

Village Board

February 16, 2010

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

Absent: Trustee Mike Campbell

Others: Joe Bisignano, Bob Ciarlante, George Terpening, Eyal Saad, Alex Wade, Chief Kimble, Chief Schaffer, Vincent Buono, Ken White, Patrice Landewe and others

Mayor Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:05pm. Trustee Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mayor Yerick began by thanking and complimenting all the department superintendents for all the hard work done by their departments. Mayor Yerick said there has been much improvement over the last 13 years – 14 years ago the Village operated by “crisis management”. The department supervisors all provided the Mayor with hands on knowledge of the Village. Working together, the Board and superintendents formed 2, 5 and 10-year plans. He credited the superintendents with saving the Village “buckets of money”. Mayor Yerick extended his hearty and sincere thanks to all superintendents and their crews. Mayor Yerick also defended his years as Mayor. He believes that his critics should offer positive solutions to Village problems instead of “bad-mouthing” all that has been accomplished.

Trustee Kelly Myers spoke thanking Mayor Yerick for being a wonderful mentor and friend. She continued saying Mayor Yerick was one of the most honest and smart people she has known.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the February 1, 2010 Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstract for 2010: General - \$36,7119.08; Water - \$6,844.95; Wastewater - \$26,109.02; Country Meadows Escrow - \$345.00. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Trustee Dirie reported that she and Trustee LeBlanc are working with attorney Alex Betke on “trash issues” and will report back to the Board. The Board should all have a copy of the January 2010 Historic Review Board minutes. Superintendent Terpening presented his Building and Grounds report (copy attached). He thanked Mayor Yerick, and Trustees Moore and Campbell for all their work over the past years.

Joe Bisignano presented the Water Department report (copy attached). Joe reported recent severe flooding at the treatment plant with water running over the road for over 8 hours. The plant was shut down from 10:40am until 6:00am the next day. There was no disruption to residents thanks to the 3 million-gallon water tank. The newly installed valve at the filter plant worked well and helped tremendously. The budget process has

begun for the next fiscal year. Trustee Murphy spoke saying when he was growing up in the Village residents frequently had “boil water notices”. Today that is a very rare occurrence. He referred to a blog recently appearing in the Daily Freeman saying the Village Water System was “one of the worst in the nation”. Both Mr. Murphy and Mr. Bisignano took exception to that statement saying the Village has a 1st rate water system. Mayor Yerick went on to say that the Village is pursuing a secondary source for water to allow for greater expansion. He complimented Trustee Murphy, Superintendent Bisignano and the Water Department crew for all the improvements made in the department over the last 14 years.

Chief Kimble presented the Police Department report (copy attached). He advised the Board that Officer Terry Mayone is retiring effective March 18, 2010. Officer Mayone has served the Village since July 16, 1984. The Chief thanked Terry for his service and a round of applause was heard. Mayor Yerick advised the Board that 2 general budgets were being prepared: one if the Police Department abolishment is approved; the second if it is not. Trustee Murphy added his personal thanks to Officer Mayone for his 26 years on duty with the Village.

Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying that she would like to comment of the rumored 25% tax increase if the Police Department is not abolished. She said that if cuts are not made Village taxes could possibly increase 20% to 25% however, she cannot envision this Board allowing for such an increase. Cuts would be made in all departments to avoid such an increase.

Chief Schaffer presented the SFD report (copy attached). Chief Schaffer said last year he cut his budget to the bone and cannot do so this year. The firemen all need physicals and new equipment. He hoped everyone recognized all the community service the SFD does for the Village in addition to fighting fires. He thanked Mayor Yerick for his support throughout his years as Mayor.

Trustee LeBlanc advised the Board that she would be presenting the contract with Time Warner for Board approval shortly. She reported that a Planning Board Public Hearing was held on February 10th regarding the Country Meadows Senior Housing project. The Planning Board has adopted a “Negative Declaration” in the SEQRA process for the Partition Street Project. A second Public Hearing for the Partition Street Project has been set for 7:00pm March 18th at the Senior Center.

Eyal Saad advised the Board that the annual fire inspection of public assembly buildings has begun. He has submitted his annual report to NYS.

Alex Wade reported that things are progressing nicely on the 2nd phase of the Streetscape Project.

Trustee Myers asked for volunteers to serve on the newly formed Shade Tree Commission. She has spoken with a commercial trucking company asking that they do not use Village streets for driver training. She advised the Board that she has spoken

with Gary Newkirk, the Town financial advisor, regarding the 19% Town tax increase to Village residents. Mr. Newkirk explained that some of the increase was due to Department of Social Service charge-backs to the Town, who passed these charges back to the Village. Trustee Myers is concerned that the Country Meadows Senior Housing project could increase these charge-backs. She feels that more discussion and information is needed before the Village Board approves a PILOT Program for County Meadows. Trustee LeBlanc agreed saying the Village already has two senior housing complexes. She is concerned that a 30-year PILOT Program is too long and the reduced amount of taxes is not fair to Village residents.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Trustee LeBlanc advised Mr. Ciarlante that there is an increase in jake-braking now that Route 9W has been repaved. There was some discussion about jake-breaking signage saying that Trustee Campbell would be asked to follow-up on the signage issue. Mr. Ciarlante wished Mayor Yerick well in his retirement as Mayor.

Trustee Murphy spoke regarding the Country Meadows project. He said the charge-backs by the DSS were a concern and the terms were incorrect in the PILOT agreement he has in hand. However, he feels that this is a dormant property located in an industrial zone. He sees no hope of an industry building on the property – industry, if it comes to Saugerties will locate on Kings Highway or Winston Farm. This is a 55-unit project, the Village will sell water and wastewater to its residents and tenants will shop in the Village. Currently \$1600.00 per year Village tax is collected on the property. The PILOT Program will increase that number to \$17,000.00 per year for the next 20 years with increases every 5 years until the 30-year expiration of the PILOT. He agreed that this must be a good economic decision for the Village, but not based on the fact that there are already two senior housing complexes located in the Village.

Trustee Murphy thanked Eyal Saad and Bob Ciarlante for their work in improving the sidewalk situation by the Library during construction.

Mayor Yerick presented Resolution #6/2010. This resolution awards the contract for water main installation and slope stabilization to Merritt Construction, the low bidder for the project. This is the third phase of water line improvements throughout the Village funded by a low interest loan from the USDA. The resolution was seconded by Trustee Moore, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick spoke once again, thanking the current Village Board and the previous Village Boards for all their work and accomplishments over the last 14 years. He was given a standing ovation.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Frank – Village Clerk

