

Village Board

August 17, 2009

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Jeannine Dirie, Richard Moore, William Murphy, Suzanne LeBlanc and Kelly Myers

Absent: Trustee Michael Campbell

Others – about 100 people

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

Privilege of the Floor

Vince Hackett, 21 Oakledge Park, addressed the Board once again stating his displeasure with the boat launch proposal and his interpretation of the fee structure. He expressed his anger at Trustee Kelly Myers for not following the recommendation of the Waterfront Advisory Committee for parking at the Saugerties Beach area. He thought the Waterfront Advisory Committee did a great job. He asked Trustee Myers for a public apology and her resignation. Trustee Myers responded by saying she agreed that the Waterfront Advisory Committee has wonderful members and does great work for the Village. Trustee Myers met with the Police and others to discuss the Committee's recommendations and found implementation of the plan to be a problem – mainly that the parking system was too cumbersome – hard to enforce and burdensome for nearby residents. Trustee Myers said she has reviewed the law carefully and the Village can only charge for use of the boat ramp itself. Trustee Myers has spoken with Trustee Dirie who recommended that the fee for a boat be \$10.00 and for a boat with trailer \$25.00. Trustee Myers wants the public to follow the laws already in place and is not so concerned with the fees. Mr. Hackett replied that the Esopus Creek Conservancy wants to keep all motorized boats off the creek. Trustee Myers said the Esopus Creek Conservancy has done good work and it is not fair for Mr. Hackett to “slam” them. More exchange took place.

Liz Hernandez, of Bennett Avenue, spoke. She wanted to express her support for the Board. She knows all the Board members work very hard and thanked them for all their work.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the two previous Village Board meetings: August 3, 2009 and August 11, 2009. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstract for August 17, 2009: General - \$483,640.91; Water - \$3,780.02; Wastewater - \$1,773.29 and Water Distribution - \$2530.00. Motion was made by Trustee Dirie, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to reinstate Police Sgt. Joseph Laquidara to the Village Police Department. Carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick introduced Tim Weidemann, representing Fairweather Consultants. Fairweather was hired by the Town and Village to study the consolidation of the Town and Village Police Departments. The Mayor said no questions or comments would be entertained by the Village Board at this meeting – a Public Hearing for questions and comments is scheduled for September 8 at 7:00pm at the Senior Center. Mr. Weidemann began by saying that the presentation was the culmination of 18 months of committee work on the consolidation of the Village and Town Police Departments. He then presented a 15-page power point document (copy attached). The plan shows a tax savings to Village residents with no tax increase to Town residents. After the presentation was completed, Town Police Chief Louis Barbaria addressed the Board and public. He said that consolidation was not a new idea – New Paltz consolidated about 20 years ago. He said in addition to tax savings for the Village, the merger would offer other benefits such as 2 detectives on the force; GPS and mobile data in patrol cars; texting between officers and improved oversight procedures. Mayor Yerick again reminded the public of the September 8<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing – he went on to say a 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing may be called for which would be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Trustee LeBlanc added that she would still like to vote on the proposal on September 21 so a public vote could be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Yerick complimented Mr. Weidemann and the consolidation committee for all their work.

Mayor Yerick advised all present of a Town Hall meeting sponsored by Assemblyman Peter Lopez to be held August 26 at 700pm at the Senior Center.

Trustee Myers presented the two revised boat launch permit applications to the Board. After some discussion, motion was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the new boat launch permit with the lower fees - \$10.00 for a boat, \$25.00 for a boat with trailer – no fees for Village and Town residents. Carried. The new launch permit will go into effect April 2010.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank  
Village Clerk