

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

Absent: Trustee Michael Karashay

Others: Donald Hackett, Heather Plonchak-New Saugerties Times, Joel Mirante, Mike Marino, Joe Bisignano, George Terpening, Bob Ciarlante, Brian Martin, William Kimble, students from the SHS government class and others

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

Privilege of the Floor

Joel Miranti addressed the Board with concerns about the alleged mis-handling of a burglary investigation by Officer Syd Mills. Mr. Miranti alleges that Officer Mills is trying to protect a guilty party. Mr. Miranti has contacted both the UC DA's Office and UC Sheriff's Department regarding the matter. He provided the Board with a "CD" and documents and asked for an investigation to be conducted. Mayor Yerick accepted all the documents provided by Mr. Miranti and promised a full review.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the April 7, 2008 Village Board Public Hearing on the budget, the Public Hearing on the Small Cities grant application and the regular Village Board meeting for approval. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstracts for April 21, 2008: General - \$15,097.58; Water - \$12,987.48; Wastewater - \$18,636.57; Water Leak Grant - \$27,200.00. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstracts. Carried.

Mike Marino presented the March 2008 Wastewater Department report (copy attached). Mayor Yerick added that he, Mr. Marino, and Trustee Murphy recently met to discuss additional preventative maintenance for the wastewater treatment plant. Additional odor control measures were also discussed.

Trustee Murphy reported that Steve Whitaker has been certified as a water treatment plant operator. The water treatment plant experienced some problems last weekend and was shut down. Water to residents was supplied by the tank. Trustee Murphy advised that the annual "Water Quality Report" has been sent to residents. Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the printing and mailing of the state mandated report costs \$2000.00 and feels this is an unnecessary expense. Trustee LeBlanc suggested investigating alternatives.

SFD Fire Chief Brian Martin presented the Annual Exposure Report for 2007. There were 184 alarm events with 2239 firefighters responding for more than 2531 hours. The month of March was spent pumping many flooded Village basements as a service to

residents. Chief Martin reminded the Board of Chief's Night, April 25th at 7:30pm. Mayor Yerick thanked Chief Martin for his many years of service as an outstanding Chief of the SFD. Village residents are very grateful. The Board gave Chief Martin a rousing round of applause.

Police Chief Kimble presented the Police Department report (copy attached). He advised the Board that weekend visitors have begun to arrive. Sgt. Steve Filak has been certified by NYS to teach various courses within the department. The PD is doing extensive background checks for 2 prospective part-time officers. Senator John Bonacic has secured two grants for the PD: one for \$10,000.00 and a 2nd for \$18,000.00 – both for equipment upgrades. Trustee Myers inquired if the Village has received the \$50,000.00 promised for the 2 new patrol cars – answer is “not yet”. Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he is meeting in early May with the consultants on the feasibility of merging the Town and Village Police Departments. He hopes to be able to provide the Board with an interim report.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that Building Inspector Eyal Saad and his wife welcomed a new baby boy, Jonathan, on April 18th. Congratulations to all. Trustee LeBlanc reported that the ZBA met recently and granted an area variance to a property on Ferry Street. The Waterfront Advisory Board accepted the plans for the same property and recommended colors they feel are appropriate.

Trustee Campbell presented his Special Assignment report (copy attached). He is still pursuing “no-engine braking” signs. He is considering introducing a resolution for Board approval to restrict the placement of any material on Village lampposts. He asked the Board to think about this topic.

Alex Wade reported that the last 2 unused wooden Central Hudson poles have been removed from the Business District. The Village hopes to receive the last \$100,000.00 due on the Streetscape Project shortly. The NYS DOT has placed cones near the “Wall” on Route 9W – they have postponed the repair of the Wall in order to work on NYS Thruway bridges.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Trustee LeBlanc complimented the DPW for its streetsweeping efforts. Trustee Campbell said he likes the new dates for the winter parking ban. He questioned the recent burn of the yard debris pile on North Street. Trustee Myers said that the Board had decided not to spend the estimated \$10,000.00 cost to rent a grinder to remove the material. She advised the Board that the burn was carried out under the supervision of the NYS DEC with Village personnel on duty at all times while the burn was carried out. The DPW crew worked with the DEC to compost and bury the material left over from the burn. She also thanked the SFD for their cooperation during the burn. Mr. Ciarlante also advised the Board that residents are abusing the North Street DPW area by dumping old furniture, appliances and general debris. The DPW area is only for yard debris from Village residents – nothing else. As a result of the illegal dumping, the area will be gated and closed. Any Village resident can call the DPW to arrange to dump yard waste.

Trustee Myers announced that she has been named the Commissioner of Buildings, Parks and Grounds by mayor Yerick and has held her first working meeting with Superintendent George Terpening. Mr. Terpening presented his report (copy attached). His crew is busy cleaning up all the Village parks and readying the pool for the spring. Mayor Yerick asked if the inmate work crew from the UC Sheriff's Department would be in Saugerties this season. Mr. Terpening answered yes. Trustee Myers reported that "Art Lab" volunteers picked up rubbish at the Village Beach and would like to plant some flowers at the beach site. Mayor Yerick suggested a thank-you letter be sent to Art Lab.

Trustee Myers announced that a contract agreement has been reached with the CWA. The terms of the agreement are June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2011. Trustee Myers outlined the changes in the contract that include employee salaries, longevity, uniform allowances and sick leave. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Mayor Yerick to approve the CWA contract. Carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick presented Local Law #4/2008. This law prohibits parking on the east and west side of Burt Street for 300 feet north of Route 9W. There was no public comment at the previously held public hearing. The law was seconded by Trustee LeBlanc and carried unanimously.

The Board then discussed the Budget for 2008/2009. Mayor Yerick explained that after the discussion of the general budget at the April 7, 2008 Village Board meeting, he agreed that a tax rate increase was needed. Due to unanticipated legal and insurance costs, dollars were spent from the unappropriated fund balance. This money must be replaced. The proposed budget raises the tax rate per thousand from 7.3881 to 7.6837 – a 4% increase. It will net an additional \$76,611.00 in taxes. There are no changes to the proposed Water and Wastewater budgets. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore to approve the General, Water and Wastewater budgets for 2008/2009. Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying that she understood the need for an increase however tax increases are also coming from the County and the Schools. She knows that most of the Village expenses are under union contracts but there is some discretionary spending and she would like to cut some of those expenses to keep the tax rate increase to 3%. For instance, there is \$11,000.00 in the budget for new equipment at the beach. She feels this expense could be postponed and also suggested eliminating one police car from the fleet. Mayor Yerick responded by asking if Trustee LeBlanc had discussed any of her suggestions with the department Superintendents or Commissioners. He feels that the proper way to make these suggestions would have been with the specific departments over the last two weeks and not just before a budget vote. Mayor Yerick said that each department has a 2/5-year plan that helps manage the budget. The Mayor does not approve of crisis management and all departments have worked hard to use grants and low interest loans to keep tax rate increases low. There was more discussion. Trustee Moore advised that a property assessed at \$200,000.00 would result in a \$60.00 per year tax increase. More discussion followed. Mayor Yerick called for a vote. The budget for 2008/2009 was passed with Trustee LeBlanc voting no and all others voting yes.

Mayor Yerick presented Resolution #7/2008. This resolution formally establishes the Village's support of the Saugerties Farmer's Market as requested by the Farmer's Market Committee. There was some discussion with Trustee LeBlanc asking what the resolution committed the Village to. Mayor Yerick explained that the Village has supported the Farmers Market since its beginning. The Village will continue its support, however financial support of the Market will be evaluated every year. More discussion followed. The Resolution was seconded by Trustee Myers and carried with Trustee Campbell and Trustee LeBlanc abstaining.

Trustee Campbell mentioned that Earth Day is April 22nd and volunteers are cleaning the Town this weekend. Please help if you can.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Village Board adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk