

VILLAGE OF SAUGERTIES

43 PARTITION STREET
SAUGERTIES, N.Y. 12477

**Village Board Meeting
Minutes
August 5, 2024**

Present: Trustees: Don Hackett, Brian Martin, Andrew Zink, Jeannine Mayer, Vince Buono, Terry Parisian

Others: Paula Kerbert, Ed Quirk, Bill Kemble, Dave Gordan, Brian Donahue, Bill Barr, Robin Goss

Absent: Mayor Murphy

Deputy Mayor Mayer opened the Village Board meeting at 5:30pm.

Trustee Hackett led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Privilege Of The Floor

Brian Donahue looking at the Village Budget, trying to understand what's going on. I have some concerns about the level of debt carrying and the budget that we currently have. Andrew just gave me this Financial Information Access Policy, I barely had time to look over it. I think it's kind of important as custodians of the Village taxpayers that all Trustees have unfettered access to any financial information. Response were they do by Deputy Mayor Mayer and Trustee Hackett. Brian stated that we need transparency, I support Andrew's position here that he would like access, I don't think it necessitates the approval of the Mayor. Trustee Hackett stated he felt that something was missing; he has never had a problem to gain access to information he has requested. Trustee Parisian stated comments should be held, no discussion during POF. Brian went on to say State Comptroller offers the Village, have an auditor come in and what is positive, what is negative about what's being done. It's offered by the State for free. Treasurer Paula Kerbert stated she uses the webinars and the CPA firm, Brian stated it's not a reflection on you. A discussion on the AUD's. Brian suggested the Village take a vote. Deputy Mayor Mayer stated

Bill Kemble, from the Freeman brought up transparency, with the 8/5/2024 agenda: Abstracts, minutes none of which are provided, discussion of the abstracts were not part of the paperwork in the handouts for a longtime and was also brought up that they were handed out 13 years ago. Appreciate the term transparency, I do not see it all the time. Example of Town of Ulster there packet is online, prior to the meetings.

Bill Barr, I wanted to second what Brian said, I have been involved in organizations that periodically as a matter of responsibility and due diligence called in an auditor, free service or may have been paid for. It does not mean you're not doing your job. I am anxious for further discussion on this and if it's not necessary there's a lot more to the story. Deputy Mayor Mayer stated she always thought that the AUD's were the audit, that we didn't have an additional one. We can take advantage of additional things that are out there. Trustee Parisian, my understanding is the AUD is our annual audit from the State of New York Comptroller's office, it's required, and we have an auditor who is a CPA with that process. Brian stated that is all great, but why wouldn't take an advantage of the free opportunity to have State come in. I made the same suggestion prior to the budget vote, no one took advantage, that's why I am coming back today. Trustee Hackett said it's a great idea, Trustee Buono and Paula look into. Trustee Parisian stated as long as I have been on the board, never had the State come in and say we can offer you help if needed. The only feedback we received from the State was this year. Trustee Parisian stated all good suggestions.

Brian Donahue asked about the equipment bond, did we have a rate set? Paula equipment bond rate is 4.2%, both are at 4.2%. Term is 10 years. The first payment isn't due until next year's budget.

do not have the answers to. So, I submitted a request for Village Bank Statements, The General Ledger for the past fiscal year, Trial Balances, and the Financial Report submitted to the State Comptroller. In the meantime, the request will be honored, and all of those documents will be returned to me.

Generally speaking, to have your financial policy to have any of financial procedures to have it in writing. That is why I opt to draft the Village of Saugerties Financial Information Access Policy # 1. That basically we are transparent, will supply our Trustees or anyone elected with these documents.

Trustee Zink makes a motion to pass and take any questions. Village of Saugerties Financial Information Access Policy # 1. Trustee Hackett seconded the motion. Trustee Parisian I have an issue, I don't know if we have an SOP policy, it's a good idea if there is one in place. Just to throw out a piece of paper and not have a procedure for a policy manual. Trustee Parisian said he thinks he needs to look at it by our attorney. Trustee Zink stated that he contacted the Village attorney and stated that it would not be a law but a policy. I offer the motion forward and I will end by encouraging the optics of the public that we putting something in writing transparency law, and I welcome anyone to vote no if they want to. Deputy Mayor Mayer stated she sees both sides, nothing wrong in putting in writing and that this policy was given to us five minutes ago and I would like to table this, Trustee Parisian seconded to table and end discussion. Trustee Zink stated he is leaving his motion on the table, Trustee Hackett leaving his seconding of the motion on the table.

Trustee Zink if we fail to pass the Financial Information Access Policy # 1, I don't think that we are showing people that we really pursuing transparency.

Trustee Buono I don't like the implications, because if we don't approve of your policy, we are not doing our jobs? I don't agree, we are doing our jobs. Maybe we take suggestions can take a look at the help we can get from the State, Trustee Zink said I haven't said anything about that yet. This can wait until the next meeting, do we have something in place as a process, you have access to all of this regardless of this piece of paper. The records to the public are also open.

Trustee Parisian Roberts Rule motion was made to table, Deputy Mayor Mayer you need to make a roll call, Trustee Zink I have one final statement to make, Trustee Parisian you can't discuss table, Trustee Zink why not? Trustee Parisian it's the Roberts Rule of Order, Trustee Zink can you produce evidence of that. Bill Kemble, on the motion to table, not if you have one more statement.

Trustee Zink on the motion to table, I appreciate everything that's been said here, there is no problem in waiting on this and didn't make an implication about anybody or anything about the people of the Village, it's something we can revisit in two weeks. It's all to show people we trying to be transparent, and we can revisit in two weeks.

Roll Call on the Table

Trustee Hackett – NO

Trustee Martin – YES

Trustee Buono – YES

Trustee Parisian – YES

Trustee Zink - NO

Deputy Mayor Mayer – YES

Table YES – 4 / NO-2

Treasurer Paula Kerbert - \$185K left to collect on taxes this year Oct. 31, 2024, out of \$2.3 million

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 19, 2024

I submitted all the paperwork for this quarters CHIPS reimbursement. We will be receiving \$47,858.84 on September 17, 2024 via ACH payment.

We received our first ever check from Ulster County for back taxes owed for a parcel. The parcel owed taxes back to 2018. The check was for \$4,338.90, which included all penalties.

I received a letter from the Ulster County Finance Department about new tax collection software coming in 2025. If we sign up now for it the county will pay for the license and also pay the first year of maintenance/support. After the first year we only have to pay for the support part of it and the cost will be \$135/year. If we don't sign up now, we would be responsible for the license and the support at a cost of \$3,995.00 for the license and \$595.00 for the support. The county will draw up an intermunicipal agreement for us to sign for the software and support. If the board is ok with this I will move forward. The software will be county wide, meaning at anytime anyone with the program can see the tax information. The processes will be streamlined and, in some cases, obsolete like the delinquent tax files I have to send every quarter.

I just received 2 Worker's comp bills for January. One is for the Village and 1 is for the Saugerties volunteer fire. They are going up this year approximately \$700 each. The reason being the interest rate on the reserve and our assessed tax valuation and claim loss experience relevant to the entire claim. We didn't have any claims last year.

Mayor Murphy, Village Clerk and I contacted the State comptrollers Office as suggested at the last Village Board meeting. We spoke with the Deputy Comptroller, Robin Lois, who put us in touch with someone that would be contacting us.

The history of the Village's path to the Financial Stress Score was explained to Ed Burgess, Chief of Data Operations. Ed was asked why the Village was

not notified of the Financial Stress Score prior to the results being posted on the State Comptroller's website? Ed informed us we should have been, and we stated we were not. Ed apologized and stated will make sure that does not happen again. Ed advised there are webinars that come in the early part of next year we can attend, and we will. We will know our Financial Score as the year moves along, we have obtained the template for the scoring. Also, we asked why the score of 2022 was not filed, the numbers are there but the filing was late, and they do not go back and upload a score. So, moving forward Ed was very helpful, offered contact with his office with any questions or concerns.

This is the Village's Plan moving forward to Financial Stress Recovery:

- Increase Village Taxes
- Increasing the Village's Fund Balance
- Decreasing spending
- Communication with State Comptroller's Office / Webinar
- Self-monitoring our Financial Stress Score

Paula Kerbert

Treasurer

ULSTER COUNTY SELF-INSURANCE PLAN

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402-1800



Jen Metzger
County Executive

PHONE: (845) 340-3560
FAX: (845) 340-3559

Brian MacGregor
Administrator

DATE: AUGUST 15, 2024
TO: 2025 PARTICIPANTS – ULSTER COUNTY SELF INSURANCE PLAN
FROM: BRIAN MACGREGOR, ADMINISTRATOR
RE: NOTIFICATION OF 2025 PREMIUM ESTIMATE

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5, SECTIONS 66, 67 & 71 OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW, THE FOLLOWING IS NOTIFICATION OF YOUR YEAR 2025 ESTIMATED PREMIUM FOR THE ULSTER COUNTY SELF INSURANCE PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2025 – JANUARY 1, 2026.

Village of Saugerties Volunteer Fire

\$ 19,827.29

THIS IS NOT A BILL. YOU WILL BE BILLED EARLY IN JANUARY OF 2025.

*2023 - 20,549.42
+ 722.13*

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2025 budget decreased by less than 1 % from 2024. Due to the increased interest rate on the reserve for the plan a reduction in your normally calculated premium has been applied. If there is a substantial increase in your premium, it would be attributable to a combination of your assessed tax valuation and claim loss experience relevant to the entire plan.

USUAL BUSINESS:

LOSS EXPERIENCE AND ASSESSED VALUATION ARE USED AS A BASIS FOR DETERMINING HOW EACH PARTICIPANT EQUATES TO THE WHOLE. IT IS A PERCENTAGE.

Beginning 7/01/10, the maximum weekly benefit rate for workers' compensation is 2/3 of the New York State average weekly wage for the previous calendar year as determined by the New York State Department of Labor Workers' Compensation Law. Accordingly, for workers' compensation claims with dates of accident or dates of disablement during the period from 7/01/10 through 6/30/11, the maximum weekly rate is \$739.83. The maximum weekly rate from 7/01/11 through 6/30/12 is \$772.96.

(OVER)

The maximum weekly rate from 7/01/12 through 6/30/13 is \$792.07. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/13 through 6/30/14 is \$803.21. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/14 through 6/30/15 is \$808.65. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/15 through 6/30/16 is \$844.29. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/16 through 6/30/17 is \$864.32. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/17 through 6/30/18 is \$870.61. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/18 through 6/30/19 is \$904.74. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/19 through 6/30/20 is \$934.11. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/20 through 6/30/21 is \$966.78. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/21 through 6/30/22 is \$1,063.05. The maximum weekly rate for 7/01/22 through 6/30/23 is \$1,125.46. The maximum weekly rate for 7/1/24 through 6/30/25 is \$1,171.46

****FOR MINOR INJURIES:**

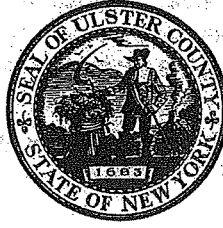
PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR EMPLOYEES TO UTILIZE PROVIDERS SUCH AS EMERGENCY ONE OR THEIR OWN PRIVATE PHYSICIANS (IF W.C. RATED) IN AN EFFORT TO CONTAIN COSTS. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS ARE NOT ONLY COSTLY, BUT ALSO TIME-CONSUMING.

YOU MAY FIND MORE INFORMATION AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION FORMS ONLINE AT:
www.ncacomp.com or www.wcb.ny.gov/content/main/forms.htm

OR FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US 8:30am-4:30pm MON-FRI @ (845) 340-3560. OUR STAFF IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU.

ULSTER COUNTY SELF-INSURANCE PLAN

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402-1800



Jen Metzger
County Executive

PHONE: (845) 340-3560
FAX: (845) 340-3559

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Administrator

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Village of Saugerties

\$ 31,064.07

THIS IS NOT A BILL. YOU WILL BE BILLED EARLY IN JANUARY OF 2025.

2023 - 30,274.67

+ 789.40

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2025 budget decreased by less than 1 % from 2024. Due to the increased interest rate on the reserve for the plan a reduction in your normally calculated premium has been applied. If there is a substantial increase in your premium, it would be attributable to a combination of your assessed tax valuation and claim loss experience relevant to the entire plan.

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OR FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US 8:30am-4:30pm MON-FRI @ (845) 340-3560. OUR STAFF IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU.



Roseann Daw, MBA, CPP
Commissioner of Finance

Christopher R. Jaros, MBA
Deputy Commissioner of Finance

Max Cordella
Deputy Commissioner of Finance

Tracey Williams
Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Director of Real Property

August 12, 2024

Paula Kerbert, Treasurer
Village of Saugerties
43 Partition Street
Saugerties, NY 12477

RE: Total Collection Solution

Dear Paula,

Ulster County Information Services plans to sunset support for their in-house developed Tax Collection System, as early as Q2 2025, which many of you might be utilizing. With funding in place to cover the initial expenses for the towns, villages, and school districts of Ulster County, we are offering you a chance for significant savings, by selecting to participate in this one-time offer where Ulster County will pay for your initial license and maintenance for year 1, for a new platform, Total Collection Solution (TCS). If you do not onboard with TCS, you will be responsible to return your unpaid and paid tax information to the County in a format acceptable by Ulster County Information Services.

On April 26, 2024, we sent you a letter regarding this new tax software system Ulster County purchased through Systems East, Inc. You were invited to a virtual software demonstration of this system that was held on May 9, 2024, at the Esopus Town Hall. If you were not able to attend, please feel free to watch the recorded presentation by using the following link:
https://recordings.join.me/AveHRL9gQ0-JUaonk1_pjQ

The County and individual municipalities will benefit from taking advantage of this opportunity to establish a single, real-time database where we can see up-to-date, county-wide tax payment information at any given time. Processes will be streamlined and, in some cases, become obsolete, saving time for everyone.

If you are interested in Ulster County purchasing the license for this software system for your municipality, please notify the Department of Finance by August 30th, 2024, by emailing Diane Stauble of my office at dstb@co.ulster.ny.us to let her know you would like to participate or that you decline this offer. If you have concerns, please notify Diane of these, so that we can work to address them with yourself and the vendor and see if those concerns can be alleviated.

If you participate in this offer, an intermunicipal agreement will be required. If you decide you would like to purchase TCS for your municipality after the bulk licensing deadline (January 10, 2025), your municipality will be responsible for the purchase of the license themselves. Licenses currently start at \$3,995.00, for which you would be required to pay. Ulster County has contracted with Systems East and negotiated the bulk licensing price for purchasing on behalf of municipalities that opt in before the deadline at only \$1,795.00.

When preparing your annual budget, please keep in mind there will be a yearly maintenance and support fee. This will be your municipality's responsibility to pay after year 1 of maintenance. (\$135/year if license purchased within the "Bulk Licensing" period, otherwise \$595).

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RoseAnn" in a cursive, flowing script.

RoseAnn Daw, MBA, CPP
Ulster County Commissioner of Finance
RD/ds

CC: Honorable William Murphy, Supervisor

Peggy Melville

From: Peggy Melville
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 8:26 AM
To: Peggy Melville
Subject: Deputy Mayor Mayer - Report for 8192024

Report for Village Meeting 8/19/24

Since I am away on vacation and can not attend the meeting I Wanted to state the reason why I tabled the operational draft Andrew was proposing was because I felt the board needed some time to read, digest, and research. Also because the Mayor had no knowledge of it either.

Since then I have been in contact with town of Ulster clerk, Suzanne Ready who shared information with me about their website and transparency. I have looked at the info and forwarded it to our clerk Peggy and treasurer Paula.

Attended the chamber board meeting—and worked all events the week of 8/12-8/16 for Woodstock 94 celebration. Board is invited to the hippie bus auction on 9/15 at SPAF at 3:00.

Followed up with Don and Rich regarding tree trimming