

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Kelly Myers, Michael Campbell, Suzanne LeBlanc, Mary Leahy and Michael Karashay

Absent: Trustee William Murphy

Others: Will Dendis-New Saugerties Times, Brian Martin, Mike Marino, William Kimble, Eyal Saad, Alex Wade, Susan Bolitzer, Adam Myers, Bob Ciarlante, Joe Bisignano, George Terpening

Mayor Robert Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:00pm. The Mayor asked the Board to observe a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting at Virginia Tech. Trustee Leahy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Mayor listed the Trustee responsibilities – see attached list.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the Assessor and the County have explained the \$5 million discrepancy in the total assessed value of the Village. \$2,817,000.00 was a computer error at the County level that has been corrected and restored to the Village assessment. The Village lost \$700,000.00 in assessed value because NYS lowered the value of franchise properties in the Village. \$1.2 million assessed value was lost due to a contractual agreement with the Mill Apartments. \$300,000.00 in assessed value was lost due to the lowering of property values due to taxpayer grievances.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the April 4, 2007 Public Hearing on the budget. He made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing. Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying she felt the Board needed to recognize that Village taxpayers are overburdened and there is duplication of services between the Village and the Town. She proposed removing any and all cost associated with the Village Beach and closing it. She said the Town only contributes \$5,000.00 to the operation of the beach. Village residents pay Town taxes that go toward the operation of Town Parks. Mayor Yerick responded that he would not apologize for the Village Budget. He stated that Village taxes have only increased 1.4% over the last eight years. If you compare the rate increase with the inflation rate, Village taxes have actually decreased. The Mayor said residents are given every opportunity to question the Board on the budget for 1 month before its passage. There were no residents at last week's public hearing on the budget. He stated that taking the \$24,000.00 dedicated to the beach out of the budget was wrong. Trustee LeBlanc said she realized that the Village couldn't control Town or County taxes, but felt the Village should do something to lower Village taxes. Trustee Karashay then spoke saying he wanted to make a point of order. He said the Mayor had put a motion on the floor to pass the minutes of the public hearing of April 4th. This was not the time to discuss the budget and could the Board please move on with the approval of the minutes.

Mayor Yerick restated his motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of April 4th. The motion was seconded by Trustee Leahy and carried. Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the regular Board meeting of April 2nd. Motion was made by Trustee

Karashay, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to approve the minutes of the April 4th regular session. Carried.

Mayor Yerick presented the Abstracts for April 16, 2007: General-\$34,274.37; Water-\$8,938.39; Wastewater-\$11,930.21. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, and carried unanimously.

Susan Bolitzer, of the Esopus Creek Conservancy, asked for Board support for Resolution #11/2007. This resolution supports the designation of trails at the Esopus Bend Nature Preserve as part of the Hudson River Greenway Trail System. She told the Board she is happy to be working with the Village. There are many projects unfolding at the Preserve – local classrooms are visiting and volunteers are making the trails easier to walk. Mayor Yerick presented Resolution #11/2007 for approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Myers and carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to approve Michael Greer for membership into the RA Snyder Hose Company. The motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to approve the election of the Chief's of the Saugerties Fire Department held on April 5th. The Chief's are: 2nd Assistant Chief Anthony Bell; 1st Assistant Chief Joseph Schafer, Jr.; and Chief Brian Martin. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Trustee Myers thanked all the Chiefs for the job they do for the community. Trustee Karashay invited the Board to attend Chief's Night at 7:00pm on April 27th. Trustee Karashay announced that the Fire Department has received a grant from Senator John Bonacic in the amount of \$10,000.00 for a thermal imaging camera for the Department. The Department thanks Senator Bonacic for his generosity and asks that the Mayor forward a letter of thanks to him. Fire Chief Brian Martin spoke saying because of the spring storm presently occurring, he has been on duty since 1:00am pumping basements and monitoring Lighthouse Drive and Ferry Street. He said the Fire Department would be on duty all night for the protection of Village residents. Mayor Yerick advised the Board the Fire Department, along with the Police Department, had gone from house to house alerting residents on Lighthouse Drive. The Board agreed that the Departments are doing a great job and thanked them for their efforts.

Eyal Saad presented the Building Inspector's report – copy attached. He reminded residents to obtain building permits before starting spring building projects.

George Terpening presented his report – copy attached. Kitchen renovations are almost complete and spring clean up of the Parks is underway.

Trustee Campbell presented his report – copy attached. The Library is sponsoring a video contest. He is looking for volunteers for a committee to take action on the SAMA recommendations. Trustee Myers advised the Board that she is looking into getting enforcement of boaters who are speeding in the Esopus.

Alex Wade presented his report – copy attached. His report mentioned construction of two new apartment building on Partition Street. Trustee Myers asked if there is adequate parking and Alex assured her there was. Trustee LeBlanc asked about the DOT contract. Mr. Wade explained that there are two DOT projects happening. The DOT contract that the Village is awaiting is the contract using the funds from Congressman Hinchey for the continuing streetscape project that will include additional streetlights and crosswalks. The DOT is also scheduled to repave 9W through the Village in 2007. Trustee LeBlanc asked about garbage cans left on the street. Mr. Wade said that Eyal had found the portion of the law that prohibits cans on the street and he will enforce the ordinance.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report – copy attached. This winter season the Village used less sand, salt and overtime hours than in 2005/2006. The DPW is working on drainage on Lighthouse Drive. Spring clean up was postponed to the week of 4/23 due to inclement weather. Trustee Myers advised the Board that she is looking into the issue of off street parking for the winter months. The Town has decided not to modify their current law. She is studying ordinances of other villages and is considering modifying the law to differentiate the residential and business districts. She is working with the Village Police Department on this matter. Trustee Myers also advised the Board that she and Superintendent Ciarlante are investigating the cost of a grinder. A grinder would eliminate the need to burn the brush pile created by the Village spring clean up of yard debris. The Village has received complaints from nearby residents when the pile is burned. The cost of a new or even a used grinder is cost prohibitive – from \$200,000.00 to \$500,000.00. Trustee Myers has looked into renting a grinder and an operator for a day. That cost is about \$7000.00. She and Mr. Ciarlante are weighing the cost of the rental versus no cost for a controlled burn. Trustee Campbell suggested the Village contact the grant writer for suggestions. Mr. Ciarlante said some burns are successful and create little smoke but sometimes a burn will cause huge amounts of smoke. They are looking into using a grinder collectively with other towns however most towns and villages do not accept yard waste. Trustee Campbell will put out inquiries on the “digital towpath” website.

Joe Bisignano presented his Water Department report – copy attached. He also gave the Board an update on the storm. The Water Plant received 5” of rain in the last 24 hours causing the reservoir water to look like chocolate. They are presently using just one filter unit with good success. The water tank was used for a short while. Crews will be on duty at the water plant all night. Engineers were at the reservoir today to check the turbidity in the wells. Good news – the water was clear. Mayor Yerick read a letter from Mark and Carol Baker of Main Street complimenting the Water Department for the fine work during the water main breaks in February.

Mike Marino presented the Wastewater Department report – copy attached. He reported that his crew was also on duty all night because water was entering the basement at the sewer plant. Crews were there to be sure the pumps were working so equipment would not be damaged by flooding. Mr. Marino advised that the plant “flows are holding their own”.

Police Chief Kimble presented the Police Department report – copy attached. The PD is also monitoring the flooding in the Village. Mayor Yerick complimented Chief Kimble for presenting an excellent written report.

Mayor Yerick presented the Village Budget for 2007/2008 and motioned for its approval. Trustee LeBlanc spoke making a motion to remove the funding for the beach from the budget. Trustee Leahy responded saying that the beach is frequented all summer. She is not in favor of closing the beach. She is in favor of working with the Town for additional funds. She does not feel that the Village is overburdening the taxpayer. Trustee Leahy said not one person came to the budget public hearing to question or complain about the budget. Mayor Yerick agreed with Trustee Leahy saying closing the beach was not the right approach and would favor asking the Town for additional funds to help with beach operation. Trustee LeBlanc countered by saying the Village has only ¼ of the Town population. She went on to say that Village residents pay the Town taxes for Town recreational facilities. She wants to make a statement to residents that the Village Board wants to lower taxes. Trustee Leahy disagreed again saying we should ask the Town for additional funding; not close the beach. Trustee Myers spoke saying she would like to see the beach facilities enhanced – not closed. Trustee Campbell agreed that the Village should ask the Town for additional funding but could not support closing the beach. Mayor Yerick called for a second to Trustee LeBlanc's motion. There was no second. Mayor Yerick called for a second to his motion to approve the 2007/2008 budget. Trustee Myers seconded the Mayor's motion. The budget carried with Trustee LeBlanc abstaining.

Mayor Yerick presented the renewal contract for Victor Cornelius of Endeavor Inc. There are no changes to the current contract. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Leahy, to approve the renewal of the Endeavor Inc. contract. Carried.

Trustee Myers introduced her son Adam Myers to the Board. Adam was observing the Board meeting to complete requirements for his Life Scout project. He is a member of Scout Troop 131.

Motion was made by Trustee Leahy, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk