

Village Board

February 21, 2012

Present: Mayor William Murphy, Trustees Don Hackett, Vince Buono, Patrick Landewe, Terry Parisian and Jeannine Mayer

Absent: Trustee Brian Martin

Others: Deputy Police Chief Joe Sinagra, Lt. Steve Filak, Bob Ciarlante, Eyal Saad, George Terpening, Mike Hopf, Alex Wade, Dave Mason, Robert Ford – New Sau Times, M/M R. Gardner and others

Mayor Murphy called the Village Board to order at 7:00pm. Trustee Mayer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

There was no one present from the public who wished to address the Board.

Deputy Chief Joe Sinagra and Lt. Steve Filak from the Saugerties Police Department addressed the Board. Deputy Chief Sinagra thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He gave the Trustees his background in law enforcement – he is currently pursuing his master’s degree from Marist College and graduated from the FBI Academy in 2008. He advised the Board that he wants the Board and the Police Department to put forth a collaborative effort to better serve the public. His future plans for the Department include a plain clothes detail in the Village during summer months. The PD is also working on its website to be able to hear directly from residents. Deputy Chief Sinagra asked the Board if the Trustees felt the Police Department was fulfilling its obligation to the Village. Mayor Murphy replied that while there have been some growing pains, overall everything has gone well. He thinks the plain clothes foot patrol and the website ideas are great. Trustee Hackett is concerned that the Village is not receiving the two officers 24/7 in the Village as originally promised. Deputy Chief Sinagra replied that there are 2 cars in the Village whenever possible. Currently the Police Department is short 2 slots – they are actively trying to fill these positions. He stressed that the Police always provide service to the Village. Trustee Hackett responded that he would like to see the coverage originally agreed to. Lt. Filak spoke saying that coverage is being provided to the Village however there may be a perception issue – the combined Police Department has white cars – not the more visible black and white patrol vehicles. While there is a foot patrol in the Village, the Police are no longer performing crossing guard duties or parking meter enforcement. Deputy Chief Sinagra added that the Chief, Deputy Chief, Lt., and detectives are usually at the station and can also respond to any calls in the Village. He advised the Board that DWI arrests for the Department are at a record high with most arrests occurring within the Village. The Deputy Chief pledged to attend the Village Board meeting every month and promises to return any phone calls made to him by days end. Trustee Buono said he is pleased with the Police presence and appreciates the dialogue. Trustee Mayer is also happy with the Police performance and is happy the Village has hired crossing guards and meter “maids” – this frees the Police for other issues. Mayor Murphy asked that the Police provide him with a copy of the

Department's work rotation. Trustee Buono suggested that the Deputy Chief provide a monthly written report when attending the Village Board meetings. Deputy Chief Sinagra said he wants to begin a youth prevention program – there will be a day in April where the public will be able to “turn in” old prescription drugs. Mayor Murphy inquired about the synthetic, legal drugs sold at gas stations and convenience stores. Both officers agreed that this is a problem that needs attention – Deputy Chief Sinagra said these drugs can cause heart attacks in kids. Mayor Murphy said he will speak with Town Supervisor Kelly Myers to see if the Town and Village can combine forces to combat this problem. The Police will attend the Saugerties Area Chamber of Commerce meetings to begin a dialogue on many issues including this one. The Trustees thanked Lt. Filak and Deputy Chief Sinagra for coming.

Mayor Murphy presented the minutes of the February 6 and February 10, 2012. Motion was made by Trustee Hackett, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve the minutes. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for 2/21/12: General - \$24,887.05; Water - \$49,429.92; Wastewater - \$10,849.63. Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to approve the Abstract. Carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Dave Mason presented the SFD report (copy attached). The Department had two house fires – a detached garage that was fully involved upon the SFD's arrival and a gas grill burning on a wooden deck. There was a discussion of Knox Box installation – Trustee Parisian suggested that the installation of Knox Boxes be made part of the Building Code and put on the Building Permit application. Mayor Murphy suggested sending a letter to all business and apartment building owners. More discussion followed with another suggestion that the Fire Chief attend a Saugerties Chamber of Commerce meeting to inform business owners about the Knox Boxes.

Trustee Hackett presented the application of Neil Potter for membership into the Washington Hook & Ladder Company. Motion was made by Trustee Hackett, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve Mr. Potter for membership. Carried unanimously.

Mike Hopf presented the Water Department report (copy attached). The water treatment plant processed 23,378,000 gallons of water for the month of January 2012. The Town of Saugerties Highway Dept. installed a culvert on Brink Road to stop water from flooding reservoir property. They also borrowed a stump grinder from Ulster County to remove stumps from downed trees on reservoir property. Mr. Hopf thanked Highway Superintendent Doug Myer for all his help. Mayor Murphy suggested the DPW contact the County to borrow the stump grinder to grind the stumps in the Village from recently removed diseased trees. Mr. Hopf presented the bid tabulation for the recently held bid opening for chemicals for the Water and Wastewater Departments. He explained the tabulation and made his recommendations for purchase. Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Mayer, to accept the bid tabulation recommended by Mr. Hopf. Carried unanimously.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). The crew is working on equipment maintenance with snow events scarce this year. Two members of the DPW crew are helping with the on-going Court renovations. Mayor Murphy informed the Board that the Court received a grant that will cover the cost of the renovations and the purchase of a metal detector.

George Terpening presented the Buildings and Grounds report (copy attached). With the mild winter, the crew is getting a head start on spring clean up at the parks. His men are also assisting with the court renovations.

Eyal Saad advised the Board that he has received several yard maintenance complaints recently. Hudson River Technologies was on site at Village Hall to upgrade the IT system and improve IT security. Mr. Saad said they did a great job. A derelict property on Partition Street has been purchased and the new owners have begun to improve the structure.

Trustee Landewe reported that releases into the Esopus are being reduced by the DEP as of today's date.

Alex Wade presented his Special Assignment report (copy attached). He addressed the Planning and Zoning Board's plan to survey Village properties to assess single family and multifamily homes in the Village. He feels the problem with many of the multifamily homes in the Village is due to absentee landlords. He suggested that the regulations be toughened to deal with absentee landlords.

Trustee Hackett presented the Wastewater Department report (copy attached). Still working on DEC inspection recommendations at the plant. Mike Marino is investigating changing the cell phone provider – service is spotty for several locations.

Trustee Buono advised the Board that he attended a Transportation Council meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting he spoke with Rich Peters of the NYS DOT to ask about getting the bridge over the Esopus in Saugerties painted. Mr. Peters said he would check the maintenance schedule for the bridge. Budgets from all departments are in. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, Trustee Buono attended an Economic Development and Tourism meeting.

Trustee Buono advised the Board that Attorney Alex Betke has recommended that because the Procurement Policy is already a part of Village Code; the newly passed policy must be passed as a law. Trustee Buono will author an attachment for the IT Policy for all employees' signatures stating that they have read the policy. Trustee Buono asked to table the Education Policy.

Trustee Buono advised the Board that Barbara Buono has offered \$1500.00 for the Village owned property on Livingston Street. Trustee Hackett said he did not feel that amount was a reasonable offer. He remembers the Board discussing the hiring of a realtor to market the property. He wants a higher offer. Mayor Murphy and Trustee Parisian said perhaps the property should be appraised by a professional. Alex Wade

suggested asking the Town Assessor for a value. The offer was tabled by the Board as too low.

Trustee Mayer reported that she attended the 1/31/12 Saugerties Area Chamber of Commerce meeting at Café Tango. There are six openings on the Chamber Board. The Chamber is also seeking nominations for Business Person of the Year. The 2012 Discover Saugerties brochure is under the direction of Mark Smith. TV23 will be conducting classes in April for certification to utilize the equipment at the studio. She also updated the Board on all the upcoming events in Saugerties.

Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to adjourn. Carried unanimously. The Village Board adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank  
Village Clerk

Filed 2/28/12