

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

Absent: Trustee Michael Campbell and Michael Karashay

Others: Alex Wade, Heather Plonchak-New Sau Times, Karin Yerry-Post Star, Ron LeBlanc, Dave Minch, Pat and John VanWart, Terri and Steve Massardo, Judith Spektor, Diana Bryan, Adam Myers and others

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

Privilege of the Floor

Pat VanWart of West Bridge St. addressed the Board with her concerns over the property located at 130 W. Bridge St (next door to her property). 130 W. Bridge Street is owned by Regina Cross of NYC. In 2006, Mrs. VanWart complained about the condition of the property to Eyal Saad – specifically that a broken window was falling out of the house into the VanWart driveway. Mr. Saad wrote a letter to Regina Cross asking that the window be repaired. Mrs. VanWart presented the Board with several pictures taken 7/7/08 showing the window not properly repaired and the grass surrounding the property to be over 6 feet. There is also a dead tree in the rear of the property. She reported that Mr. Saad said he could do nothing about the grass in the rear yard however Mrs. VanWart researched Village Codes and produced our law that states all grass, weeds and brush must be maintained on the entire property. Another derelict property nearby was burned by arson several years ago causing Mrs. VanWart's homeowners insurance cost to increase. She does not want this to happen again. She stated that there are vermin and snakes living in the grass and brush at 130 W. Bridge St. There is also debris strewn about the property. Tenants have recently moved out of the house – Mrs. VanWart complained about the noise and vulgar language of the former tenants. The Board thanked Mrs. VanWart for bring this situation to their attention and assured her that action would be taken to remedy the complaints.

Terry and Steve Massardo addressed the Board. They reside at 30 Church Street, directly across from "the Wall". They are very concerned with the proposed repair of the Wall. They have lived on Church Street for many years and DOT surveyors have come and gone; however in June of 2007 they received a letter from the NYS DOT. The letter advised them that the NYS DOT was planning to widen the road and seize 5 feet of their property and perhaps remove the trees in their front yard. They have now learned that the DOT wants to widen the curve across from the LeBlanc residence. M/M Massarado are totally against the widening of the road or the curve. They feel the speed of vehicles will increase if the road is widened. They are concerned that their property value will certainly decrease if this project is allowed to happen. They want to save the trees in the front of their home and the Wall be repaired and restored.

Mayor Yerick explained that he has recently met with the DOT and discussed a finish date for the Wall project of the fall of 2009. There are four separate projects for the Wall area – the storm and sanitary sewer separation project, the repaving of Route 9W, new decorative lighting, and the repair of the Wall. All these projects need to be coordinated with the DOT and completed in the correct order. He feels it is premature to talk to the DOT until he sees a plan for the Wall, however he will voice these concerns to the DOT.

Terry Massarado said she feels the truck route must be changed. Mayor Yerick replied that the UCTC and SAMA are working hard to improve the truck flow. Steve Massarado said he is happy to know the Village is talking to the DOT and is happy there is still time to input concerns to the DOT.

Trustee LeBlanc feels the DOT must be told that if the curve is widened, vehicles will go faster. Mayor Yerick replied that the speed limit would be enforced. Trustee LeBlanc said there is not enough speed enforcement presently.

Terry Massarado again spoke saying she wants to know the plan before anything is finalized.

Judith Spektor then address the Board – her remarks are attached. She feels the Village should let the DOT know what the Village wants and not allow the DOT follow its own agenda. Trustee LeBlanc added that she wants to keep the character of the road intact – she does not want to see trucks and cars speeding around the corner.

Diana Bryan spoke saying the corners by the Tango Café are also very bad. While sitting at the tables outside the Café, she has witnessed people having to scurry away from the tables to avoid being hit by trucks encroaching on the sidewalk. She said the DOT couldn't be trusted to act in the best interest of the Village. Her prepared remarks are attached.

Ron LeBlanc addressed the Board saying that he has lived on the corner of Hill and Church Streets for 46 years. He said the only issue of concern should be the placement and stabilization of the Wall. He recently spoke to the latest surveyors on the Wall site and they informed him that Central Hudson and the other utilities want to move their poles from the Wall side of 9W to the Massarado side of 9W. The surveyors told him the State intends to take 6 feet of property on the Massarado side. He cited the work the DOT is doing on Route 9 in Hyde Park near Vanderbilt Mansion. They are restoring walls there just as they were. He wants the Village Board to be proactive on the Wall issue – make no changes to the Wall except for repair, restore the curbing at the curve and no widening of the road or the curve. He complimented the Mayor and the Board for their past work on the quality of life issues for Village residents. He suggested the Board invite the DOT to Saugerties and let the residents tell the DOT what we would like to happen.

Josepha Gutelius asked for the name of the DOT project engineer.

Diana Bryan asked why the wires needed to be moved to the Massarado side of 9W.

Trustee Kelly Myers said she believes that the DOT needs to answer to the Village Board.

Josepha Gutelius said the Board must be proactive – the Board cannot wait for the DOT to give us the project plan.

Dave Minch spoke saying he is the chair of the Historic Review Board and the Wall area is in the Historic District. The “bends” in Route 9W represent who we are as Saugerties – this is not just any street – it is the entrance to our Village. The Board and residents must be proactive.

Mayor Yerick thanked everyone for their comments and said he would send along the comments to the DOT.

Mayor Yerick introduced Adam Myers to the Board (the son of Trustee Kelly Myers). Adam is observing a Board meeting to complete requirements for a Citizenship Badge working toward becoming an Eagle Scout.

Mayor Yerick presented the Minutes of June 16, 2008. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstract for July 7, 2008: General - \$52,524.99; paid General - \$99,887.50; Water - \$13,653.64; Wastewater - \$25,727.32; Water Distribution - \$5845.60; Water Leak Detection Grant - \$3408.13. Motion was made by Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve the Abstracts. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the list of Tax Adjustments for 2008 – some of the affected properties have had their aged exemption and/or veterans exemptions added or removed and several properties have been sold and their status has changed. The result is \$1,073.11 less in tax revenue to the Village. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to accept the 2008 Tax Adjustments. Carried.

Trustee Myers reported that the beach and pool are open and the floats are in the water at the beach. Lifeguards are on duty – 3 at a time at the beach and 1 at the wading pool. A new truck bed liner has been installed in the new Buildings and Grounds Department pick up truck. This will allow the grounds crew to use a water tank to water the hanging baskets throughout the Village more efficiently. The DPW did a good job with the clean up effort on July 5th. A letter of support has been sent to the Town of Esopus regarding their grant application for a waterchestnut harvester. Mayor Yerick asked if the lifeguards needed a bullhorn for the beach. Trustee Myers replied that they have whistles but she will ask about a bullhorn. Trustee LeBlanc inquired if there was enough signage at the beach regarding hours. She has noticed that people are always in the water – even if the lifeguards are not on duty. Mayor Yerick said when he has stopped at the beach, there is usually an adult supervising children when lifeguards are not on duty. Trustee

Myers added that residents swim at their own risk if they choose to swim when the lifeguards are not on duty.

Trustee LeBlanc asked if the Waterfront Advisory Board had completed their assignment. Clerk Mary Frank said that Chair June Overbaugh had dropped off material for the Mayor's review at 2:00pm today.

Trustee Murphy reported on the activities the crew from the Wastewater Department performs over and above their regular duties.

Mayor Yerick reported that he has asked the Police Department to be a constant presence on Partition Street on summer evenings. Summer bar activity is on the increase and he hopes a police presence will eliminate potential problems.

Trustee Myers congratulated former Fire Chief Brian Martin on being named Fireman of the Year at the 4th of July celebration. Brian was injured helping a rider who was thrown from a horse prior to the start of the July 4th parade.

Mayor Yerick commented that the "Bob and Greg" show televised live on TV23 on July 5th, was not up to his standard and hoped that the next show would run with less problems. The Mayor went on to say that the TV23 Committee is to be commended for the wonderful advancements they have made for the community. He also mentioned that the Board received a thank-you note from Gladys and John Hutton for the Village's part in the recent celebration in their honor.

Trustee LeBlanc asked why the Police Department is not using the bikes. The Mayor responded that they should be and he will speak to the Chief.

Trustee LeBlanc reported that the Zoning Board recently granted an area variance to John Stowell to build a duplex on the corner of Allen and Montgomery Streets. Eyal Saad was in court once again regarding 51 Livingston Street. The judge once again postponed his decision until July 28, 2008. The Planning Board will meet on July 9th.

Trustee LeBlanc presented a report that she has completed regarding parking meter fees and the fines involved. She proposes increasing the parking meters rates in the Village and also increasing the fines for violators. The change would cost about \$1000.00. She mentioned that \$6000.00 in parking fines was lost when the Village shortened the winter parking ban. If her proposal is adopted she estimates that meter revenue would rise from \$12,500.00 to \$62,500.00 per year. Mayor Yerick complimented Trustee LeBlanc for a good report. He asked that the Trustees study the proposal and make a decision on it at the next Board meeting. The Village Attorney will then modify the current law and a Public Hearing will be scheduled.

Mayor Yerick distributed a proposal from Trustee Michael Campbell that suggests changing the parking signs for the Municipal Parking Lots to the international parking

symbol. He also suggested sign dealing with engine breaking. Mayor Yerick asked the Board to consider these suggestions to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). The report deals with the many projects the Village is discussing with the DOT.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the USDA has required that the Village enter a contract with Brinnier & Larios (our engineers on the water line replacement project). The Village Attorney, Joe Bisignano and Trustee Murphy all reviewed the contract and advised the mayor to sign it. The contract has been signed.

Alex Wade reported that Eyal Saad became a US Citizen on June 27th. Mr. Saad received a round of applause from the Board.

Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Moore, to forward the proposed change in Chapter 38-1 Use of Village Vehicles on to the Village Attorney for the purpose of modifying the current law. Carried. The Clerk will advise the attorney and then schedule a Public Hearing on the change.

Mayor Yerick commented that he understands the public's frustration with the DOT. He said the Board will do its best to get the Wall stabilized but must rely somewhat on the DOT's expertise. He continued went on to say that he believes that New York State needs a complete turnaround. More discussion on the Wall project took place.

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