

Village Board Meeting

Minutes

February 1, 2016

Present: Mayor Murphy, Trustee Brian Martin, Trustee Terry Parisian, Trustee Vince Buono, Trustee Don Hackett, Special Projects Alex Wade, Saugerties Times Reporter Robert Ford, Bob Daley, Roberta Gavner, Bill Scala

Absent: Deputy Mayor Jeannine Mayer, Trustee Patrick Landewe

Mayor Murphy called the Village Board meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Trustee Hackett led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor

Roberta Gavner, from Finger Street, spoke to the Board regarding Holiday lights at Seamon Park. Mrs. Gavner read a letter to the Board stating she has lived across from the park and has watched it evolve into a gorgeous sight. The increase of the electrical expense for keeping the lights on all night is unnecessary.

Mrs. Gavner had visited the office several times to complain and inquire as to why the lights were being left on all night. She had requested to speak with the Mayor who suggested she come to a Village Board meeting or to a Seamon Park Board meeting. The Mayor felt it would be better to express her concerns to the Board so they were aware of the situation.

Mrs. Gavner would like to know if the lights are on one service or multiple services?, how is the lighting billed?, Who pays the bills? I come as a taxpayer wanting to know why the lights are left on all night. Mayor Murphy addressed Mrs. Gavner's questions by stating that three sections of lights in the park are on timers and are scheduled to come on at 4:00pm and go off at 12 midnight. The section which the main house is connected to is not on a timer. The house is manually turned off between 9 and 11pm but it does sometimes get left on all night. The Kiwanis Club donates all the lights and along with the Sherriff's Department install all the lights. The Kiwanis Club also donates approximately \$1500 to the Seamon Park fund. The additional cost of electric for the Holiday lights is approximately \$600.

Trustee Martin stated he will meet with George to make sure there will be a timer installed for the lights on Seamon Park house, when they are installed for the 2016 holiday season. All park lights will be off after 12 midnight.

Bill Scala, from Washington Avenue, spoke regarding the traffic issues on Washington Avenue. As in the past, the traffic on Washington Avenue during the morning and afternoon when school is in session, is still a problem. The cars are flying through at 40-45mph. The cars do not come to a full stop at Prospect and Robinson Streets. His neighbor almost got hit trying to back out of his driveway. It could have been kids walking to school. Since there are no sidewalks, kids have to walk in the road. Why does it take so long to install sidewalks? Why are sidewalks being replaced in the Village when there are none on the end of Washington Avenue? What about the crumbling sidewalks in front of Lions Playground?

Mayor Murphy addressed the sidewalk questions by informing Mr. Scala that the sidewalks that are being replaced are in the business district and are part of a grant. The grant stipulates that the sidewalks are for the business district only. They cannot be used anywhere else. Trustee Parisian also stated that in order to install sidewalks along the end of Washington Avenue, the Village would have to get permission/easement from the property owners. The sidewalks would then become the responsibility of the property owner.

Mayor Murphy mentioned that it has been discussed that “walking lanes” and cross walks could be painted on the street. Lines would be painted and signs installed to designate the area along the grass and road as a walking path. This would control foot traffic and warn walkers to stay in the lanes. This would be more enforceable and allow the police to issue tickets.

Mr. Scala stated there needs to be STOP signs. Trustee Hackett would like to reduce the speed limit for a school zone. Mayor Murphy stated that the only designated “school zone” would be from the school driveway to the school bus circle, so by NY state law the lowest it could be would be 25mph.

Trustee Buono added that the UC Transportation Board suggests the walking lane lines and cross walks, they frown upon Stop signs. Mayor Murphy suggested a four way Stop at Washington Avenue and Finger Street. Any decisions on Stop signs would have to include input from the school transportation committee regarding bus traffic patterns. Also, possibly making Robinson Street a one way street going from Washington Avenue west to Market Street.

Mr. Scala asked what is the Boards position on sidewalks? Mayor Murphy replied that sidewalks are not required, there is no Village law, it is up to the property owners to install and maintain sidewalks. There are several areas in the Village that do not have sidewalks. The new development on Mill Lane Ext. does not require sidewalks. The developers will be putting in a walking path from Bennett Avenue to the school. The path will be a shared responsibility.

More discussion regarding traffic speed and lack of sidewalks.

Mr. Scala inquired as to the enforcement of the crosswalks and paths.

Trustee Parisian mentioned that if we designate crosswalks they also need to be ADA compliant.

Mayor Murphy assured Mr. Scala that the walking path lines and crosswalks would be installed on Washington Avenue in the Spring. The police would be enforcing the speed limit and the walking paths.

Motion made by Trustee Buono to accept the Village Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2016.
Seconded by Trustee Hackett. Motion carried.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstracts;

- General Fund \$ 42,800.45
- Water \$ 7,991.92
- Wastewater \$ 11,581.01

Motion made by Trustee Hackett to accept the Abstracts, seconded by Trustee Parisian.
Motion carried.

Alex Wade reported that the paperwork to close out the Streetscape Project has been submitted to the State, with a few missing pieces. The Project Financial Summary was emailed to all Trustees. The NYS CRZ progress is extremely slow. All the required permits to restore the bulk head have been submitted and we were assured that work would be done last season but have been informed that engineering work hasn't begun yet.

Trustee Parisian would like to revisit the overnight parking on Village streets and discuss a parking plan. Trustee Buono is working with Beth Murphy in regards to additional parking.

Trustee Hackett had nothing to report.

Trustee Martin requested Board approval for the use of the Tina Chorvas Waterfront Park by Arm of the Sea Theater for the nights of August 15 – August 21, 2016. Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to approve the request. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Martin reported that there had been a water leak on Ulster Avenue. The valve had to be replaced with a new 16inch valve. DPW assisted the Water Department with the excavation. Trustee Hackett inquired about the number of dead trees around the watershed area. He is concerned that new trees will need to be planted to keep the ground in place. Trustee Martin will check with Water Superintendent Hopf regarding the trees.

Trustee Buono stated that the Budget Schedule had been emailed to all the Trustees. Please follow the timeline and have the budgets submitted by February 12th.

Mayor Murphy presented Deputy Mayor Mayer's report in her absence. The Village Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the street art project for 2016. Sponsors and artists can find applications on Discover Saugerties website which are due by March 7th. Sponsor levels are \$600, \$900, and \$1200. There will be a preview the week before Memorial Day when the horses go up and the gala and auction will be on September 17th. The street art project brings visitors to town, shows local artistic talent, and raises money for nonprofits.

If anyone wants to place an ad in the new Discover Saugerties guide the deadline is March 15. There will be 30,000 copies for distribution by May 1st.

The Village Chamber of Commerce is also working on possibly having the Sunset Concert series at a location in the Village on First Fridays. Sponsors are needed for the concerts.

Vernon Benjamin spoke about the Town initiative to bring solar farms to Saugerties. On March 5th from 3:00 to 5:00 at Senior Center, there will be a "Solarize Saugerties" kick off for informational meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Hackett.
Meeting Adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Mayone
Village Clerk

Filed 2/4/16