



VILLAGE OF SAUGERTIES

43 PARTITION STREET
SAUGERTIES, N.Y. 12477

Village Board Meeting Minutes June 18, 2018

Present: Mayor Murphy, Deputy Mayor Mayer, Trustees Brian Martin, Terry Parisian, Jeff Helmuth, Don Hackett, Vince Buono, Mike Hopf, Mike Marino, Bob Fanelli, George Terpening, Eyal Saad, Alex Wade

Others: Bill Kemble, Christina Coulter

Mayor Murphy called the **Village Board Meeting** to order at 5: 41 pm.

Mayor Murphy requested **Trustee Hackett** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor:

Frank and Linda Stella addressed the Board regarding an abandoned house next door to their house on Bennet Avenue. Mr. Stella presented a petition with signatures from 15 neighbors. Mr. Stella stated that the house at 25 Bennett Avenue has been abandoned for over 3 years. The grass and landscaping is all overgrown, there is a tree growing out of it, the windows are broken and the doors are open. Besides the safety issue, it also a blight on the neighborhood that brings down the property values.

Mayor Murphy stated the problem with the Bank owed properties are hard to get them cleaned up. DPW has cleaned up several and charged the banks for the service.

Code Enforcer Eyal Saad, clarified the difference between an abandoned building and a vacant building.

A vacant building is a building that may be empty or unoccupied, but owner is known. An abandoned building is a building where there is no clear cut owner, or one that cannot easily be contacted. The Village has a little more ability to take action on an abandoned property than a vacant one. The taxes on the property have been paid. He stated that he has not received a complaint on this building. Please complete the complaint paperwork and we will notify the bank.

Linda Stella stated that the grass is cut every once in a while but not in the back yard. A tree has fallen in the back yard across their driveway.

Mayor Murphy suggested to that Eyal contact the bank and if the bank does not clean up the property in a timely manner we will contract someone to clean it up and charge the cost to the property tax bill. That is our only recourse of action. Any new owner would have to pay the taxes including the maintenance charge. **Trustee Buono** suggested they hand in the petition and paperwork to the clerk.

Mr. Stella also is concerned with the high water table at the "cow flop" property on Lafayette Street Extension. It had been addressed previously but it is a problem in the center of the lot that floods the back yard. **Mayor Murphy** stated that the property is owned by the school district. The Village had helped with the previous drainage issue repair. The Village is willing to help but it has to be done through the school district. The school district or Superintendent Seth Turner should be contacted. **Trustee Buono** suggested they attend a school district board meeting.

Robert Gallenz addressed the Board to remind them about the Vietnam Memorial Wall arriving on July 19th. Mr. Gallenz also inquired if the final report from the Russell Street fire has been received yet. **Mayor Murphy** stated that the State has not completed their report which normally takes a minimum of 2 months. The Mayor has been in contact with the owner and there is a restraining order against the owner and the Village, so unfortunately nothing can be done to the property until the order is lifted.

Mayor Murphy presented the Village Board Minutes from June 4, 2018. Trustee Buono made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2018 Village Board meeting. Motion was seconded by Trustee Mayer to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for June 18, 2018:

- **General** \$ 29,417.67
- **Water** \$ 6,231.16
- **Wastewater** \$ 11,044.00

Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the Abstract for June 18, 2018. Motion was seconded by Trustee Parisian to approve the Abstract. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Murphy turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Mayer.

Mike Marino presented his report for the Waste Water Department. See attached report. **Trustee Buono** questioned the overtime in the Wastewater Department. **Mike Marino** responded that it was due to the recent tornado and flooding.

Trustee Hackett commented about the income from the sludge and thinks it is profitable for the Village to take in the sludge. There was a discussion regarding the true profit and the cost of the payments made to the Town. We are not able to find a contract that states we are required to pay the Town.

The estimated cost to repair the digester is approximately \$4000-\$6000 as opposed to replacement cost of over \$200,000.

Alex Wade see attached report for Special Projects. See attached report.

The Climate Smart Resiliency Grant amount is unknown. It is a long way from being approved. The grant would eventually be helpful to reduce the insurance rates for residents along the waterfront.

The Street Scape project requires a \$39,000 match which will come from unappropriated funds.

Chief Sinagra presented his report for the Police Department. See attached report.

Trustee Hackett questioned the Chief regarding the fireworks law in the Village. Chief Sinagra handed out a copy of the NYS code for Sparkling devises. He also explained the fireworks law as:

- Sparkling Devices are legal to sell in retail outlets beginning 6/1-7/5
- Sparkling Devices are legal to sell in tents beginning 6/20-7/5
- Sparkling Devices are not allowed in public roadways
- Fire crackers and fireworks are illegal - anything that shoots into the air is illegal

The county makes the decision and municipalities in the county are required to pass a law if they want to prohibit sparkling devises. This info will be on the Police Department Facebook page.

Eyal Saad presented his report for the Building and Safety Department. See attached report.

Eyal Saad also presented his proposed amendment to the Electrical and Plumbing licenses. The proposal includes adding a \$25.00 inactive license fee to the Electrical license. The inactive Plumbing fee to be raised from \$15 to \$25.00, so both fee schedules will be the same. The schedule will be revised and voted on at the next Village Board meeting.

Trustee Parisian questioned if there is a time limit on the stay order on the Russell Street home. Is there a way to put pressure on to lift the stay so that action can be taken on the building?

Eyal Saad will contact the attorney.

George Terpening presented his report for the Buildings, Parks and Grounds Dept. See attached report.

Questioned why the Lions Club pool is not open on weekends. **George Terpening** stated that the pool had been open on the weekends in the past and very few people used the pool.

Trustee Buono mentioned that he supplied American flags from the Legion for the street lamps.

George Terpening acknowledge that the flags were received and will be hung on the pole above the flower baskets before the 4th of July.

Mike Hopf presented his report for the Water Department. See attached report.

An order was placed for 10 parking meter inside mechanics to be used as replacements are needed throughout the year.

A resident that lives near the water plant has requested the Village put up a fence on the Water Dept. property along Platte Cove Road to stop people from passing through the property to access State DEC land known as the "Blue Hole" swimming area. The DEC and Police has been actively ticketing trespassers. To extend the fence it would 150 feet of 6 ft. chain link fence with barb wire to help reduce the number of trespassers would cost over \$7500. The fencing would also extend the Village liability. The Water Dept.'s main interest is to protect the water in the Plattekill. The resident may come to a Board meeting to present his request for the fence. He also would be interested in purchasing a portion of the Village property at a reasonable price. **Trustee Helmuth** would like to review a tax map of the property.

Bob Fanelli presented the report for the Department of Public Works. See attached report.

Trustee Brian Martin presented **Chief Wade's** May report for the Fire Department. See attached report.

- The board is invited for the parade inspection, 8:30 am on Main Street, please arrive 15 minutes early. Parade starts at 11am. The Village will have a float with the Stallions baseball team. All Trustees are invited to be on the float.
- A convertible was found for the Mum Queen and her Court.
- NYS will be remaking the buoys in the Hudson River sometime this summer. Saugerties FD boat is the only boat with a pumper from Saugerties to the Port of Albany. There was a training with the Ulster County Sherriff's Dept. – Wednesday night that went well.
- Report of kayaker going over the Diamond Mills dam was false. Nothing/no one was found.

Trustee Buono wished Treasurer Helene King well as she has just been released from the Hospital. Thank you to Paula, Cecilia, and Lisa for helping out in Helene's absence. The Mayor reached out to Gary Newkirk for help with the AUD. **Trustee Buono** inquired if there was any progress with the Union MOU. **Trustee Parisian** stated he had not heard of any decision.

Trustee Buono questioned the policy regarding new hires, whether or not they are full time or temporary, he thought they were supposed to be presented to the Board for approval. **Trustee Martin** added that the volunteer firemen have to be approved by the Board, so should hired employees. A discussion continued regarding the hiring and approval of new employees. The clerk will research the law regarding Board approval for new hires and distribute to the Mayor, Board and Supervisors.

Trustee Hackett followed up that he researched the insurance coverage for employee – \$18,000 for family plan and \$8000 for single.

Trustee Hackett had attended a DEC seminar regarding the Ashokan Dam. The Village does have an evacuation plan on file and asked Eyal Saad to review the plan and work with the fire and rescue so we all have the same information. Warning signals should be updated.

Trustee Hackett received a complaint regarding the parking on the portion of Montgomery Street near the Black Eyed Susie's Restaurant. The street is very congested when the restaurant is open. He feels it is a dangerous situation and there should be a "no parking here to corner" sign. A discussion continued regarding the parking and whether there is signage on Montgomery Street.

Trustee Hackett asked about the progress on the Montross Street lot sale. The clerk has not heard back from the Village attorney and will contact him again.

Trustee Parisian had nothing new to report.

Trustee Helmuth had nothing new to report.

Deputy Mayor Mayer reported

- The first Mum Festival meeting was May 7th. Everything is ready for the 4th of July parade

- The Revolving Loan Committee met and no changes were made to the program. Mr. Hrdlicka has retired but has agreed to process the Revolving loan closings. An ad will be published in the Saugerties Times, advertised on TV23 and on the website.
- There will be a fundraiser at the Sr. Center in August for TV23.
- The next chamber meeting will be June 27th at the Stone Pony.
- Gus Pederson's sailboat was damaged. Police arrested the person involved. Local sailing clubs and maritime museum personnel have been invited to the sailboat auction at SPAF.
- Movies will be shown at the Kiersted House beginning weekends in July and August.
- July 7th is the next concert of the series.

The SEQR forms Part 2 & 3 for the parking law were not reviewed since the law is still under review after the Public Hearing input.

Trustee Hackett made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting, seconded Trustee Martin. Motion carried unanimously. The Village Board Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

The next scheduled Village Board meeting is Monday, July 2, 2018 at 5:30pm.

Lisa Mayone
Village Clerk
Filed 6/20/18