

Village Board

November 5, 2007

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

Absent: Trustee Mike Campbell

Others: Alex Wade, Kandy Harris – New Saugerties Times, Joe Bisignano, David Radovanovic, students from the SHS Government Class and others

Mayor Robert Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:00pm.

Trustee Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Yerick thanked the SFD for the great job done with the Halloween Parade. The signage on new fire chief's car has been completed and it is in service.

Privilege of the Floor

David Radovanovic spoke. He is concerns center on the Police Department. He feels there is a problem in the Police Department due to lack of supervision and lack of citizen confidence in the Department. He asked if there is a procedure in place for citizens to make complaints against the Department. The Mayor explained the complaint process (file a written complaint with the Village Clerk to be investigated by the Mayor and supervisory staff). Mr. Radovanovic would like a citizens commission put in place to investigate complaints. He went on to cite the recent trial involving Tyrone Chrisjohn and the alleged actions of Syd Mills as an embarrassment to the Village; bad for tourism and bad for residents. Mayor Yerick responded by says that Mr. Chrisjohn has been found not guilty by jury trial. If Mr. Chrisjohn requests return to Village employment, the Village will conduct an administrative hearing and abide by the law that governs the process. Mayor Yerick admitted he was very disappointed with the conduct of the UC District Attorney's Office in the handling of the case and is astonished that the DA wrote a letter telling the Mayor he should dismiss Chrisjohn from the Police Department. The Mayor invited Mr. Radovanovic to visit his office any time to discuss the complaint procedure.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the October 15, 2007 Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Leahy, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the minutes. Carried. Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the October 19, 2007 Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc presented the Abstracts: General - \$65,492.89; Water - \$21,262.84; Wastewater - \$20,273.17; Water Capital - \$47,172.50; Seamon Park Fund - \$3,514.80. Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Leahy, to approve the Abstracts. Carried.

Trustee Myers advised the Board that the paving on Lighthouse Drive is almost complete. The DPW has obtained free fill for the erosion problem on Post Street. The DPW is getting the equipment ready for snow. She talked about the large yard waste pile at North Street. The cost to rent a grinder to dispose of the pile would be around \$8000.00. An alternate suggestion is to separate the huge pile into several smaller piles for more efficient burning. The smaller piles would burn hot, causing less smoke and would be carried out in late November or early December. Trustee Myers asked for Board opinion. Trustee Karashay spoke about composting the pile but does support a burn. All of the other Trustees present support the burn. Trustee Myers spoke about the Lower Esopus Watershed Commission – a group of Towns collaborating to study the problems of the Lower Esopus. She also advised the Board that the CWA negotiations are going well and the PBA negotiations should begin soon.

Trustee Murphy asked Joe Bisignano to report. He advised the Board that the water treatment plant was shut down again due to heavy rains – 3 inches in 24 hours. The tank was used and no water service was disrupted. The plant has had to adjust its chemical ratio due to the falling leaves causing a higher acidity level.

Mr. Bisignano spoke on a personal note. He said he has worked for the Village for 29 years in the Water Department; he had also served as a part time Police Officer for 15 years. He said he is proud of the Police Department and its members.

Trustee Murphy advised that Mayor Yerick, Mike Marino and he have discussed replacement of the flow meter and belt press at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They also talked about ideas to handle the sludge in the future.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the Police Department handled 47 incidents in a 4-day period last weekend. He believes Mr. Radovanovic had some valid points, however the Village must follow the law.

Trustee Karashay echoed the Mayor by saying the Halloween Parade was a big success. Thanks to all involved. He attended a conference along with Chief Martin and learned about the danger hybrid cars pose to firefighters.

Trustee Leahy reported that Eyal Saad was called to the scene of a van verses barn over the weekend. She is taking a look at the banner law – Eyal is not enforcing the current law until the matter is resolved. Trustee Myers began a discussion regarding political lawn signs with no acceptable solutions given.

Alex Wade presented his Special Assignment report (copy attached).

Mayor Yerick presented Local Law #7/ 2007. The law addresses the rules and regulations of the Water Department. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve Local Law #7/2007. Carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick presented a resolution to raise the water rate for village and town users (covered by the Intermunicipal Agreements) to \$3.35 per 1000 gallons used. The resolution was seconded by Trustee Murphy and carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick presented proposed Local Law #8/2007. This law changes to overnight parking ban to December 15 – March 15 of every year. The Mayor scheduled a Public Hearing for November 19th at 6:30pm.

Trustee LeBlanc presented the Board with a copy of the current Abandoned Vehicle Law – she and Alex Wade have proposed changes to strengthen the law. She also gave the Board copies of the changes. She requested the Board look the laws over and be prepared to discuss the subject at a future Board meeting.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the Village has spent over \$26,000.00 in legal fees to force a Livingston Street property owner to comply with the Property Maintenance Code. We are still waiting for the Court's decision.

Trustee Myers asked how the Village is responding to complaints from a Lighthouse Drive resident about ATV use. Mayor Yerick said he will respond to the complaint and urged the Board members to do the same. He will be meeting with the Police to discuss the complaints.

Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Carried. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:05pm and returned at 8:25pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk