

Village Board

September 15, 2008

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Campbell, Kelly Myers, William Murphy, Michael Karashay and Richard Moore
Others: Alex Wade, Eyal Saad, Bob Ciarlante, Ron LeBlanc, Joe Schaffer, Anthony Bell, Heather Plonchak-New Sau Times and others

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

Mayor Yerick read a joint proclamation from the Village and the Town declaring September 21, 2008 as the date to honor the Saugerties Area Council of Churches on their 50th anniversary.

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

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the September 2, 2008 Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Richard Moore presented the Abstract for September 15, 2008: General - \$45,073.22; Water - \$8,632.06; Wastewater - \$8,874.03; Water Distribution Fund - \$24,325.00. Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve the Abstract. Trustee LeBlanc asked what the \$160.00 charge to Saugerties Wellness Center was for. Trustee Karashay replied that it was for a physical exam for a new volunteer firefighter. The motion then carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the water line replacement at the corner of Washington and Main Street went smoothly today.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Detour signs have been placed in the area of the water line replacement project. The street sweeper is out on a regular basis and a contractor has been trimming dead trees. Mr. Ciarlante complimented and thanked Village mechanic Richard Forbes for dealing with the many projects that are put on his plate from all departments throughout the year. Trustee Karashay echoed the thanks to the DPW from the SFD. The “ripples” on Partition Street (Route 9W) have been ground down by the NYSDOT with assistance from the DPW. Mr. Ciarlante reported that DPW employee Brian Martin had successful knee surgery after being injured on July 4th.

Trustee Myers advised the Board that she did not have a report from George Terpening regarding the Buildings and Grounds Department. The crew is busy planting mums getting ready for the Mum Festival on October 5th. The Mum Festival Committee is looking for new members. Contact Julie Dunn at the Village Office.

Trustee Murphy presented the Water and Wastewater Department reports (copies attached). He also informed the Board that work on the Water Line Replacement Project began September 8th on Sawyerkill Terrace. The work went smoothly and was completed by Friday. The water/sewer bills were mailed in September.

Trustee Murphy presented Resolution #13/2008. This resolution awards Phase 2 of the Water Line Replacement Project to Merritt Construction who submitted the lowest bid for Phase 2. The bids ranged from a high of \$1,867,345.00 to the low of \$950,957.00. The engineering firm of Brinnier & Larios (the engineers for the project) recommend accepting this bid. Phase 2 includes Bennett Avenue, Lafayette, Underwood, Valley, Virginia and Washington. Motion was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve Resolution #13/2008. Carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick presented the Police Department report (copy attached). He reported that the next mediation session with the PBA is scheduled for September 23rd.

Trustee LeBlanc inquired as to the status of the feasibility study to combine the Village and Town Police Departments. Mayor Yerick said he would distribute a copy of the committee's latest findings to the Board. He went on to say that there are legal, union and civil service issues that are not resolved and he does not know if these issues can be resolved. There was much discussion with Mayor Yerick emphasizing that he will not abolish the Village Police Department. He will hold at least two public hearings to give the residents a chance to learn the proposal and ask questions. He wants the decision to come from Village residents based on all the accurate facts.

Fire Chief Joe Schaffer presented the SFD report (copy attached). Chief Schaffer also advised the Board that the recent testing of the air paks has been completed and cost less than the original estimate. Assistant Fire Chief Brian Mason showed the Board the air paks. Many thanks go out to Municipal Emergency Services for their prompt response in servicing the air paks and for their cooperation in reducing the cost to the Village. The Village will enter a service contract with MES for future inspections and maintenance. Thanks go volunteer Richard Scism and Assistant Chief Anthony Bell for all their hard work with this project.

Trustee Karashay presented a letter from volunteer firefighter Richard Scism (copy attached). The letter requests that the Board considers exempting firefighters from all parking regulations within 300 feet of the firehouse during a fire call. The Board will study the request and discuss it at the next Board meeting.

Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Bell then presented the Board with a proposal to replace the 21-year-old CA Lynch Fire Truck. He took the Board through the many reasons to replace the aging truck, including the fact that the CA Lynch truck is the mutual aid response vehicle. The estimated cost of the truck is \$417,000.00. Mayor Yerick complimented the committee on their presentation and the work involved. He asked Chief Bell if the truck proposal was "bare bones". He suggested they sharpen their pencils to bring down the cost of the new truck. The committee responded that they felt

this was a “bare bones” proposal. Trustee LeBlanc asked if the old truck is sold, how much would it be worth – the answer - about \$30,000.00. Trustee Karashay added that the primary reason to purchase a new truck was to protect the firefighters. A new truck would be up to NFPA standards and enhance our ISO rating which in turn lowers our insurance rates. The Board tabled the proposal for future discussion.

Trustee LeBlanc had nothing to report on Economic Development. There is a conference on shared services for local government in Hyde Park on November 13th. Trustee LeBlanc asks that anyone interested in attending should contact her.

Eyal Saad presented the Building Department report (copy attached).

Trustee LeBlanc asked the Board to review Local Law #6/2008. This is the local law that will increase parking meter fines as well as other changes. The hours of meter enforcement will change to 10:00am to 5:00pm. She also asked the Board to review Local Law #7/2008. This is the law that will prohibit future village superintendents from using Village vehicles to go to and from their homes. Motion was made Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Moore, to schedule a Public Hearing at 6:45pm on October 6th to receive comment on both laws. Carried.

Trustee Myers asked the status of the request of The Village Apothecary for parking spaces in front of their store on Market Street. Trustee Myers supports the request because people use the pharmacy for medical reasons. Most of the other Board members do not support the idea, saying that other business owners may request the same. There was more discussion with no resolution to the request.

Trustee Campbell advised the Board that the Town and Village were #2 on the TEP request for the pedestrian/bike path around Canoe Hill. He hopes the funding is still available from the State. The Garlic Festival is September 27 and 28.

Alex Wade presented his report on Special Projects (copy attached). He informed the Board that he has received seven proposals for Phase 2 of the Streetscape Project.

Trustee Myers presented her request to keep laying hens on her 5-acre property at 12 Washburn Terrace. Trustee LeBlanc is worried that granting the request may set a precedent saying she would not want to live next door to a chicken pen. She feels people do not move into the Village to be living next to farm animals. Trustee Karashay said he has no problem with granting Trustee Myers request. Trustee Campbell asked if she has spoken to her neighbors about the hens. Village Clerk Mary Frank explained that this is a decision for the Board to make – the law allows the Board to grant or deny requests for housing livestock in the Village. Mayor Yerick asked Trustee Myers to speak to her neighbors and report back to the Board. Trustee LeBlanc said that approach is not fair to the neighbors. The discussion was tabled until the October meeting.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he has received an informal request to place a drop box at the Village office for Cablevision customers to place their payments. He

requested that Trustee Campbell get more information on this and report back to the Board.

Mayor Yerick presented a request from artist Willy Neumann. He would like to place a sculpture in a public place in the Village. The Mayor asked the Trustees to consider his request and return with suggestions for spots at the October meeting. Some suggested locations were Seamon Park, the Saugerties Beach or the Lighthouse.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he received notes of thanks for the Village Board's support of a State law banning texting on cell phones while driving from Senator Bonacic, Assemblyman Lopez and Governor Patterson.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Moore, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk