



VILLAGE OF SAUGERTIES
43 PARTITION STREET
SAUGERTIES, N.Y. 12477

Village Board Meeting Minutes July 6, 2020

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order 202 regarding open meetings, this meeting was held via Webex. The connection information was broadcast online for residents to participate.

Present: Mayor Murphy, Deputy Mayor Jeannine Mayer, Trustees Vince Buono, Jeff Helmuth, Terry Parisian, Don Hackett, Brian Martin Others: Chief Sinagra, Town Supervisor Fred Costello, Paula Kerbert, Dave Gordon, Bill Kemble, Dave Cook, Matt Ruburg, Lauren Ruberg, Tracey Porteas, Kayla Nadal, Barbara Fellows, Angela Mastracchio

Mayor Murphy opened the Village Board meeting at 5:30pm.

Mayor Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor – **Mayor Murphy** addressed the Board members and public that are on the Webex call. Mayor Murphy stated that the Town Supervisor Fred Costello and Chief Sinagra are in the office with him to field any questions from the public that may be regarding the opening of HITS.

Dave Cook, 114 Elm Street, addressed the Village Board regarding the speeding on Elm Street. He stated that since he spoke to Mayor Murphy about the accident on Elm Street recently and most of his concerns have been addressed. Slow signs have been painted on the street, speed limit signs and a radar speed detector has been set up. Mr. Cook has noticed that the cars that come from Cantine Field have slowed down once they see the radar sign. All the signage has helped dramatically. We appreciate it greatly and a Thank You to Mayor Murphy. So far it has been a great deterrent. **Mayor Murphy** added that the radar sign will remain on Elm Street for three weeks and then the data will be studied. It will be moved to other streets in the Village and Town to monitor the speeding. The Village is considering possibly purchasing more radar signs later this year. There will be a discussion with the Board to consider drafting a resolution to lower the speed limit to 25mph Village wide. Twenty five mph is the lowest we can go according to state law. The permanent solar sign on Washington Avenue and the yellow stripes have helped to slow down the traffic.

Tracey Porteas spoke to the Board regarding the reopening of HITS. She is concerned that the guidelines of quarantining are not being followed, supposedly. HITS participants have been seen shopping and eating in the Village and Town for a week or two so obviously they are not quarantining. How is the Board addressing this?

Mayor Murphy stated that the HITS property is not in the Village and the Village does not have any jurisdiction regarding HITS. Town Supervisor Costello is here to answer questions as well. The people that have to quarantine for two weeks are only those that are coming from the banned states. A lot of the participants have homes in multiple places and register vehicles in different states. HITS is monitoring their participants through their applications and not allowing participants from the banned states. The Ulster County Health Department is at the HITS facility and is monitoring everyone that comes into the facility. They must show ID, prove where they are coming from and their temperatures are being taken. If they were required to quarantine and cannot prove that they had quarantined prior to coming here, they will not be allowed to enter. NYS Forward Phase 4 guidelines allows sporting events without an audience, which HITS falls under. We have to trust that the people in charge are following the guidelines. The County Health Department is monitoring. If you have a concern that they are not following guidelines, there is a COVID19- 800 number that you can call to report

them. Town Supervisor Costello and I have had many calls with the Ulster County Health Department and Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan and we are satisfied with how serious they are taking this situation and that HITS is following all the guidelines.

Trustee Parisian stated that beyond the NYS guidelines, the USEF (Equestrian Foundation) has even stricter guidelines for the HITS shows. All participants have to preregister and if they are from any of the banned states they were notified that they could not participate. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that people may not be aware of.

Mayor Murphy stated that the county and community have been doing a tremendous job keeping up the all the guidelines and changes that happen daily. There has been a great effort by everyone and we don't want to have a setback.

Tracey Porteus stated that she agrees with the Mayor and doesn't want all the hard work to be undone. **Mayor Murphy** stated that if there any indications that guidelines are not being followed then appropriate action will be taken.

Kayla Nadel addressed the Board with a statement regarding the problem with cars speeding on Ulster Avenue. Ulster Avenue is like a race track from 10am – 7pm. Drivers attempt to beat the red light at the intersection. There has been an increase in people walking on the street since the pandemic and it is dangerous.

Mayor Murphy stated that the solar speed sign does help to slow people down. A permanent speed sign, similar to the sign on Washington Avenue, is what I would like put on Ulster Avenue. The Village does not have the authority to lower the speed limit on Ulster Avenue since it is a state road. **Chief Sinagra** stated that the sign that was put out on Ulster Avenue collected data in both directions. Other than emergency vehicles, the majority of the speeds were compliant. There was not a high frequency of vehicles breaking the speed limit. An enforcement detail of NYS Troopers, Ulster County Sheriffs and Saugerties Police will be out to saturate the Village to enforce the speed limits this weekend. Unfortunately, the violators usually turn out to be local people.

Chief Sinagra suggested residents speak to their neighbors about slowing down on the local streets.

Mayor Murphy stated that every community is supposed to get two solar speed signs from the county, so the second sign will be installed on Ulster Avenue once we get it. We are trying to get it sometime this summer.

Trustee Buono questioned whether or not yellow lines and crosswalks are going to be painted on Elm Street on Elm Street. **Mayor Murphy** stated that NYS DOT has been contacted to paint the yellow lines and there is only one crosswalk that is already painted.

Trustee Hackett addressed Chief Sinagra stating that a patrol car posted on Ulster Ave in the Lumber Yard parking lot will deter speeders. **Chief Sinagra** stated that permission would be required from the lumber yard and he would have concerns about leaving a patrol car unattended. The Police Dept. will increase their patrols for vehicle and traffic violations.

Dave Cooke questioned the data from the speed sign. If people are already slowing down due to the new signs, how will the data be accurate? **Chief Sinagra** is concerned with the peak times of traffic that will drive the enforcement efforts. **Dave Cooke** inquired as to the cost of the signs in interest of a possible fundraiser. **Chief Sinagra** stated that the signs cost approximately \$2500 -\$5000, based on the model.

Barbara Fellows, Burt Street, addressed the Board regarding the pot hole that is front of her front walkway along Burt Street. The rain water gets under the blacktop and lifts it up. She has reported them for the last 2 years and nothing has been done. Mrs. Fellows is concerned that there is potential for someone to get hurt.

Angela Mastracchio, Burt Street, also stated that when the rain water runs down the street it erodes the edge of the road and floods her property. Mrs. Mastracchio, stated that the road needs to drained properly or redirected, not just patched.

Mayor Murphy requested Mrs. Fellows to send him pictures of the affected area. **Mayor Murphy** will have the DPW investigate tomorrow. **Trustee Parisian** stated that the issues on Burt Street previously were at the intersection of 9W.

Mayor Murphy stated that the situation will be investigated and we will include the NYS DOT if necessary. Drainage and pitch of the road maybe part of the problems.

Chief Sinagra and **Town Supervisor Costello** left the meeting.

Mayor Murphy presented the Village Board Minutes from June 15, 2020.

Trustee Hackett made a motion to approve the Village Board Minutes from June 15, 2020.

The motion to approve the Village Board Minutes from June 15, 2020 was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for July 6, 2020:

- General \$ 131,532.37
- Water \$ 8,881.67
- Wastewater \$ 21,066.69

Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the Abstract for July 6, 2020. The motion to approve the Abstract of July 6, 2020 was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Mayer commented regarding the emails about the Village and Town Wide Yard sale to be held on Saturday, July 11. The Yard sale has been planned again this year by Majorie Block as a fundraiser to benefit Saugerties Tourism. A list is generated of all the individual yard sales participating for anyone who is interested. There are some concerns as to the safety of the yard sales during the COVID19 pandemic. The Board discussed the issue and stated that the current phase does allow for yard sales. It would be up to the individual person whether or not they feel comfortable shopping at a yard sale and to take necessary precautions.

Trustee Reports

Deputy Mayor Mayer reported

- The Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center will be opened on weekends.
 - The butterfly street art location maps are available.
 - There is a video of the street art butterflies by Robert Langdon, Emerge Gallery, on TV23.
 - The street art auction will be held on September 19th with the proceeds going to Diaz Ambulance Service. Details to be announced.
 - A donation was made to Oddfellow mural.
 - The Chamber of Commerce Scholarship 2020 winner is Matt Morgan.
- Arts Commission Board is conducting Interviews for an opening on the board.
- Outdoor concerts series at Tina Chorvas Park will start August 7th.

Trustee Martin reported that the Fire Department held its first in-house meeting on June 29th with social distancing in place. All companies are now able to hold their meeting in the engine bays allowing for the space to social distance. The fire houses are still closed.

There was a preconstruction meeting with Garrison's to pick out the specifics for the ladder truck. The color scheme will be red and white.

The Fire Department has responded twice to an automatic alarm at the same location in the Village. Both times it has been a false alarm and the resident has been verbally abusive to the fireman. The abuse is unacceptable. The Fire Department is required to respond to the alarm as if it is a structure fire. If the resident does not want the fire department dispatched, they should remove the automatic alarm from the smoke detector. The residents contact information will be forwarded to the Mayor. There had been a proposal in the past regarding fines for more than 3 false alarms but the proposal had never been implemented.

The 5th of July vehicle parade went off very well. **Mayor Murphy** mentioned that there was a great turnout for the parade. There were small groups of spectators all along the parade route. Thank you to all the people involved for putting the parade together.

Trustee Helmuth had nothing new to report.

Trustee Buono had nothing new to report.

Trustee Hackett reported that Eyal Saad is doing a great job in the Building Dept.

The Waste Water plant's RBC repair has been rescheduled after the contractor had a family emergency.

The harvester has been cleaning out the weeds, waterchestnuts and milfoil in the upper end of the Esopus Creek. The harvester can clean for an hour before having to be emptied. The problem is that the harvester has to come back to shore to empty. It would save time to have a barge or platform along side the harvester to

dump the weeds on and travel back and forth. The barge or platform could be filled and then emptied back at shore while the harvester continues to clean. The water in the creek needs to have more movement to improve the water quality. Aerators near the beach are a suggestion.

Mayor Murphy stated that the use of sump pumps to make a fountain could be used until the aerators are installed.

Trustee Parisian reported that DPW has been repainting crosswalks and additional signage on Elm Street to slow down traffic.

Additional contact information for the CXS railroad will be shared with the Mayor. **Mayor Murphy** stated that he spoke with Dave Corrigan from the NYS DOT, who has also been in contact with CSX, regarding the railroad crossings. The CSX will be addressing the crossings starting at the Malden crossing first and moving south. The Ulster Avenue crossing is very much in need of repairs.

Alex Wade reported for Special Projects. The Comprehensive Plan committee will be changing the picture on the cover of the 2020 revision. They are considering an aerial photo of the Village. There is one more meeting before the final draft.

Alex Wade complimented the Mayor, the Board and Ulster County on how well they have been handling the COVID19 pandemic. He is impressed as to how well everyone is cooperating.

Deputy Mayor Mayer added that the Chamber of Commerce has 200 table tents for local restaurants that say Thank You for Social Distancing. They are free to any restaurant that wants them.

Treasurer Paula Kerbert asked **Trustee Hackett** about the engineering for the Main Street sewer project and when the project will start. **Trustee Hackett** stated that Mike Marino will be meeting with Dennis Larios regarding the engineering. All the cameraing of the lines has been done. The company doing the relining needs to be contacted. The project should start soon.

Paula Kerbert reported that \$1.4 million has been paid on the Village taxes so far. There are a few larger escrow accounts that are still outstanding, approximately \$200,000. Thank you to the office staff for all their help with a very busy tax season.

The proposal for a point of sale credit card program had been emailed to the Trustees to review. The program, eNetPay, will allow cardholders to pay with their cards for a fee based on the amount of the transaction. The program also offers electronic check and EFT payments. There is no cost to the Village. This would save the Village thousands of dollars in service fees. **Trustee Parisian** and **Deputy Mayor Mayer** agreed that it gives the residents an option to use a card or not.

Trustee Hackett made a motion to proceed with a point of sale credit card option eNetPay when paying taxes or water bills. Deputy Mayor Mayer seconded the motion to proceed with a point of sale credit card option eNetPay when paying taxes or water bills. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Murphy thanked all the callers who participated in the meeting. The public input is greatly appreciated.

Mayor Murphy made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting, seconded by Trustee Hackett. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously. The Village Board Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Next Village Board meeting is Monday July 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Webex.

<https://villageofsaugerties.my.webex.com/join/bmurphy>

or call in 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 797 457 420

Lisa Mayone
Village Clerk
Filed 7/10/2020