

Village Board

January 22, 2013

Present: Trustees Jeannine Mayer, Vince Buono, Brian Martin, Terry Parisian, Patrick Landewe and Don Hackett

Absent: Mayor Bill Murphy

Others: Robert Ford – New Sau Times, Suzanne LeBlanc, Steve Hubbard, Ed Quirk, George Terpening, Dave Mason, Joe Sinagra, Mike Hopf, Eyal Saad, Bob Ciarlante, students and others

Deputy Mayor Jeannine Mayer called the Village Board to order at 700pm. Trustee Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor

Suzanne LeBlanc addressed the Board with her concerns of the “assault of developers” on the Saugerties community. She said she and one other neighbor are currently paying more property taxes than the Country Meadows development on North Street will pay. Who will pay for all the extra services Country Meadows will require? The Country Meadows developer has promised to pay \$400.00 per unit but who knows when he will come back and ask to pay less. There are 20 senior units and 33 family units – what senior wants to live in a development with kids? Who will pay for sidewalks? Affordable housing brings in gangs, crime, drugs. This used to be a Village of families – now it’s 60% rentals. Who will want to purchase houses in the Village? Saugerties has more than its share of affordable housing – we cannot afford anymore. Our water supply is limited. The Planning Board gave approval to the Country Meadows Project because it was allowed under the law – change the law. Put a moratorium on these types of projects. Change the zoning. Single family housing is the heart of a community. It is time for the Village Board to act.

Steve Hubbard then addressed the Board. He insisted that the members pay attention to him. He has been in real estate for 30 years and pays \$30,000.00 in property tax. To allow the County Meadows Development to continue would be a crime. He has apartments available for rent that he cannot fill. He is totally against the Country Meadows Project.

Deputy Mayor Mayer thanked them for their comments.

Deputy Mayor Mayer presented the minutes of January 7, 2013 for approval. Motion was made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to approve the minutes. Ms. Mayer spoke saying that she had been contacted by Anastasia Redmond of TV23. Past Village Board minutes mentioned that TV23 did not have enough volunteers to be able to film the Village Board minutes. That is not the case – TV23 has enough volunteers but no has signed up to film the Village meeting. The minutes of January 7th were unanimously approved.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for January 22nd: General - \$26,907.70; Water - \$15,059.68; Wastewater - \$5,564.85. There was some discussion regarding the payment to the Police Department of the closed asset forfeiture account that was explained by Police Chief Sinagra and the payment to Ulster County for taxes on Village property by Water Superintendent Mike Hopf. Motion was made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to approve the Abstract. Carried unanimously.

DPW Superintendent presented the DPW report (copy attached). The DPW has serviced 4 snow storms as far this season. The DPW is also busy assisting the Water Department and Buildings and Grounds. \$16,500.00 of CHIPS money will be used this spring.

SFD Chief Dave Mason presented the Fire Department report (copy attached). The SFD responded to 182 alarms in 2012 for a total of 1700 man hours. There was a structure fire on Washington Avenue this month. The SFD will hold a Brooks Brothers BBQ on March 6th. The Board approved the use of the alleyway adjacent to the Municipal Building for the BBQ.

Trustee Hackett presented the application of James Thomson for membership in the RA Snyder Hose Company. Motion was made by Trustee Hackett, seconded by Trustee Martin, to approve James Thomson for membership. Carried unanimously.

Trustee Hackett presented the Wastewater Department report (copy attached). The jet truck is being repaired at a cost of \$5,500.00. Everything is running well at the plant..

Mike Hopf presented the Water Department report (copy attached). 19,968,000 gallons of water were treated at the plant in December 2012. A control module at the plant failed and was replaced with a spare, however alternatives are being considered including replacing the entire panel. Thanks to the Centerville Fire Dept for their help with a controlled burn at the reservoir property.

George Terpening presented the Buildings and Grounds report (copy attached). The holiday decorations have been removed from the Business District and removal continues at Seamon Park. Donlon is heavily booked. Interior painting in the Municipal Building will continue.

Eyal Saad reported that the Building Department issued violations to 14 properties for failing to remove snow from their sidewalks. The DPW removed the snow. The property owners were sent bills for the work – if not paid, the amount will be added to their Village tax bill.

Trustee Landewe reported that he and Eyal Saad attended recent mapping training. The DEP has lowered the Ashokan release to 10,000,000 gallons per day resulting in much less turbidity in the Esopus. The HRB will meet on Jan 23rd to discuss the Dragon Inn application and the Planning Board meets on Jan 24th to finish up on the Country Meadows project.

Police Chief Joseph Sinagra thanked the Board for helping make his first year as chief a success. He reported that residents will soon be able to return unused prescription drugs at the Police Department. Inspection and review of the Police Department will take place in September for Department accreditation – results will be known in December 2013. Chief Sinagra has worked hard to accomplish this goal. He presented the year end police data report for the Village (copy attached) – 2817 calls for service; 340 arrests, 1132 parking tickets issued and 179 motor vehicle accidents. The Village had a bank robbery in January.

Trustee Buono advised the Board that he is continuing to pursue legal parking on Partition Street in front of the new businesses that include the pickle store. He has contacted the owner of the vacant lot at the corner of Partition and Montgomery to see if she would be interested in donating the property to the Village for parking. He will contact Alex Betke about changing the parking regulations - perhaps 30 minute metered parking. He has spoken with UC Legislator Bob Aiello about attending Village Board meetings and Mr. Aiello has agreed. Mr. Buono reminded Trustees and Supervisors that work is beginning on the 2013/2014 budget. All budgets must be submitted to him by March 12th.

Deputy Mayor Mayer reported that a new draft of the Comprehensive Plan is available and will be emailed to the Board. The next meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Committee is Jan 30. TV23 may acquire an additional channel – paid commercial advertisements are being considered for this channel. The Revolving Loan Committee has received two new applications that are currently being reviewed by the Committee. The next Chamber meeting is Jan 29th. The Boys and Girls Club will hold a bowling fundraiser event on Jan 27th.

Deputy Mayor Mayer presented Resolution #2/2013 (copy attached). This is a “do-over” of Resolution #16/2012. The DEC requested some wording changes to the \$4000.00 tree grant documents. The resolution was seconded by Trustee Martin and carried unanimously.

Trustee Landewe requested Board approval for the use of the Tina Chorvas Waterfront Park by Arm of the Sea Theater for the nights of August 19 – August 25, 2013. Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Martin, to approve the request. Carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk

Filed 1/23/13

