



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

Budget Public Hearing and Village Board Meeting Minutes April 20, 2020

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

Present: Mayor Murphy, Deputy Mayor Mayer, Trustees Vince Buono, Jeff Helmuth, Terry Parisian, Don Hackett, Brian Martin Others: Alex Wade, Mike Hopf, Eyal Saad, Mike Marino, Chris Wade, Bill Kemble, Elizabeth Reese

Mayor Murphy opened the 2020-2021 Budget Public Hearing at 5:30pm.

Public Hearing comments- no one from the public on the Webex call had any comments regarding the proposed 20-21 Budget.

Mayor Murphy made a formal announcement regarding the plans for the 2020-21 Village taxes. Due to the COVID19 pandemic and the hardship it has caused for many residents and businesses, the village is committed to assisting people pay their taxes. All tax penalties and late fees are waived until December 1st and payment plans will be offered. A letter will go out with the tax bills indicating the options of paying over a period of time.

The Federal Government announced today that the request for relief funds have been proposed to Congress. The Village of Saugerties would be eligible for \$200,000.00 in relief funds. If this proposal is approved, the funds would be applied to help reduce taxes.

There will be a freeze on all non-essential purchases by all departments. Non-essential purchases will wait until next year. The Harvester has already been purchased delivered. The beach will be needed this summer and we are committed to keeping the weeds under control.

Mayor Murphy made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget until the May 4th Village Board meeting to allow for written comments. Terry Parisian seconded the motion to adjourn the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget until the May 4th Village Board meeting to allow for written comments. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Murphy opened the regular session of Village Board meeting at 5:42pm.

Mayor Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor - No one on the Webex call requested to address the Board.

Mayor Murphy presented the Village Board Minutes from April 6, 2020.

Trustee Buono made a motion to approve the Village Board Minutes from April 6, 2020. The motion to approve the minutes from April 6, 2020 was seconded by Trustee Parisian. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for April 20 2020:

- General \$ 29,458.49
- Water \$ 3423.41
- Wastewater \$ 2942.83

Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the Abstract for April 20, 2020. The motion to approve the Abstract of April 20, 2020 was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Reports

Chief Wade gave the report for the Fire Department. See attached report.

Chief Wade stated it has been a challenging month due to the COVID19 pandemic and it is a big learning curve. Many changes are needed to protect the firefighters and first responders. The mister/fogger for cleaning and disinfecting equipment and spaces at the Fire house has been received. There is a shortage of the cleaning solution. Thanks to the Mount Mairon Fire Department for sharing the solution that they had and the Town of Saugerties for the help to mix it. Chief Wade thanked the Mayor and Board for their support.

Mayor Murphy and the Trustees thanked Chief Wade for the Easter Bunny parade through the Village. It was a wonderful gesture and most appreciated by the families and children. Chief Wade stated that they will be having a Birthday parade for a boy in the Village.

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

The GOSR projects have been deemed as essential work by the Governor and state. The work force at the plant has been reduced and is on a 1 week rotating schedule.

The late fees for the 1st quarter water bills were extended until May 1st. Mr. Hopf is requesting that the Board consider extending the late fees until June 1st.

Fishing has been opened up by NYS with social distancing.

Mayor Murphy made a motion to extend the late fees on the 1st quarter water bills until June 1, 2020.

Deputy Mayor Mayer seconded the motion to extend the late fees on the 1st quarter water bills until June 1, 2020. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Alex Wade reported for Special Projects. See attached report.

The Bluestone Sidewalk project is complete and all the paperwork has been submitted. We are waiting for a response from NYS DOT.

Eyal Saad reported for the Building and Safety Department. See attached.

Mike Marino's report for the Wastewater was given by **Trustee Hackett**. The Wastewater Department is also on reduced staff and things are going well. **Trustee Parisian** inquired to the inspection report from NYS and Trustee Hackett stated that everything went well.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Buono had nothing new to report.

Trustee Martin reported that the ladder truck went out for the annual stress test. There was nothing negative reported.

Trustee Parisian reported that DPW has been doing the Spring Cleanup throughout the Village with a reduced crew. The new truck was in the budget and the bid was awarded to Romeo Ford. Due to the crisis and the interest rates being high, the purchase will be held off until the summer.

Trustee Helmuth had nothing new to report.

Deputy Mayor Mayer reported that the Comprehensive Plan monthly meeting has been cancelled, it may possibly be rescheduled for May.

Deputy Mayor Mayer inquired about the NYCOM webinars that have been forwarded to the Trustees. Are they something that the Mayor wants action on? Mayor Murphy requested that Deputy Mayor Mayer look into the informatin regarding short term rentals. The Mayor of Ellenville had recently called about the County's bill regarding short term rentals. The new bill does not include the villages of New Paltz, Ellenville and Saugerties. The Mayor of Ellenville was drafting a their own bill and was asking about the Village of Saugerties' interest in working together .Mayor Murphy requested Deputy Mayor Mayer reach out to the Mayor of Ellenville to discuss.

Mayor Murphy is stated he is mainly following the directives from Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan, the NYS Govenrors Office, and NYCOM.

Deputy Mayor Mayer requested that the Board members consider making a donation to the Ulster County Project Resilience that has been supplying meals to residents.

Mayor Murphy updated that 964 meals have been given out each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Many volunteers are participating to distribute the meals.

This week Bob Sircusano, Michael Pesico and Bella Luna's partnered together and has given fifty -\$50 certificates from local restaurants and buisness to be distributed to famileis that may need them. They plan to continue the gift certificate give aways every two weeks. It helps the local restaurants businesses and the families.

The dinners given out at the Boys and Girls Club along with Diamond Mills is up to 105 family meals. Stony Pony also donated 40 quarts of soup this past Friday. The local restaurants have been very generous in supporting the community.

Mayor Murphy had presented the renewal of the contract with Roemer, Wallens, Gold and Mineaux for labor relations at the previous Board meeting. Mayor Murphy would like to consider renewing the contract for one year and not commit for the remaining two. The proposed increase for years two and three equals \$300 per year.

Trustee Hackett commented that he thought having the firm on retainer is a waste of money since we have no major issues and we don't use them enough to warrant the cost. The Village attorney may be able to handle the union issues. The Village should hire a labor attorney only when needed.

Mayor Murphy recommended that the Village attorney be consulted and possibly renewing the current contract for one year to at least cover the contract negotiations for this year.

Mayor Murphy repeated that the Village of Saugerties is committed to

- waive penalties and late fees on taxes until December 1st, 2020.
- taxpayers will be offered the opportunity to use a payment plan.
- if Federal relief funds are approved and received, they will be distributed to the tax base.

Trustee Hackett commented that the recycling and garbage is at \$25,000 in the budget and he thinks that the Village DPW should take it over. The Village already supplies the dumpsters and brings it to the UCRRA.

Mayor Murphy stated that the Sweeney's Carting only utilizes 2 of 6 dumpsters. The Mayor has requested that Sweeney provide Trustee Buono with a list of their expenses. **Trustee Buono** added that Sweeney only uses \$17,000 of the \$25,000 budgeted. The issue will be discussed after all the information is received and decided before the budget vote on at the May 4th.

Trustee Hackett requested a moment of silence in honor of Robert Gardner a former Trustee and member of the Village Plumbing Board.

Trustee Hackett made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting, seconded by Trustee Helmuth. The motion carried unanimously. The Village Board Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Next Village Board meeting is Monday May 4th, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Webex.

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

Village Clerk
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