

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

Absent: Trustees Kelly Myers and Richard Moore

Others: Dorothy and Mary Warfel, Bob Ciarlante, Mike Marino, George Terpening, Eyal Saad, Michele Rosenbaum and group, Susan Bolitzer, William Kimble, Joe Schaffer, Alex Wade, Heather Plonchak – New Saugerties Times, and others

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

Privilege of the Floor

Dorothy Warfel addressed the Board saying she has lived on the corner at the top of Hill Street for 50 years. She does not want to see the curve widened. She feels it would devalue her property and ruin the historic value. She hopes the DOT decision will be to repair the “Wall” and resurface Route 9W only.

Mary Warfel also spoke saying if the curb and road are widened; it will encourage traffic to go faster. She does not believe this is a good idea and encourages the DOT to repair the “Wall” and resurface. Nothing else.

Mayor Yerick replied by saying that in his latest conversation with the DOT that they have reconsidered their position and is now leaning to just repairing the “Wall”. He again advised everyone that there are four projects taking place in that area that must be coordinated – the “Wall” repair, the sewer separation, the resurfacing, and new lightening. He read the letter sent to the DOT after the July 7th Village Board meeting urging the DOT to reconsider their position regarding widening the road. Mayor Yerick went on to say that there are many departments within the DOT and to coordinate projects with all divisions is a challenge. Alex Wade added that he has spoken with Central Hudson – very old gas lines must also be replaced in the “Wall” area.

Michele Rosenbaum then addressed the Board. She informed the trustees of the Heritage Folk Music Concert schedule for 2009 – 8 concerts will take place in Saugerties. She then spoke of Henry Backus, “The Saugerties Bard”, who was a poet and musician who lived in Saugerties in the 1800’s. She provided a short biography of Mr. Backus along with a sample of his work. Her group, Heritage Folk Music, would like to place a plaque in his memory, in Saugerties. Bob Lusk asked that the Heritage Folk Music concerts be incorporated in the Quadracentennial Celebration. Trustee Campbell replied “consider it done”. Rich Bala spoke of Henry Backus saying he is a significant part of Saugerties history. Ernie Mortuzans advised the Board that TV23 would be filming the HFM concerts. Ms. Rosenbaum advised that HFM is working with the Historical Society and the Saugerties School System on the May 17, 2009 concert featuring the music of Henry Backus. Mayor Yerick thanked the group for their information.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the July 13th Sawyer Motors Car Show was huge success - \$13,000.00 was donated to ARC. He also said that the July 12th Secret Garden Tour benefiting the Boys and Girls Club was also a success.

Mayor Yerick presented the Minutes of the July 7, 2008 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Mayor Yerick presented the Abstract for July 21, 2008: General - \$19,986.23; Water - \$2,397.82; Wastewater - \$11,393.88; Water Distribution - \$8,750.00; Seamon Park - \$235.64. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Karashay, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). The North Street yard debris pile has been burned successfully. Thanks to the efforts of Trustee Campbell, the Town has agreed to take Village yard debris in the future. Mr. Ciarlante has been in touch with the DOT Regional Maintenance Chief regarding the “washboard condition” at the intersection of Hill and Partition Streets. He hopes to see a solution soon. Mayor Yerick praised the DPW crew for the cleanup effort after the car show and for the great job they did in removing the GristMill safely. Trustee Campbell said he is happy there will be no more burning on North Street. Trustee Murphy reminded everyone that Village residents can still bring their yard debris to North Street on Fridays from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

George Terpening presented the Buildings, Parks and Grounds report (copy attached). He reported that the lifeguards saved a resident from drowning and also reported on the apparent drowning of a fisherman. Trustee LeBlanc asked Village residents to help water the flowerpots placed on signposts near their homes.

Mike Marino presented the Wastewater Department (report attached). In addition to the items included in his report, Mr. Marino advised that the problem with the gate at the wastewater treatment plant is being solved. He advised the Board that preventative maintenance flushing of the sewer mains is done at night. The hydrojet was used 35 times in June. His department is moving forward with enforcement of the mandatory separation of sump pumps and roof drains from the sanitary sewer system – homeowners please inspect your systems.

Police Chief William Kimble presented the Police report (copy attached). In addition to the items on his report, he advised that the late night activity in the Village has increased. Reports of gasoline thefts are on the increase. The PD provided security for the HITS Block Party. The new SPECTRUM computer system is up and running – it was provided to the PD at no cost from NYS. There were 15 open container violations issued in the month of June along with several disorderly conduct arrests. The emergency response time is under 3 minutes. Chief Kimble praised the efforts of all emergency responders during the recent discovery of a body of a fisherman at the Saugerties Village Beach. Trustee LeBlanc said she thought that some of the local restaurants have or should have

their own security personnel. Mayor Yerick replied that he is talking to business owners about that very subject.

SFD Chief Joe Schaffer presented the Fire Department report (copy attached). The SFD took part in a propane fire training session earlier in July.

Motion was made by Mike Karashay, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to approve the application of Thomas Rea for membership into the CA Lynch Hose Company. Carried. Trustee Karashay mentioned that Mr. Rea is the third generation the Rea family to join the SFD. Trustee Karashay thanked the Village Board for their attendance at the annual July 4th inspection ceremony. He complimented the SFD on the recent propane fire training. The Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Convention will be held July 24 – July 26th in Saugerties.

Eyal Saad presented his report (copy attached). Trustee LeBlanc advised residents that when they place “free” items on the curb; they must be removed if not claimed.

Alex Wade advised the Board that the DOT appreciated the mayor's letter regarding the “Wall”.

Mayor Yerick presented Resolution #11/2008. This Resolution bans motorists from text messaging while driving. The resolution was seconded by Trustee Karashay and passed unanimously.

Mayor Yerick began the discussion regarding the parking meter changes proposed by Trustee LeBlanc at the last Village Board meeting. The proposal increases meter rates and fines for violators. These changes were recommended by SAMA. Trustee Karashay asked if the increases were in line with other communities. Trustee LeBlanc answered yes – for instance, Kingston. Trustee Campbell suggested talking to the Saugerties Area Chamber of Commerce about the proposal. Trustee LeBlanc replied that she intended to do that. Mayor Yerick complimented Trustee LeBlanc for putting together a very good proposal. He likes the idea of changing the hours of the parking meters to begin at 10:00am (instead of 9:00am). He also likes the idea of halving the fine if the ticket is paid within 14 days of issuance. Trustee Karashay said he felt the local merchants should support the move. Trustee Campbell would like to get feedback from the Chamber before he makes a decision. The Clerk will forward the proposal to Attorney Alex Betke for input and the writing of a local law to support the changes. A public hearing will be scheduled.

Trustee Campbell spoke about the changes he has proposed regarding the local “Municipal Parking” signs and the proposed “jake-breaking” signs. Both changes were recommended by SAMA. He suggested 3 “jake-breaking” signs be placed in the Village that reminds truckers not to use their “jake-breaks”. These signs cannot, by law, be placed on the DOT right of way. Mr. Campbell will explore appropriate locations for these signs. He also suggested replacing the current “Municipal Parking” signs with the universal blue “P” sign to designate local municipal parking areas. The Board agreed to

both suggestions and requested that the current “Municipal Parking” signs be removed and replaced with the international “P” sign.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he has signed a contract with Michael LoDolce regarding a sewer line to be constructed by Mr. LoDolce on Ferry Street. Mayor Yerick said the contract has reviewed and approved by the Village Attorney, The Village Engineer and Wastewater Superintendent Mike Marino.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the Village received correspondence from Ulster/Greene ARC informing the Village of its intent to temporarily house 8 people for a period of one year at 24 John Street. ARC is renovating a property located in the Town of Saugerties and plans to relocate these residents during the construction. They will move back into the renovated ARC residence as soon as the project is completed. The Mayor checked with the Village Attorney who advised there is nothing in local zoning law that would prohibit this request. The attorney also advised the mayor that NYS Mental Health Law permits this activity. Trustee LeBlanc asked if the property would be removed from the tax roles. The answer is no – the property will still be privately owned and full taxes will be paid on the property. After a short discussion, the Board gave its approval to the request.

Motion was made by Trustee Karashay, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk