

Village Board

July 16, 2007

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Michael Campbell, Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Karashay, Mary Leahy and Kelly Myers

Absent: Trustee William Murphy

Others: Eric Prinz, Police Chief Kimble, Eyal Saad, Alex Wade, Bob Ciarlante, Mike Marino, Will Dendis – New Saugerties Times

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

Mayor Yerick said the July 8th Sawyer Motors Car Show was a huge success with over 8000 people in attendance. Congratulations to the Siracusano Family and event coordinator Josephine Todaro.

Privilege of the Floor

Eric Prinz a Town resident of 137 Esopus Creek Road addressed the Board. His family has owned property on Esopus Creek Road for 3 generations and has enjoyed using motorized watercraft on the Upper Esopus. He said that more and more “out of town kayakers” are using the Upper Esopus, sailing in the middle of the creek, where the motor boats must travel. He would like the Village to consider charging kayakers and canoers fees to use the Village boat launch. Trustee Myers advised Mr. Prinz that there has been a lot of discussion about the water use on the Upper Creek over the last several months. She said the Mayor has asked the Village attorney to research laws in other waterfront communities. She said that motorboats must operate at least 100’ from the shoreline and travel slowly around kayakers and canoers and docks. Mr. Prinz replied that the kayakers are deliberately riding up the middle of the creek making it difficult for motorboats to operate 100’ from the shore. He said his family is the largest landowner on the creek and pay 38% higher taxes than those without waterfront property. He wants the right to use his motorboat. Trustee Myers advised Mr. Prinz that she has written the Ulster County Sheriff and requested his department patrol the Upper Creek and enforce the NYS Laws. Trustee Campbell said the waterfront is a great resource and we want to welcome visitors. Mayor Yerick thanked Mr. Prinz for his comments and said the Village recognizes the problem and is taking steps to solve it. Trustee LeBlanc asked if the Town had a launch on the creek. The answer is no. Mayor Yerick added that the biggest problem is enforcement – neither the Town nor the Village has a boat to patrol the water. Village Clerk Mary Frank explained that the Village currently charges motorized watercraft \$20.00 per season to use the launch (Village residents are not charged) and non-motorized watercraft is not charged. Trustee LeBlanc feels that non-motorized watercraft that use the launch should be charged as well. Police Chief Kimble said the area is changing and the area is very narrow. Trustee Campbell said he has heard that the creek is a big concern for area fishermen. Trustee Myers asked that the Waterfront Advisory Council be asked for their recommendation. After more discussion, Mr. Prinz thanked the Board for its time.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the July 2, 2007 meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Leahy, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee LeBlanc presented the Abstract for July 16, 2007. General - \$77,987.07 (that figure includes the purchase of two new police cars paid for by a grant from Senator Bonacic); Water - \$3,018.37; Wastewater - \$8,092.78; Water Capital Fund - \$4,395.00. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Cleanup before and after the July 4th parade and the July 8th Car Show was performed. The DPW is wrapping up a major construction project on Lighthouse Drive where the embankment required stabilization. A kayak/canoe ramp was constructed at the Tina Chorvas Waterfront Park. Trustee Myers commented on the good job that was done on Lighthouse Drive. The DPW made a “monolithic pour” in addition to extensive drainage work to stabilize the bank. Trustee LeBlanc recently toured all DPW projects with Mr. Ciarlante and was impressed with their work.

Mike Marino presented the Wastewater Department report (copy attached). Routine maintenance is ongoing with no major problems this month.

Police Chief Kimble presented the Police Department report (copy attached). He advised the Board on several incidents including a man arrested for shooting patrons at Stella’s Station with pellets from an air gun. He also mentioned that the PD answered 42 911 calls in June with a response time of under 3 minutes. He also monitors the water level of the creek – flood stage is 20’ – in June it was 12’. Mayor Yerick complimented the PD for the job on July 4th and the July 8th Car Show. No major incidents or arrests on either day.

Trustee Karashay thanked the Board for attending the Annual Inspection on July 4th. Thanks to Rob Quirk and Dave Mason for their work on the July 4th Parade. The ladder truck is back in service after some maintenance work. A discussion followed on the ladder truck and its ongoing costs. Trustee Karashay explained that there is a preventative maintenance program in place and the ladders must be inspected yearly. The life of the truck is expected to be about 25 years and the maintenance cost far outweighs the cost of a new truck. Treasurer Julie Dunn will be asked to give the Board the costs of maintenance for the ladder truck to date.

Eyal Saad presented the Building Department report (copy attached). He advised the Board that our attorney is proceeding with the court hearing regarding the property located at 51 Livingston Street. The Village is demanding the building be demolished. The owner refuses to cooperate.

Trustee Campbell presented George Terpening’s report (copy attached). The Beach and Lions Club Playground are up and running and seeing plenty of activity. Trustee Campbell also presented his report (copy attached).

Alex Wade presented his "Special Assignment" report (copy attached). The DOT has started property acquisitions for the repair work of the "wall" on 9W at the entrance to the Village. The work is now scheduled for 2008.

Mayor Yerick presented Resolution #15/2007. The resolution approves accepting equipment on loan from Ulster County (such as the Breathalyzer). The resolution was seconded by Trustee Leahy and carried unanimously by those present.

Trustee LeBlanc reported that she and the mayor had attended a recent Town/Village Economic Development meeting. Peter Fairweather has been hired to develop an economic plan for the community. The plan will begin with an analysis phase that will interview existing successful businesses and learn how to attract new businesses. Mayor Yerick added that this committee would put a process in place for the future.

Mayor Yerick asked the Board to try to attend the Youth Awards to be presented at the Town Board meeting on July 18th.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to adjourn. Carried. The Village Board adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk

Filed 7/23/07