

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Campbell, Kelly Myers, William Murphy, Michael Karashay, and Mary Leahy
Others: Police Chief William Kimble, Eyal Saad, Joe Bisignano, Bob Ciarlante, Judith Spektor, Ron LeBlanc, Jack and Nina Rinaldi, Heather Plonchak-New Saugerties Times and others

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

Privilege of the Floor

Judith Spektor addressed the Board regarding the Village Street Tree Planting program. Last year the Village contributed \$2100.00 to the program. Private donations totaled \$2355.00. A total of 12 trees were planted on Ulster, Market and Partition streets. Ms. Spektor asked the Board for their financial support again this year through funds allocated to the Beautification Committee. She asked that the Village agree to match private donations to an amount to be agreed upon in the future. Saugerties Hudson River Partnerships, Inc. has agreed to act as sponsor. There are several categories for private donations. Trustee Campbell will make sure the tree-planting program airs on TV23. Ms. Spektor thanked the Board for its support. The goal for tree planting in 2008 is 20 trees. Mayor Yerick thanked Barry Benepe and Judith Spektor for all the volunteer work they do on behalf of the Saugerties Community.

Mayor Yerick presented the Minutes of the February 4, 2008 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the minutes as written. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc presented the Abstracts for February 19, 2008. Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc to delete \$4585.80 from payment on the General Abstract. This item pays for equipment for TV23. Trustee LeBlanc feels that Village residents through their Town taxes already pay this item and this may be a double payment. Trustee Campbell said he does not understand Trustee LeBlanc's rationale because TV23 is funded by the franchise fees from Time Warner Cable. The Town pays for some of TV23's expenses from Time Warner Cable franchise fees and the Village pays a smaller percentage of the expenses. Much discussion followed. There was no second to Trustee LeBlanc's motion. Trustee LeBlanc went on to present the Abstracts: General - \$33,608.77; Water - \$15,739.34; Wastewater - \$6,701.31. The Abstracts were seconded by Trustee Karashay, and carried but Trustee LeBlanc voting nay.

Victor Cornelius, the grant writer from Endeavor, then addressed the Board with an update on the grants he is pursuing on behalf of the Village. The presentation highlighted efforts to secure funding for 10 projects. They include replacement of 100 year old water lines on 6 Village Streets, bringing a water line to Saugerties Manor Road due to contaminated wells, repairing a slope failure on Post Street, bringing a water line to

Esopus Creek Road due to contaminated wells, and to search for wells in the event the reservoir is compromised. Mr. Cornelius explained that according to the 2000 Census, the average income of Village residents fell below 80% of the NYS medium income level. That fact enabled the Village to qualify for grants and very low interest loans. The Village funded the Water Treatment Plant upgrade and the construction of the 3 million gallon water tank with a 0% interest loan from the Environmental Facilities Corporation in 2000. Mr. Cornelius expects that the average income for Village residents will be above the NYS medium income when the 2010 Census is completed, thus preventing the Village to qualify for grants and low interest loans. The Village applied to the EFC for \$3.5 million to fund the replacement of the Village water lines and a water line to Saugerties Manor Road. The EFC reviewed the application and advised the Village that we did not have enough "points" for funding. Mr. Cornelius then applied to the USDA for the same projects. The USDA has offered the Village \$3,497,000.00 for a 38 year loan at an interest rate of 4.375%. The Mayor is not satisfied with this and directed Mr. Cornelius to reapply to the EFC for a grant or 0% loan. Mr. Cornelius is in the process of resubmitting the Village application to the EFC with the addition of the Esopus Creek Road project and the search for an alternate water source included to increase the "points" on the Village application. The Manor Road project can be funded through the NYS Oil Fund Spill grant. The Village will continue to look to the USDA for \$400,000.00 for the Post Street slope failure – the EFC will not fund that project. Joe Bisignano advised the Board that wells tested near the reservoir have been found to be unsatisfactory and the department is exploring a site along Route 212 close to the water main. Mayor Yerick made it clear that the reservoir has a more than adequate water supply for all current and proposed projects. The exploration for new wells is in the event the reservoir is compromised by outside circumstances. Mayor Yerick also advised the Board that he does not operate by "crisis management" and a plan to replace 100-year-old water lines before they break makes financial sense. Trustee Murphy also commented that the Village water/sewer rate per year is about \$285.00 based on minimum usage. The average water/sewer rate for NYS is over \$615.00. There was additional discussion ending with Mayor Yerick thanking Joe Bisignano and Mr. Cornelius for all their work.

Trustee Campbell reported that he and Mayor Yerick met with representatives from a "Wind Orchestra". The orchestra arrives by boat to a community and gives performances over a 3-day period. The orchestra reps traveled to the Tina Chorvas Waterfront Park and determined that the park would be a great spot for the boat to dock and the orchestra to perform. The cost for the orchestra to come to any community is \$30,000.00. The Village cannot fund the cost of this event. Trustee Campbell is hoping to raise funds for the "Wind Orchestra" to perform in 2009. He will attend a SAMA meeting next week. Trustee Campbell also called officials at the Village of Catskill regarding the jake-breaking signs. Catskill reported that the signs work, the police have issued tickets, and they encourage Saugerties to erect the signs. Trustee LeBlanc would like to see a letter go out to trucking companies asking the companies to discontinue this practice.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). The DOT has pushed back the repaving of 9W to the summer of 2009. They have agreed to repair the bumps at the intersection

of Partition and Hill Streets and repaint stop lines and crosswalks at intersections as soon as the weather hits 50 degrees. Mayor Yerick asked Alex to stay on top of the DOT.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Snow removal and road patching are ongoing.

Trustee Murphy presented the Wastewater Department and Water Department reports (copies attached). Joe Bisignano added that the plant is running well despite the turbidity caused by the recent heavy rains. The turbid water entering the plant requires extra monitoring but the crew keeps everything under control. Trustee Murphy reported some damage to equipment at the Wastewater plant was caused by a power outage (due to weather). He suggests that the cost to replace or repair the equipment be submitted to the Village insurance carrier for payment. He also reminded Village residents that the water/sewer rates were about \$350.00 below the average rate in NYS.

Police Chief Kimble presented the Police Report (copy attached). He also asked pedestrians to wear light colored clothing when walking in Village streets. The Department helped many residents with “lock-outs” of home and vehicles.

Trustee Karashay had nothing to report on behalf of the SFD. Trustee Murphy thanked the SFD for pumping out his mothers basement over the weekend.

Eyal Saad presented the Building Department report (copy attached). Mr. Saad advised the Board that the annual Building Department report has been sent to NYS as required. He will begin to take courses for his annual certification. Trustee LeBlanc asked whether it was a NYS requirement to have licensed plumbers and electricians and Board for the same in the Village. Mr. Saad replied it was a Village law.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that RUPCO has received a \$500,000.00 grant to help qualifying homeowners with repairs or improvements. Preliminary applications are available from the Clerk.

Trustee LeBlanc presented Local Law #3/2008. This local law addresses inoperable and unlicensed vehicles in the Village. A Public Hearing was held earlier in the evening. Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve Local Law #3/2008. Carried unanimously.

Eyal Saad said the Electrical and Plumbing Boards are looking for additional members. He also advised the Board that he was present at a vehicle Vs residence accident at 5:00am last week.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Frank, Village Clerk

