

Village Board

April 7, 2008

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

Absent: Trustee Michael Karashay

Others: Heather Plonchak – New Saugerties Times, Alex Wade and others

Mayor Robert Yerick called the regular meeting of the Village board to order at 7:30pm.

The Mayor announced the Trustee assignments for 2008/2009. Trustee Karashay – Fire Department; Trustee Murphy – Water & Wastewater; Trustee Moore – Finance; Trustee Myers – DPW and Building & Grounds; Trustee LeBlanc – Economic Development & Building Department & Planning and Zoning; Trustee Campbell – Communication & Public Relations; Mayor Yerick - Police. He also announced the appointment of Majorie Block as Village Historian and introduced her to the Board.

Trustee Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Yerick presented the Minutes of the March 17, 2008 Public Hearing. Motion was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing. Carried. Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the March 17, 2008 regular meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve the minutes of the regular session. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc presented the Abstract for March 17: General - \$49,893.66; Water - \$85,730.31; Wastewater - \$15,706.15; Office Equipment Reserve - \$1489.71. Trustee LeBlanc explained that the Water Department Abstract includes a payment to C2G for the oil spill cleanup. That payment should be recovered through litigation. She thanked Treasurer Julie Dunn for all her assistance over the past year. It was a rough year for the budget. Trustee LeBlanc advised that the Police Department is 40% of the General Budget – she feels this is unacceptable – the average portion of police department budgets in other communities is about 25%. She feels our discretionary spending line is beneficial to Village residents but hopes to find new ways of funding – perhaps sharing costs with the Town. The Capital Fund balances need to be replenished, especially for the Water Department. There are roof repairs and Donlon Auditorium repairs that must be made. Trustee LeBlanc suggested that the Board presents a realistic view of the Village's financial status by making a "State of the Village" statement to include where we are and where we are going. She feels it is very important that the Village and Town share services; the Courts for example. She suggested quarterly meetings with Department Heads and Trustees to review budget lines. She would like to see the budget process begin earlier. She offered any help she can give to Trustee Moore. Mayor Yerick thanked Trustee LeBlanc for her work as Financial Officer for the past year – she has done an excellent job – she offered great suggestions. He also mentioned that he felt the Board has done good work by not raising taxes over the past several years. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstracts. Carried.

Trustee Myers reported that the street sweeper is on the job. The DPW is performing hot patching on the streets. Spring clean up is scheduled for the week of April 21st. Trustee Myers reports that the DPW “holding area” on North Street is being abused by residents. People are leaving furniture and appliances on the site – this is not permitted. The area will now be gated at all times. Village residents must contact the DPW if they wish to deposit yard waste at the site. She also reminded the Board that rental of a grinder to remove the huge pile of yard debris would cost around \$10,000.00. The Board previously decided that amount was too expensive and that the DPW would continue to burn the pile. Burning has begun and will be monitored around the clock by DPW personnel. All DEC permit have been obtained. The CWA contract has been accepted by both sides and Trustee Myers will present it to the Board at the April 21st Board meeting.

Trustee Murphy reported that the Water Department has begun installation of the Mlog System – the leak detection units. The Wastewater Department has increased the rates to septic haulers.

Mayor Yerick had nothing to report on behalf of the Police Department.

Mayor Yerick reported on behalf of Trustee Karashay, that the SFD held elections recently. Brian Mason was elected 2nd Chief, Anthony Bell – 1st Chief and Joseph Schaffer, Jr, was elected Chief of the SFD by its membership. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to accept the SFD election results. Congratulation to the Chiefs. Mayor Yerick also reminded the Board that Chief’s Night is April 15th at 7:30pm. All are urged to attend to honor outgoing Chief Brian Martin.

Alex Wade reported that yet another new Supreme Court date has been set on the Lautman case – May 12, 2008. He also reported that NYS DOT hopes the “Wall” would be repaired in the spring of 2009.

Trustee Campbell had no report.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he met with UC Treasurer Lew Kirschner and UC Legislature Chair David Donaldson regarding 9 Partition Street. Ulster County is auctioning the property – the Village is working with the County and the DEC to acquire the property for a small park and bus shelter.

Mayor Yerick set a Public Hearing for April 21, 2008 at 6:45pm to accept comments on Local Law # 4/2008 – no parking on Burt Street.

Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Village board adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Frank, Village Clerk

