



VILLAGE OF SAUGERTIES
43 PARTITION STREET
SAUGERTIES, N.Y. 12477

Village Board Meeting Minutes September 16, 2019

Present: Mayor William Murphy, Deputy Mayor Jeannine Mayer, Trustees Vince Buono, Jeff Helmuth, Don Hackett, Brian Martin **Others:** Mike Hopf, Mike Marino, Rich Forbes, George Terpening, Alex Wade, Dave Gordon, Bill Kemble, Ed Quirk, Aiden Hughes, Brian Mason, Rosemary Brackett, Sal Cigliano, Christina Coulter, Mike Hunlock, 10 HS Students

Mayor Murphy opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Mayor Murphy requested **Trustee Helmuth** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Murphy presented the Village Board Minutes from September 3, 2019.

Deputy Mayor Mayer made a motion to approve the Village Board Minutes from September 3, 2019. The motion to approve the minutes from September 3, 2019 was seconded by Trustee Hackett. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for September 16, 2019:

- General \$ 81,367.63
- Water \$ 26,201.07
- Wastewater \$ 35,319.50

Trustee Hackett made a motion to approve the Abstract for September 16 2019. The motion to approve the Abstract of September 16, 2019 was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayor. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

Mayor Murphy addressed Dave Gordon from Saugerties Times regarding an article that referred to the insurance coverage the Village maintains. The Mayor stated he had been misquoted about the insurance coverages the Village has as apposed to the new coverages being quoted by Marshal and Sterling who were proposing a new policy for fire trucks and equipment. Reis Insurance, the Village's current insurance carrier, has since renewed the Village's insurance policy and will be presenting a quote for the Fire Departments equipment at the October Board meeting for comparison to Marshall and Sterlings quote.

Maria Bele and Zdenek Ulman from Marine Services addressed the Board regarding the work they are doing at the creek to clean up the milfoil and water chestnuts. The milfoil is the primary concern right now. The machine being used pulls the weeds out by the root system. Approximately 4 cubic yards per day are being removed. The work to remove the water chestnuts will be done after the machine and equipment is fitted with a different belt. Currently, two projects are being done. The Village's project is the beach area and further up the creek private property owners have come together to have their area cleaned. Z thanked the Village for their help and cooperation with removal of the weeds and the property owners for their tremendous contribution to the community.

Mayor Murphy questioned what the recommendation would be going forward. **Z** stated that the creek has been taken over by the milfoil weeds. It is a hugh project. The best approach would be to introduce a special channel just for power boats. The motor boats propellers cut through the weeds causing the milfoil to spread. The power boats would still be able to use the creek within the designated channel. The non motor boats would only be on the surface which would not spread the seeds.

Mayor Murphy stated that as a result of the cleanup efforts, several residents and Mullins Construction had reached out to the Village and Marine Services to have their areas of the creek cleanup as well. After seeing the results, plans are being made to partner with the Town and the Esopus Creek Conservancy to discuss the

funding for the cleanup effort for next year. There has been a push for the Village to consider purchasing a harvester. The research shows that the cost of a new machine would be approximately \$80,000. The harvester would have to be insured, stored and operated by a trained operator. Z stated that having a harvester is great if it can be used daily. It takes approximately 6 weeks to learn how to operate the machine and requires 1-2 hours of daily maintenance. It would take approximately 3 - 4 years to recoup the cost of the machine.

Rosemary Brackett questioned as to the cost of the cleanup project for the Village. Rosemary stated that she is thrilled that the problem is being addressed. She stated that Lake George has a handle on their problem and have used grant money to purchase a harvester. **Mayor Murphy** stated that the Village is paying \$5300 for the cleanup and he is not aware of the cost to the property owners. A discussion continued regarding the timing of the removal of the milfoil and the water chestnuts.

Trustee Hackett asked what the depth of the machine and how close can you get to the shore. Z stated that the depth the machine can go is 4 feet.

Sal Cigliano stated he has owned a house on the creek for 40 years. He has been on the water with **Z. Mr. Cigliano** stated that the Town and Village need to get together to address the problem. He mentioned that the turbid water that had been dumped by Poughkeepsie years ago caused this problem by fertilizing the weeds. **Mr. Cigliano** stated he has been to several Board meetings and has not seen any progress. **Mayor Murphy** stated that the Village has been working with the Town and had also met with Cornell Cooperative Extension that had suggested using chemicals. Both the Town & Village do not want to use chemicals. The **Mayor** stated that he and **Trustee Hackett** have been working to find a solution for years and early this Spring began researching harvesters. Most of the companies that were contacted only want to sell a harvester, not do any clean up. It took until August to find Marine Services. In the meantime, the Village's summer Parks and Grounds employees had been trying to cleanup around the beach by raking out as much as they could from small boats.

Z stated that the observations by residents that live on the creek is tremendously helpful to see with how the creek used to be compared to now. To see how much marine life was in the creek. More vegetation robs the water of oxygen and sunlight. When the vegetation decomposes it kills the marine life.

Mayor Murphy stated that this is not only a Saugerties problem. It is throughout NYS – Lake George, Saratoga etc. The **Mayor** will be meeting with the Ulster County Executive next week regarding the shared services programs. The possibility of borrowing the Town of Ulster harvester will be brought up again. The Town of Ulster has refused our requests to use their harvester in the past. **Trustee Helmuth** added that Cornell has grant information available.

The use and effectiveness of the power boat channel was discussed and is something to think about for the future. **Mr. Cigliano** suggested creating jobs within the Village for cleaning up the creek. Possibly through budgeting or grants money.

Rosemary Brackett inquired as to how often the cleanup would be done. **Z** explained that in June they would start to clean the creek of the milfoil and it would take several weeks and several seasons to make a difference. The cleanup needs to be ongoing.

Mayor Murphy stated that he will be looking for help from the Town and the Esopus Creek Conservancy to contribute to the cleanup for next year, while we are looking into grants or other funding. **The Mayor** complimented and thanked **Z and Maria** for the work they have been doing. **Z** stated that the help and the support from the Village and residents was amazing.

Supervisor Reports

Mike Marino presented his report for the Waste Water Dept. See attached report.

The report regarding the cost effectiveness of accepting outside haulers was discussed. **Mike Marino** explained that some of the larger haulers have a much greater chance of bringing in anything other than residential. **Trustee Hackett** stated that the permits that the haulers have should indicate whether or not they are business or residential and if they bringing anything other than then they can be fined and possibly lose their license. **Trustee Buono** stated that **Trustee Parisian** had questions about the expenses caused by accepting outside haulers and where in the report is the cost broken down. The questions and discussion will be postponed until **Trustee Parisian** is present.

Mike Marino stated that the income from the haulers is needed to run the plant. The issue is how to better handle it.

Mike Marino stated that a new entrance grinder had to be ordered at a cost of \$25,000.

Mike Hopf presented his report for the Water Dept. See attached report.

Rich Forbes presented his report for the DPW. See attached report.

Mayor Murphy stated that the Chamber of Commerce thanked the DPW at their auction for all the help with the street art.

George Terpening presented his report for the Buildings, Parks, and Grounds Dept. See attached report

Eyal Saad presented his report for the Building and Safety Dept. See attached report.

Eyal attended a meeting with the Kingston Plumbing Board to discuss the reciprocal agreement between the Village and the City of Kingston. The Kingston Plumbing Board has changed their policy as of February 2019 and has been charging Saugerties licensed plumber a \$400 fee to work in Kingston. The Village found out about the change after several Saugerties Plumbers were charged the \$400 fee to work in Kingston. There is no written agreement, just an oral agreement from 2005. A meeting with the Village Plumbing Board will be arranged to discuss how to proceed with the issue.

Alex Wade presented his report for Special Projects. See attached report.

The contractors are ready to set a start date for the Bluestone Sidewalk Repair Project.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Helmuth - Nothing new to report.

Trustee Hackett -Nothing new to report.

Trustee Buono - Nothing new to report.

Deputy Mayor Mayer reported:

- The Chamber of Commerce's visitor center will be closed for the season after the Holiday in the Village December 8th. The next Chamber meeting will be September 25th at Opus 40.
- The Mum Festival meeting is scheduled for September 23rd. Heidi will be filling in for Jeannine - October 6 12-5.

Trustee Hackett made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer. Motion carried unanimously. The Village Board Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next Village Board meeting is Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Lisa Mayone

Village Clerk

Filed September 20, 2019