

Village Board

July 20, 2009

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

Absent: Trustees Michael Campbell and Jeannine Dirie

Others: George Terpening, Bob Ciarlante, Eyal Saad, Brian Martin, Alex Wade, Tom Macarille, Jim Bruno, William Kimble, Heather Plonchak, Don Hackett, Richard Frisbee, Henry Rua, Ed Quirk, Vinnie McGlaughlin and others

Mayor Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:10pm. Trustee Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Yerick again thanked the SFD and Rob Quirk for the successful July 4th parade. He thanked Emma Lang for her work on the Village float.

Privilege of the Floor

Trustee Suzanne LeBlanc spoke to the Public and the Village Board about her concerns regarding the Hill Street sewer separation project. She feels that Merritt Construction is doing a good job however she also feels that an oversight was made by either the Board or the engineers who designed the project and a disservice is being done to the citizens of Saugerties. She advised the Board that the bluestone curbing is not going to be replaced, instead a curbing made of blacktop will be installed. Mrs. LeBlanc stated that this is not appropriate and will be a safety concern. She feels the sidewalk and curbing should not be made of blacktop but instead the curbing and sidewalk should be bluestone. Mayor Yerick spoke disagreeing with Trustee LeBlanc. He said no disservice was done to the public, that the curbing and sidewalk had been thoroughly discussed and a decision was made to install the blacktop curb and sidewalk to save around \$20,000.00. It was also discussed that this situation could be addressed after the project was completed and the project should not be held up because 2 additional projects are to take place as soon as the sewer separation is finished – the Wall repair and the repaving of 9W.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the July 6, 2009 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstract for July 20, 2009: General - \$28,706.74; Water - \$3,375.64; Wastewater - \$16,889.03; Office Equipment Reserve - \$99.00; Partition Street Project Escrow - \$987.03. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he met recently with Congressman Maurice Hinchey's representative, Dan Ahouse, to discuss securing stimulus dollars for the Village.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that yet another decorative horse has been damaged. The police patrol as best they can however, most of the damage occurs when there are just two officers on duty. Ed Quirk asked if the police believe the damage is being done by “locals” or “out-of-towner’s”. Mayor Yerick responded he believes it is local residents who come out of the local bars after having consumed too much alcohol.

Trustee LeBlanc advised the Board that she would like them to vote of the Time Warner contract at the August 3, 2009 Board meeting. She also told the Board that TV23 has received used equipment from NBC and that TV23 hopes to have a new camera to film Board meetings.

Eyal Saad advised the Board that 42 Building Permits have been issued since January. He also asked residents to bring in their garbage cans from the curb after being emptied by the private haulers.

Victor Cornelius, the Village Grants Writer, then briefed the Board with the status of the several grant/loan applications in progress. The Village has an application with the NYS EFC for the ongoing water project. The project is currently being funded by the USDA at a rate of 2.75% interest. The EFC could provide funds at 0% interest or at a lower interest rate. Mr. Cornelius has applied for \$600,000.00 from Small Cities and has requested \$1000000.00 from the Federal Government for sewer system upgrades. The ferry between Tivoli and Saugerties is also on the list and he is working with the SFD on their wish list. Trustee Myers inquired about Waterfront Revitalization Grants – Victor replied the deadline for filing is September 14. Victor went on to say that NYS tax dollars are no longer supporting grant applications – the money is coming from the Federal Government. Trustee Myers said she would like to see some money for street trees and sidewalk repair. Victor replied he was “on top of it”.

Alex Wade reported that the sewer separation project was on schedule, however a watermain needs to be replaced at an additional cost of \$50,000.00. The “wall” repair will start on July 21st. The repaving of 9W will begin on August 8th.

Mayor Yerick reported that the CSX crossing at Ulster Avenue would be closed for repair beginning July 26 for at least 3 days.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Street patching is ongoing in several areas of the Village. Repaving on Lafayette, Washington and Montgomery Street will begin shortly.

Trustee Kelly Myers read a thank-you letter to the DPW from Dr. Stephen Shafer. She also advised the Board that she recently attended a conference in NYC on trees, sidewalk repair, planing of trees near power lines, funding sources and more. The Central Hudson tree trimming operation for the upgrade of Village power lines is ongoing. Trustee Myers is coordinating a pilot program with Central Hudson and the Village for tree planting and maintenance. She is also investigating the formation of a not-for-profit to raise funds for a private tree trust.

Trustee Myers presented a newly designed boat launch permit for Board consideration. Boaters will be given a sticker to show that they have obtained the permit. Richard Frisbee commented that boats should be kept clean. Trustee Myers has spoken with UC Sheriff VanBlarcum and his deputies are patrolling the upper creek. Tom Macarille inquired why Town residents are being charged \$20.00 for a boat launch permit. Trustee LeBlanc replied that Town residents are not charged to use the Village Beach. Trustee Moore spoke saying he felt that Town residents should not be charged for a boat launch permit – most of the Board agreed.

Trustee Myers also presented a draft proposal of changes to Local Law #66 – Maintenance of Animals. She reminded the Board that Mr. Ken White asked the Board to investigate the feral cat problem in the Village at the July 6th meeting. Trustee Myers asked the Trustees to review the proposal and get back to her with comments. The draft has also been sent to attorney Alex Betke for review. Don Hackett commented that he thought NYS had laws to deal with feral cats.

George Terpening presented the Building and Grounds report (copy attached). The crews are busy maintaining the Parks with the help of five teens from Ulster County Youth Work Program. Three saves so far this season for the lifeguards at the beach.

Trustee Murphy presented the Water Department and the Wastewater Department reports (copies attached).

Chief William Kimble presented the Police Department report (copy attached). There were 83 “911” calls in June and 3 DWI arrests and 43 other arrests so far in July. He reported that the PD is taking a proactive approach to the vandalism of the Hors’n Around display. They have a strong lead in the latest incident. Mayor Yerick complimented the PD on their work and asked the public for help in preventing the vandalism.

Brian Martin presented the SFD report (copy attached).

Trustee Richard Moore presented a list of tax adjustments (copy attached) for 2009. These adjustments are given to the Treasurer by the Assessor and include adjustments for veteran and aged exemptions among others. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the 2009 Tax Adjustments.

Mayor Yerick spoke about the Police Department merger saying he is neither for or against the merger. He went on to say he would not be pushed and rushed into a decision. There was much discussion. Don Hackett spoke saying the public has not seen any figures or given any information. Trustee LeBlanc explained that there would be two public hearings where information will be given to the public and the public will have an opportunity to ask questions. There was more discussion.

Tom Macarille asked if the Village and the Town had a written agreement for water for the Kings Highway corridor. Trustee Murphy answered yes.

Henry Rua spoke saying he had questions on the Police Department merger and was glad to hear that the public would be given an opportunity to ask questions.

Trustee Murphy spoke on behalf of the residents of the Village and the Board, congratulating Police Chief William Kimble on 40 years of service to the Village of Saugerties. The Mayor echoed his congratulations and the Chief received a warm round of applause.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk