

Village Board

May 3, 2010

Present: Mayor William Murphy, Trustees Patrick Landewe, Suzanne LeBlanc, Vincent Buono, Kelly Myers, and Don Hackett

Absent: Trustee Jeannine Dirie

Others: Virginia Lupino, Rosemary Brackett, Cal Hackett, Alex Wade, Ed Quirk, Ron LeBlanc, Dave Minch, Penelope Milford, Heather Plonchak-New Saugerties Times, students and others

Just prior to the Village Board meeting, Mayor Bill Murphy appointed Patrick Landewe to fill the Trustee seat formally held by Mr. Murphy. This is a one-year term. Mayor Murphy administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Landewe.

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

Mayor Murphy welcomed new Trustee Patrick Landewe to the Board. The Village Board and all those in attendance gave him a hearty round of applause.

Privilege of the Floor

Rosemary Brackett spoke saying she had a zoning concern. She said that many larger homes located in R3 districts are being chopped into multifamily apartment buildings. Trustee LeBlanc said the Village, Planning and Zoning Boards are well aware of the problem and recently changed the zoning law to only allow 3 apartments per building. Mrs. Brackett suggested removing the R3 zones and changing them to R1 or R2. Trustee LeBlanc agreed that absentee landlords are a problem and the Building Department is trying to find a solution. Mayor Murphy stated that one idea being considered is the requirement of having a local property manager for every multi-family building. Trustee LeBlanc said the first line of defense for property maintenance is the Building Inspector. She also advised that the Village is receiving cost estimates to rezone the entire Village. The Village was last fully rezoned in the 1980's. The cost of this project is high and the Village is currently researching grant opportunities.

Penelope Milford addressed the Board saying that she lives on Valley Street, which is located in the Historic District. She would like to see more attention paid to that part of the Historic District by the Historic Review Board. Ms. Milford suggested that all residents of the District be informed of the guidelines and made to comply with them. Alex Wade explained that the Historic Business District covers a large area and the HRB has mainly focused on it. Ms. Milford agreed however she hopes that the HRB will take a look at her request.

Victor Cornelius, the grant writer for the Village, spoke giving the Board a grant status update. He promised that a written report would follow. Mr. Cornelius is concentrating in 3 areas: water, wastewater and streetscape. All of these items are "works in progress". He explained that the \$3.5 million 3 phase water line improvement project (currently in

phase 3) has been funded by the USDA at a rate of 3 ¾% for 38 years. Mr. Cornelius is working with the EFC (a NYS agency) to secure a 0% interest loan for 30 years. He advised the Trustees that to receive funding from the EFC, the project must be rated above the 200 points required for consideration of the loan. He is working with the Water Department and Brinnier&Larios on pressure issues, valve issues, and turbidity at the filter plant to increase the Villages point rating. A decision should be made by the EFC in October 2010. Mr. Cornelius went on to report the Village has identified a \$1.74 million sewer line replacement project that would reline or replace several main trunk lines in the system. We have received an \$800,000.00 commitment from the Federal Government for this project, however matching funds are required. Mr. Cornelius is working with the EFC to provide the matching funds so this project can begin. The last grant that Mr. Cornelius is working on is the Streetscape Project for the "Southside" of the Village. This will include period lighting and bluestone sidewalks. Trustee Myers said she would like to see grant dollars for neighborhood sidewalks. Trustee Hackett said sidewalks are needed on Washington Avenue by the High School and on Washington Avenue by Montgomery and Clermont Streets. Trustee Myers said she would like to add some landscaping on 9W to the sidewalk project. Mr. Cornelius will take all the suggestions into account.

Mayor Murphy presented the minutes of the April 19, 2010 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for May 3, 2010: General - \$49,083.94; Water - \$8,923.75; Wastewater - \$14,124.70; Partition Street Project Escrow - \$14,232.21; Water Distribution - \$93,101.50; Stormwater - \$480.00; Country Meadows Escrow- \$1768.67. Motion was made by Trustee Landewe, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve the Abstract. Carried unanimously.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve a change in the terms of the Streetscape Project contract from payments of 80%/20% to 95%/5%. Carried unanimously.

Trustee LeBlanc had nothing to report from the ZBA, Planning Board or TV23. She reminded residents that it was grass-cutting season. Trustee LeBlanc said she is still working on the Property Maintenance Law revisions.

Trustee Buono reported that he had attended an Economic Development meeting where UC Planning Board Director Dennis Doyle spoke. Mr. Doyle spoke about the economy of the area, the role of transportation and urged communities to think 30 years down the road when planning. Trustee Buono has met with former Trustee Mike Campbell, SAMA rep Myles Putnam and Alex Wade to discuss SAMA and UCTC. Mr. Wade said work continues on connecting Village parking lots and parking lot signage. Mr. Buono also road the loop bus around the Village with the UCAT folks, residents and Trustee LeBlanc. Trustee Buono reported that the bus is a great service to area residents. He also

thanked Wastewater Superintendent Mike Marino for the tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Trustee Hackett reported that all is well in the Wastewater Department. He also said the SFD is doing an absolutely amazing job. Mayor Murphy reported that the SFD has volunteered to assist some Village residents with property maintenance issues.

New Trustee Patrick Landewe addressed the Board saying he met with Mayor Murphy and discussed many issues. He looks forward to his year on the Village Board.

Trustee Myers reported that the DPW has removed road debris that had washed into the Esopus Creek at the bottom of East Bridge Street. A DEC permit was obtained to perform the work. Special equipment was rented and the DPW did a great job. The area homeowners were very pleased with the results. Trustee Myers also advised the Board that letters have been sent to local tree trimming companies informing them of the new tree law in the Village. A dangerous tree on Washington Avenue will be removed shortly and she has five names for the new Tree Commission. Trustee Myers also attended a meeting sponsored by the UCPB and issues similar to Trustee Buono's were discussed. The big difference was that representatives from Greenway attended her meeting and a focus was on clustering businesses.

Trustee Myers asked for a discussion of the proposed changes to the Animal Law. She would like to set a date for a Public Hearing on the changes/additions. She reported that Village resident Dick Benjamin had expressed concerns and she hopes she has addressed them. Large farm animals will not be allowed even though NYS law permits farm animals for properties with 7 or more acres. Trustee Myers said the Code Enforcement Officer would handle complaints. Trustee LeBlanc said she couldn't support a law that takes the Board and neighbors out of the process. Trustee Landewe spoke saying he does not believe the law is ready for a Public Hearing. He has researched the issue and found that NYS Law already covers some of the issues in the proposed law. He said there is ambiguous language in the law that should be looked at and he believes the Village already has a concise law that deals with animals. More discussion followed with Trustee Myers saying she would be happy to work with Trustee Landewe on new language for the proposed law. No Public Hearing date was set.

Mayor Murphy advised the Board that they may be asked to vote on the PILOT Agreement for Country Meadows Senior Housing at the next Board meeting. The Town is the true regulating body, however Supervisor Helsmoortel has stated that the Town will agree with Village wishes.

Mayor Murphy said that Chief's Night for the SFD was a great evening.

Trustee Hackett advised that he is still pursuing the "Heart Safe Community" program that offers CPR to employees.

Mayor Murphy informed the Board that Lt. Tom Rea's son has been injured while serving with his Marine unit in Afghanistan. His injuries are not life threatening however Mayor Murphy would like everyone to remember young Tom in their prayers.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank  
Village Clerk