

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Campbell, William Murphy and Mary Leahy

Absent: Trustee Kelly Myers and Michael Karashay

Others Present: Will Dendis – New Saugerties Times, Treasurer Julie Dunn

Mayor Yerick called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30pm. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comment on the proposed 2007/2008 Village General Budget, the Water Department Budget and the Wastewater Department Budget.

The Mayor explained the budget process to the Board. All department heads and commissioners are required to submit a proposed budget to the Mayor in February. The Mayor, the Financial Officer and Village Treasurer then review each budget along with the department heads and their respective commissioners. Changes are made and a proposed budget is presented to the entire Board for review prior to the Public Hearing. After the Public Hearing, the Board reviews the comments, considers any recommendations and votes on the proposed budget on the 2nd Board meeting in April.

There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying that the budget information she received looks daunting and thinks that the budget looks good. However, as she campaigned throughout the Village recently, the message she received from residents was their concern over taxes. She said the assessed value of the Town is \$1.5 billion verses the Village assessment of \$255 million. She feels that there may be duplicity of services. Trustee LeBlanc went on to say that the Town pays the Village nothing for any of our Parks and only \$5000.00 per year for expenses for the Village Beach. She would like to Village to approach the Town for some relief. Mayor Yerick replied that Village taxpayers pay a lesser rate to the Town for taxes, however it's an idea that the Village can look into. Trustee LeBlanc also had questions on the tax revaluation and the proposed senior tax exemption. The Mayor also said that when the feasibility studies are completed, if they show savings by combining the Police and DPW, he would place the decision to combine the departments in Village resident's hands by holding a public referendum. Trustee Campbell spoke saying that the Town and Village used to split the cost for TV23 50%/50%. Now the Town pays 2/3rds of the cost to the Village 1/3rd. Trustee Murphy also reported that the Village Water Department has recently begun charging the Town for the water used at the Kiwanis Ice Rink.

David Radavanovic arrived late and spoke. He asked if the Village has a protocol for dealing with complaints of alleged sexual abuse (and additional subjects) in light of recent events. The Mayor explained the current complaint process. Mr. Radavanovic felt a new policy should be put in place. Other Board members explained to Mr. Radavanovic that this was a Public Hearing on the proposed budget, not the complaint process.

Motion was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Leahy, to adjourn the Public Hearing. Carried. Mayor Yerick closed the Public Hearing at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk