

Village Board

October 19, 2009

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Richard Moore, Jeannine Dirie, William Murphy, Kelly Myers, Michael Campbell and Suzanne LeBlanc
Others: Heather Plonchak-New Sau Times, Alex Wade, Bob Ciarlante, Eyal Saad, Chief William Kimble, Anthony Bell, Joseph Bisignano, George Terpening, Vincent McGlaughlin, Ed Quirk, students and others

Mayor Robert Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:00pm. Trustee Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Yerick thanked Trustee Myers for her work on the Irma Sagazie Kayak Safari. A wonderful time was had by all, especially Irma! The Mayor thanked the SFD for the presentations to local schools concerning Fire Prevention – the kids were made aware of what to do in a fire emergency and had a great time learning about fire safety. The Mayor thanked Trustee Campbell and the Chamber of Commerce for the recent Flea Market – almost 50 vendors participated. The Kiersted House recently hosted History Day and on Sunday October 18th, the Historical Society will honor M/M Robbie Robertson for their donations to the Society.

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

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the October 5th Public Hearing and regular Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Richard Moore presented the Abstract for October 19, 2009. General - \$35,682.48; Water - \$2,700.75; Wastewater - \$7,495.35; Stormwater Fund - \$1,035.00. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Mayor Yerick reminded the Board of the memo he sent to all Trustees and Department Superintendents regarding the financial crunch the Village is facing. He plans several meetings with Treasurer Julie Dunn and Trustee Moore using input he hopes to receive from Trustees and Superintendents to cut costs. Everything will be on the table from manpower to services. Mayor Yerick said this problem was caused by NYS mandates, and loss of revenue from many different places. He mentioned that every community in the State is having similar problems.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Mr. Ciarlante reported that the DPW would be contacting the NYS DEC shortly to reapply for a permit to work in an area of the Esopus by Lynch Marina. He requested that residents hold off putting leaves curbside until the 1st week of November. Trustee Campbell mentioned that bike rack locations are noted on the Village website.

Trustee Myers advised the Board that Central Hudson has completed the electrical upgrade in the Village. New poles were installed however the old poles have not been removed. Trustee Myers has spoken with Verizon and Time Warner and asked them to move their lines to the new poles as soon as possible so the old poles can be removed. They have agreed. Trustee Myers also mentioned the double pole situation that exists in the Town at the gateways to the Village. She has asked for cooperation from all the utility companies to correct the eyesore.

Trustee Myers then introduced Local Law #3/2009 – the Shade Tree Law for discussion. She has incorporated some of the recommendations made at the Public Hearing, some to do with the allowable stump height after a tree is removed. Trustee Campbell mentioned “sidewalk heaving” from tree roots. Trustee Myers explained how to solve this problem. Bob Ciarlante offered that it will cost about \$250.00 to grind a tree stump and said the Village removes about 6 to 8 decaying or unsafe trees per year. More discussion followed. Mayor Yerick said that he has heard nothing to make him vote unfavorably. Trustee Campbell said this law will save trees and the Board has “bigger fish to fry”. Local Law #3/2009 was presented by Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Moore, and carried unanimously.

Trustee Campbell also thanked the SFD for the Fire Prevention effort. The kindergarten classes at Cahill School truly enjoyed the event. Thanks go all the volunteers including Chief Joe Shafer, Ed Quirk and Sean VanLeuvan.

Assistant Chief Anthony Bell presented the SFD report (copy attached). He also advised the Board that community service workers have painted more than 70 of the fire hydrants in the Village. He also reminded the Board of the annual Halloween Parade on Friday October 30 at 5:30pm.

Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to approve Andrew Charles Russell as a member of the Washington Hook and Ladder Company. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Campbell advised the Board that there is a new website “Ulstercountyalive.com” that advertises businesses – unfortunately there is not too much on Saugerties. Trustee Campbell will contact the site to suggest adding additional Saugerties businesses. Mr. Campbell mentioned that since the Village was named “Top Ten Coolest Villages” the visits to the Village website have jumped to 400 per day. DIG owner, Van Bolle, suggested a sign be placed on the Thruway announcing our “Cool” status. The Board was unanimous in its support of this idea and Trustee Campbell will contact the Thruway Authority.

Eyal Saad advised the Board that he is working with the DPW to map out the catch basins in the Village. This work will be required by MS4 in 2010. Some discussion followed with Mayor Yerick urging a planned project for MS4. Building permit activity in the Village remains strong.

Trustee LeBlanc advised the Village Board that the Planning Board would hold its November meeting on Monday November 9th at 7:00pm. A public Hearing is scheduled for the McGregor/Cantine Island sub-division application. At the October 14th meeting of the Planning Board, the Board voted to be the Lead Agency on the Country Meadows project – a 60 unit senior project for North Street. Trustee LeBlanc said the developers would be asking NYS for a pilot program offering tax incentives. The Partition Street Project developers were also on the Oct. 14th agenda. They presented additional reports and the Planning Board completed the long form EAF. Trustee LeBlanc advised the Village Board that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on October 27th at 7:00pm to receive comments on the challenge to the issuance of a building permit to John Dorans of Oakledge Park. She also spoke saying the ZBA has asked the Village Board to hire a consultant to review the Village zoning code and map. Trustee LeBlanc asked attorney Alex Betke if a review was something that could be done in-house. Mr. Betke emphatically advised against that idea saying a professional consultant was the way to proceed. The cost of a consultant could be as much as \$50,000.00. Trustee LeBlanc said that Lighthouse TV23, the Supervisor and the Mayor have sent a letter to the President of Time Warner Cable expressing frustration over lack of response concerning several issues.

George Terpening presented the Buildings and Grounds report (copy attached).

Trustee Jeannine Dirie said she feels that all the events held in Saugerties is what makes us “cool”. She is communicating with the Lions Club regarding an agreement concerning the Lions Club Pool. She has contacted the Town of Esopus regarding the water “harvester”. Trustee Dirie has also contacted the SCS Superintendents Office regarding the donation of the Cahill Playground equipment to the Village.

Joe Bisignano presented the Water Department report (copy attached). The Water Department is installing a 16-inch shut off valve at the Water Treatment Plant on Wednesday October 28th. All Trustees are invited to watch the procedure. Trustee Murphy advised the Board that the \$ were in the current budget for this important project. Mr. Murphy also advised the Board that sewer rates to the Town of Saugerties are set to increase on December 1, 2009.

Chief Kimble presented the Police Department report (copy attached). Response time for the department is under 2 minutes. Mayor Yerick advised that the merger effort continue.

Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to appoint Suzanne Frederick as the Village representative to the Ulster County Planning Board. This position has been vacant for some time and the Mayor thanked Ms. Frederick for volunteering. The motion carried with Trustee Jeannine Dirie abstaining (Ms. Frederick is her sister).

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to adjourn. Carried. The Village board adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk