

Village Board

February 4, 2008

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Suzanne LeBlanc, Kelly Myers, William Murphy, Michael Karashay and Mary Leahy

Absent: Trustee Michael Campbell

Others: Alex Wade, Will Dendis – New Saugerties Times, Karin Yerry-Post Star, David Radavanovic, students from the SHS Government Class, and others

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

There was no one present who wished to address the Board.

Mayor Yerick announced that the recent Grand Opening of TV23 was a great success. The Town and Village have a state of the art public access TV station.

Mayor Yerick announced the appointment of Myles Putman to replace Michael Campbell on the UCTC. Mr. Putman is a planner with an impressive resume. He will also represent the Village on the SAMA Committee.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the January 22, 2008 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes as written. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc presented the Abstract for 2/4/08: General - \$158,566.13; Water - \$47,609.33; Wastewater - \$16,632.51. Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc invited the Board and TV23 to visit the Town Hall to see an exhibit by the Monday Club of Saugerties showcasing the history of the Club.

Alex Wade presented his special assignment report (copy attached). He will be meeting with the DOT next week to discuss the implementation of the crosswalk program. He is looking into a complaint about parking on Barclay Street by patrons of the Knights of Columbus. He has revised the Abandoned Vehicle and the Ethics Law.

Trustee Myers reported that the DPW is taking advantage of snowless days by working on equipment and stockpiling sand. She also advised the Board that the CWA negotiations are almost complete and the PBA negotiations have just gotten underway.

Trustee Murphy advised the Board that the Wastewater Treatment Plant experienced another power outage. He and Mike Marino will be meeting with the Finance Committee regarding purchasing equipment that notifies personnel when an outage occurs when the plant is not staffed. Employees Steve Whitaker and Lynn Vrooman have completed their training for Water Plant Operator Certification.

Mayor Yerick reported that the Police Department has solved an armed robbery and a bad check scheme. He will be meeting with the Town Supervisor and consultant Peter Fairweather to begin the feasibility study on the merger of the Police Departments. Trustee LeBlanc asked how long the study would take. Mayor Yerick said he would ask the consultant. Trustee Leahy reported the vandalism of some trees on Partition Street.

Trustee Karashay reported that letters have been sent out to drum up interest in reviving the SFD Auxiliary. The SFD is also working hard on its youth program. Thankfully, it was a quiet month for fires.

Trustee Leahy reported that the Building Department budget has been submitted. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for March 13th. She reminded the public that political signs are only permitted to be displayed 30 days prior to an election.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Carried. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:31pm and returned at 7:34pm.

Mayor Yerick introduced Local Laws #1 and #2. These laws provide property tax exemptions to seniors, persons with disabilities and Gold Star Parents based on age and income. Mayor Yerick explained that a Public Hearing was held on March 19, 2007 on these laws. They were never presented for passage due to a \$5 million discrepancy in assessed value received from Ulster County. The discrepancy was answered – a \$2.8 million computer error at the County level; a \$.7 million loss because NYS lowered the value of franchise property in the Village; \$1.2 million contract agreement with the Mill property; and \$.3 million of property values lowered by the Assessor by grievance. The laws were never brought back to the Board for passage. After more discussion Mayor Yerick presented Local Law #1/2008 for passage. The law was seconded by Trustee Leahy and carried unanimously by those present. Mayor Yerick presented Local Law #2/2008 for passage. The law was seconded by Trustee Karashay and carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Yerick presented Resolution #5/2008. This resolution appoints election inspectors and custodians for the March 18, 2008 Village election. The resolution was seconded by Trustee LeBlanc and carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Yerick presented Resolution # 4/2008. This resolution allows the Village to take title to 2.281 acres of property located at 169 Ulster Avenue to buffer the former Village Dump site and for consideration of taking title to the property, the Village forgives \$17,731.54 in back taxes. The resolution was seconded by Trustee Karashay and after discussion, carried with Trustee Myers abstaining.

Mayor Yerick announced that Senator Bonacic has invited the Board to attend his Local Officials Day in Albany on March 5th. All those interested in attending should advise the Clerk.

Mayor Yerick reminded the Board that a Public Hearing on the revised Abandoned Vehicle Law is scheduled for February 19 at 6:30pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Leahy, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk