

Village Board

August 2, 2010

Present: Mayor Bill Murphy, Trustees Patrick Landewe, Suzanne LeBlanc, Jeannine Dirie, and Vince Buono

Absent: Trustee Don Hackett

Others: Ken White, Penelope Milford, Jaimee Moxham, Willy Neuman, Alex Wade, Heather Plonchak, Bill Kemble-Freeman, Ed Quirk and others

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

Mayor Murphy advised the Board that the recent article in the Saugerties Times regarding pools created many questions from the public. Mayor Murphy stressed that the Village is not establishing a pool permit patrol. The reason for Village concern are the inflatable pools that have been appearing in yards in the area. These pools must be located in a fenced yard and meet additional safety standards. Residential safety is the issue. Call the Building Department with any questions.

Privilege of the Floor

Ken White, a resident of Ulster Avenue, spoke. He does not support the “right on red” turn from Market Street to Ulster Avenue. He said the Village should be looking at ways to increase pedestrian traffic on Ulster Avenue. He went on to say that there are no crosswalks on Ulster Avenue between Market Street and Price Chopper. Mr. White does not support the flashing red light at Price Chopper – he feels it is a terrible situation on Ulster Avenue. Willy Neuman spoke saying Woodstock has signs in the street that force cars to stop for pedestrians. He volunteered to build signs that say “yield to pedestrians” for Ulster Avenue. There was further discussion of a traffic study. Alex Wade explained that the NYS DOT is short of funds however SAMA and UCTC are still working on a solution to bypass truck traffic from the Village. Mr. White complained of illegal exhaust systems on trucks, cars and motorcycles. Mayor Murphy said he has spoken with the Police and requested stronger enforcement. Mr. White said that NYS DOT should make its vehicle inspectors enforce the law. More discussion took place.

Penelope Milford, a resident of Valley Street, does not agree with the blinking red light at Price Chopper. She also mentioned that Village office personnel told her that a pool permit was not required in the Village. No permit was ever given for a pool adjoining her property on Valley Street nor was there ever any HRB oversight. She went on to comment on the proposed “garbage law”. She appreciates the effort however does not believe the law is strong enough to be enforced. She encouraged the Board to make the law more specific. Trustee Dirie said the wording of the law has been changed 4 times. Mayor Murphy said the purpose of the law was to get trashcans off the street. Ms. Milford wants residents to be required to maintain trash cans. Business owner Charlie Walker said this law requires aesthetic judgement. Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying there are residents that leave trashcans on the street “24/7”. She feels absentee landlords cause most of the problems but she feels the removal of specific regulations makes the law

futile. Ms. Milford also spoke of the landscaping on the bank behind the “Wall” on Route 9W. Alex Wade explained that the NYS DOT planted shrubs but had no obligation to maintain them. Mayor Murphy said perhaps Ms. Milford could form a community group to help maintain the slope.

Willy Neuman then addressed the Board with his idea for a community bulletin board. He would construct the bulletin board and hoped it could be placed somewhere in the Reis parking lot. It would cost about \$800.00 to build. Alex Wade mentioned that he thought the Chamber of Commerce was working on the idea. Mr. Neuman said the Chamber asked him to move forward with his vision. Additional discussion took place with Board members saying permission would be needed from property owner Frank Reis. Other suggestions included placing the bulletin board on the side of the Gristmill Real Estate building or on the side of the Mirabella’s Restaurant building.

Jamie Moxham spoke saying she planned to hold a “pub crawl” on October 16th in the Village. She will call the crawl the “Village Invasion of the Dead”. Participants will dress in zombie costumes and local bars will offer special drinks to participants. She thinks 25 or 30 people will attend and prizes will be given for best costume at the Inquiring Minds Bookstore at the end of the evening. She will run the event and keep the Village informed of her progress. Trustees were supportive of the idea.

Mayor Murphy presented the minutes of July 19, 2010 for the Public Hearing and the regular Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Dirie, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for August 2, 2010 as follows: General - \$74,347.14; Water - \$12,708.67; Wastewater - \$9,970.16; Short Lived Asset Account - \$23,083.30; Water Distribution - \$17,711.00. A question was asked regarding the Short Lived Asset Account – this is an account mandated by the USDA using water department funds set aside to maintain all the recent improvements made to the water system that were funded by the USDA. This expenditure is for new valves at the Water Treatment Plant. Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Trustee Myers advised the Board that she has scheduled a Village Tree Commission for later this week. She and Mayor Murphy will also be meeting with the Lower Esopus Watershed Protection representatives in the next few weeks.

Trustee Buono reported that the Hors’n Around auction would be held on September 11th at Stella’s Station. Resident John Bassler is conducting a new survey regarding business in the Village.

Trustee Landewe has recently met with Mayor Murphy and Code Enforcement Officer Eyal Saad to improve communication with Mr. Saad and the HRB. Trustee Landewe recently attended a meeting regarding climate change and its impacts for the Hudson Valley. There is a change in rainfall patterns – rain events are separated by drought –

there is less snow but more rainfall – smaller water systems could be impacted by a drought. Trustee Landewe is planning on attending an EPA conference in Binghamton regarding hydraulic fracking and its potential impact on watersheds.

Trustee LeBlanc reported that the ZBA granted an area variance, with conditions, to the Family Lodge on Main Street. She also advised the Board that the joint Town/Village Comprehensive Plan is now 12 years old. A committee has been formed to make some changes to the Plan. The equipment inventory of the Police Department has been completed.

Trustee Dirie has asked the Town of Esopus for a schedule when the Village could borrow their water chestnut harvester. She reported that switching to the Hess energy contract saved the Village \$19,000.00 last year. She attended recent the Chamber of Commerce meeting where surveillance cameras were discussed. Mayor Murphy said that cameras currently used by local business could tie into this proposed system. Trustee Dirie advised the Board of many upcoming events in the Village in August.

Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve the contract for Victor Cornelius, the grant writer, for one year from July 1, 2010 – May 30, 2011 for a \$6000.00 retainer fee plus 3% on any grant obtained for the Village. Carried.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). The SAMA Committee is working to schedule connections between the UCTC Saugerties loop bus to the Trailways buses at McDonald's on Rt. 212. There is a chance that a national bike race event will pass through the Village next year.

Alex Wade explained Local Law #5/2010 to the Board. He has been working with Village Clerk Mary Frank to update the Code to include all laws passed by the Village Board since 2005 that have not been published. These laws will be incorporated into the code and revisions made on the web site. Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Buono, to schedule a Public Hearing on Local #5/2010 for Monday, August 16 at 6:30pm. Carried.

Mayor Murphy presented Local Law #3/2010 authorizing a retirement incentive program for eligible employees of the Village. Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to schedule a Public Hearing on Local law #3/2010 for Monday, August 16 at 6:45pm. Carried.

Trustee Dirie presented the latest version of Local Law #4/2010 – the law giving the Village authority to regulate solid waste within the Village. Trustee LeBlanc said the Board has been working on this law for over one year. She had hoped to be able to regulate trash pick up times, but that proved to be almost impossible. Now the intent of the amended law is to remove trashcans from the front of properties. Trustee LeBlanc feels that most of the violators are absentee landlords who have no stake in the aesthetic appearance of the Village. She went on to say that she cannot support this version of the law because it has no teeth – the wording of the law “containers must be stored in a

manner not visible from the street whenever possible” is not enforceable. Mayor Murphy spoke saying he did not want to burden the taxpayer with having to apply to the ZBA for a variance (the fee is \$150.00). Trustee Buono also said he does not want to pass a law that is onerous on taxpayers. Mayor Murphy said he thought the Board could find common ground. Motion was made by Trustee Buono to table the law. Trustee Landewe seconded the motion saying he felt the Board could find a common sense solution, find new language for the law so residents were not forced to go the ZBA for a variance. Carried.

Trustee Myers said she has spoken with Waste Management regarding consolidating pickups for trash and recycling on the same day. Waste Management has agreed to that. Another waste hauler, County Wide, already has same day pick up.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk

Filed 8/10/10