

Village Board

January 4, 2010

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Michael Campbell, Suzanne LeBlanc, Kelly Myers, Richard Moore and Jeannine Dirie –Trustee Murphy arrived at 7:30pm
Others: Chief William Kimble, Chief Louis Barbaria, Gary Newkirk, Town Councilman Fred Costello, Sgt. Steve Filak, Alex Betke, and a large audience of citizens

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

Mayor Yerick advised the audience that the Public Hearing on Local Law #1 – the abolishment of the Village Police Department – would be held following a short Village Board meeting.

There was no one who wished to speak at Privilege of the Floor.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the December 21, 2009 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Richard Moore presented the Abstract for January 4, 2010: General - \$25,195.67; Water - \$3,196.92; Wastewater - \$6,685.60 and Partition Street Project - \$729.92. Motion was made by Trustee Dirie, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Mayor Yerick introduced Resolution #1/2010. This resolution names the Municipal Building as the polling place for the annual Village election on March 16th. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve Resolution #1/2010. Carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Campbell to extend the “free holiday parking” at Village parking meters by 2 weeks until January 17th for the benefit of Village businesses. Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying the parking meters generate about \$800.00 per week in revenue – she is against the extension. Trustee Myers spoke saying the DPW has a hard time removing snow with cars parked at meters all day. Mayor Yerick reminded everyone that there was no parking meter revenue for some time in February 2009 because the meters were being upgraded. The motion was seconded by Trustee Moore and was tied at 3 votes to extend and 3 votes not to extend the free parking. The Board decided to suspend the vote until the arrival of Trustee Murphy for a revote after the upcoming Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn until the conclusion of the upcoming Public Hearing to reconvene for the purpose of the vote on the extension of free parking for two weeks. Carried. The Village Board adjourned at 7:20pm.

Deputy Mayor Bill Murphy called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30pm. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comment of Local Law #1/2010 – a law abolishing the Village of Saugerties Police Department effective December 31, 2010. Mr. Murphy acknowledged that this law is a difficult subject. He explained that Trustee Mike Campbell would make a presentation to the public and then the Board would receive comments. Mr. Murphy asked that all speakers be respectful. Trustee Campbell presented the rationale for the abolishment of the Police Department. PLEASE SEE THE STENOGRAPHER'S MINUTES FOR A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING. The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:30pm.

The Village Board reconvened at 8:40pm.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to extend the free parking at metered spaces in the Village until January 17, 2010. Trustee LeBlanc said that action would cost the Village about \$1600.00 plus whatever revenue lost from the issuance of parking tickets. She said the business district has already enjoyed 7 weeks of free holiday parking and is not in favor of an extension. Trustee Murphy asked if this request had come from the Chamber of Commerce. Trustee Campbell said that this request came from the Saugerties Area Chamber of Commerce. He added that the Chamber financed the purchase of the holiday lights on the businesses and fed the firemen who installed them. Mayor Yerick spoke saying he was disappointed that the police abolishment presentation painted such a dismal financial picture to the residents. He said he has plans in the works to solve the cash flow situation. Trustee Myers added that all municipalities are experiencing financial difficulties. There was more discussion on the free parking motion. The Board voted four to three to extend the free parking at metered spaces until January 17, 2010.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk