zone and move them into the R2 zone. The second option comes with problems including the already illegal apartment on the first floor of Mr. Korczak's building. Much discussion followed with the Board deciding to speak to Alex Betke who will be present at the January 4th meeting.

Trustee LeBlanc also reported that the Planning Board gave its approval to the McGregor sub-division. The Partition Street Project presented the Planning Board with visual renderings of the north and south views of the proposed project, an updated landscaping plan, and a 2nd public access point. The project will be referred to the Ulster County Planning Board this week. The Country Meadows Senior Housing Project was also on the agenda. Trustee LeBlanc advised the Village Board that the proposal is for a 62 unit senior (55 and up) housing. There will be an income cap for residents. The site plan calls for attractive townhouses. The developer is applying with NYS for a pilot program that will give the developer tax breaks – the Town Assessor will work with the developer on the pilot program. Trustee LeBlanc mentioned that the Village already has two senior residences – Better Community Housing on Main Street who pay no taxes and the Mill Apartments on East Bridge Street who pay reduced taxes as a pilot program. She wonders how many senior housing projects that Village can support. Trustee Murphy said he does not see a downside to this project. Alex Wade spoke saying the zoning was changed years ago to permit housing in the industrial area.

Joe Bisignano presented the Water Department report. The plant recently experienced 4" of rain in a 3 hour time period – the newly installed valve worked well and the residents were served by the 3 million gallon water tank while the plant was shut down. There was another water main break on Post Street. Bids are expected to go out in January for Phase 3 of the water line replacement project – Post Street is included in this Phase.

Trustee Murphy reported that the Village is moving forward with the Police Department abolishment.

Brian Martin presented the SFD report (copy attached). The SFD thanked ADMAR for their lift and Expert Tree Service for their bucket truck to help the firemen with the lights on the buildings in the business district for the holiday season. Motion was made by

Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Murphy, for the CA Lynch Fire Company to use the truck for the annual Christmas Candy Run on Christmas Day. Carried. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to admit Kyle DeGroat as a member of the CA Lynch Fire Company. Carried.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Mr. Ciarlante reminded residents not to throw snow into Village streets when plowing driveways or shoveling sidewalks. He asked the Village Police to ticket offenders. Trustee Myers advised the Board that last year the Board changed the overnight parking ban to December 15 – March 15. This year we have had two snowstorms prior to December 15th and residents did not cooperate by keeping cars off the streets and snow removal was hampered. Trustee Myers would like to revisit the overnight parking ban dates – perhaps change them to December 1 – March 31. She will bring this up at another time. Trustee Myers also asked that residents not put snow into the streets – she has spoken with the Police Chief and tickets will be issued. Trustee LeBlanc mentioned that the NYS DOT salted the state roads prior to a predicted snowfall that never materialized – salt was all over.

George Terpening presented the Buildings and Grounds report (copy attached). Many people are stopping by enjoying the display at Seamon Park.

Trustee Dirie reported that the Historic Review Board cancelled its December meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk