

Village Board

March 7, 2011

Present: Mayor William Murphy, Trustees Vincent Buono, Jeannine Dirie, Kelly Myers, Donald Hackett and Suzanne LeBlanc

Absent: Trustee Patrick Landewe

Others: Alex Wade, Eyal Saad, students and others

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

Mayor Murphy introduced Adam Myers, son of Trustee Kelly Myers. Adam was recently awarded his Eagle Scout Badge. Adam's Eagle Scout project was the construction of a shelter and bench located at the Saugerties Lighthouse. Mayor Murphy presented Adam with a letter of congratulations from the Village Board. Adam received a warm round of applause from all present. Cake was served and enjoyed by everyone.

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

Mayor Murphy presented the minutes of the February 22, 2011 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Hackett, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve the minutes. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for March 7, 2011: General - \$38,006.20; Water - \$51,569.02; Wastewater - \$15,000.07. Motion was made by Trustee Mayer, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve the Abstract. Carried unanimously.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). The report addressed complaints from a Town of Saugerties resident regarding handicapped parking on Main and Partition Streets and at the Saugerties Public Library. The Board consensus was that the Village and the Library provided ample handicapped parking. Further, anyone with handicapped license plates or with a handicapped parking permit is allowed to park in any metered space free of charge.

Eyal Saad addressed the Board regarding the MS4 Stormwater program. He is completing the required report for NYS in conjunction with the Town of Saugerties with the help of Brinnier and Larios. He urged the public to be aware of stormwater runoff as it affects the Esopus Creek and Hudson River. He suggested residents direct their rainwater runoff into grass or soil instead of a paved surface to allow the water to enter the ground. He also suggested residents use calcium chloride instead of rock salt to de-ice sidewalks. The draft copy of the report is available at Village Hall along with informational brochures. Mr. Saad is also working with Mike Campbell to develop a MS4 page on the Village website. Trustee Myers spoke agreeing with Mr. Saad saying it is very important to be aware of what goes into the Esopus and Hudson. Trustee Buono asked what information was contained in the report. Mr. Saad explained the report contains information regarding street maintenance, catch basins, streetsweeping and the annual village cleanups. Trustee LeBlanc mentioned that more people are practicing

“green gardening”. She also advised the Board that Mr. Saad attends MS4 classes on behalf of the Village.

Trustee Buono had nothing to report regarding SAMA or Economic Development. He is working on the budget with Department Heads and Treasurer Julie Dunn. Trustee Buono is hoping for a double digit reduction in taxes but cannot guarantee that goal.

Trustee Buono discussed Resolution #6/2011 with the Board. This resolution would enroll the Village in Section 41-j of the NYS Pension Plan. 41-j allows employees to use sick time to increase service credits. Trustee Buono informed the Board that the cost to the Village for 2011/2012 would be \$1185.00. This cost could increase annually and once the Village approves the plan, there is no ending it. After much discussion, motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Hackett, not to approve Section 41-j of the NYS Pension Plan. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Dirie congratulated Adam Myers saying she attended the impressive Eagle Scout ceremony. She also attended a recent Saugerties Chamber of Commerce meeting where County Executive Mike Hein was the featured speaker. Bicentennial plans are well underway: the Gala is April 8th and lamppost banners will be installed this spring. Songwriters are invited to enter a Saugerties Ballad contest with a \$200.00 prize. There is a band concert on May 1st. The Car Show is July 7th along with a barbecue at the Kiersted House. Trustee Dirie reminded residents of the March 15th Village Election.

Trustee Dirie also advised the Board that she has been in touch with the Town of Esopus regarding their water chestnut harvester. The Town of Esopus has agreed to come to Saugerties to remove water chestnuts from the Village Beach area. The charge will be \$225.00 per hour for the rental of the harvester, \$15.00 to \$20.00 per hour for the operator of the harvester plus gas. A decision will be made this spring to finalize a date for the work to be done.

Trustee Dirie spoke about the division of cost for the Discover Saugerties brochure. It has been proposed that the \$15,000.00 cost be evenly divided between the Chamber, the Town and the Village. At the last Board meeting, Trustee LeBlanc objected to the payment saying she felt that Villager’s have paid this cost once through their Town taxes. Trustee Dirie contacted Town accountant Gary Newkirk who disagreed and said Villager’s would not be paying “twice”. The Board tabled any decision and asked for a clearer explanation from Mr. Newkirk to include the name of the fund this expense was coming from.

Trustee Myers advised the Board that she and Trustee Landewe attended a recent Technical Advisory Committee meeting regarding the turbid water release by the DEP. The goal of the Committee is to assess the damage and have the DEP fund the repair. In addition, send a report to the Village and make recommendations for regulations regarding releases from the Ashokan.

Trustee Hackett reported slight flooding at the Wastewater Treatment Plan due to the heavy rains on Sunday. It is “business as usual” at the SFD.

Trustee LeBlanc reported the Planning Board would meet on March 9th at 6:30pm for a Public Hearing. The regular session will follow. TV23 is offering a video-editing course. Thanks to resident Nelson Burhans for contacting the Public Service Commission regarding the faulty Time Warner Cable reception on Albany channel 13. Problem has been resolved.

Trustee LeBlanc, Dave Minch and Jeff Helmuth are the Village representatives on the joint Comprehensive Plan Committee with the Town. The Town has hired consultant Dan Schuster to replace Jeremy Kane and have authorized Mr. Schuster to apply for a Greenway Grant for funding of the revision of the Comprehensive Plan. Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to support the Town in the Greenway Grant application. Carried unanimously. The Village is a Greenway Community, joining in September of 2006.

Trustee LeBlanc also announced that the Village is accepting bids for purchase of the two retired police vehicles until March 18 at 11:00am. The cars may be viewed Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm at Village Hall.

Trustee LeBlanc announced that Police Chief Louis Barbaria would meet the public in the Community Room at the Library on March 15 at 6:30pm.

Trustee LeBlanc advised the Trustees that the \$50.00 per person cost to sponsor a “Shine On Saugerties Lighthouse” was due by the end of March.

Trustee Myers advised the Board that her son Adam was a student at the New Vision Program at SHS. They will be holding a breast cancer fundraiser on March 25th at 7:00pm.

Trustee Myers asked the Board if it would be possible to contribute Village funds to the Town’s 200th Anniversary Committee. Chairperson Marjorie Block is organizing the events as well as trying to do the fundraising. Trustee LeBlanc was not in favor of using Village funds – she thought individuals or service organizations could contribute. The rest of the Board agreed.

Trustee Dirie advised the Board that the Girl Scouts would hold a pancake breakfast at 9:30am on March 12 at the Methodist Church.

Mayor Murphy reminded everyone to vote in the Village election March 15th from 12noon to 9:00pm. Voting will take place in Village Hall using the old style lever voting machines.

Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Myers to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Frank, Village Clerk Filed 3/9/11