

Village Board

May 16, 2011

Present: Mayor William Murphy, Trustees, Patrick Landewe, Vincent Buono, Don Hackett, Jeannine Mayer, Brian Martin and Kelly Myers

Others: Students from the SHS Government Class, Heather Plonchak – New Saug Times, SFD Chief Dave Mason, Bob Ciarlante, George Terpening, Eyal Saad, Alex Wade and others

Public Hearing

Mayor Murphy called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45pm. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comment on Local Law #4/2011 enacting a property tax exemption on historic properties. Trustee Landewe explained the proposed law saying the exemption would be for any historic property whose owner rehabilitated the property. The exemption would only apply to any increase in value attributable to the rehabilitation. There was no one from the public who wished to comment. Mayor Murphy closed the Public Hearing at 6:50pm.

Regular Session

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

Privilege of the Floor

A group of Girl Scouts from Heather Plonchak's troop addressed the Board. The Girl Scouts thanked the Village Board for the use of Donlon Auditorium for a recent overnight experience. They also informed the Board that the troop would clean-up litter at the Lions Club Playground on May 22nd. They are also donating a sign that says "Don't be a Litterbug". Motion was made by Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Mayer to accept the sign. George Terpening took possession of the sign with thanks from the Board. The girls received a warm round of applause from the Village Board.

Mayor Murphy presented the Minutes of the May 2, 2011 Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Martin, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for May 16, 2011: General - \$17,678.80; Water - \$4,106.56; Wastewater - \$9,242.11. Motion was made by Trustee Buono, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to approve the Abstract. Carried unanimously.

Eyal Saad advised the Board that it was business as usual in the Building Department. He is working on arranging safety seminars for Village Departments, sending grass letters and is busy with the Partition Street Project and Village Diner inspections.

Trustee Landewe advised the Board that the Planning Board is reviewing plans for the SpeedyMart expansion and suggestions for its long standing litter problem. Trustee Landewe said that he had a productive meeting with Eyal Saad and would like the Trustees to consider making a change to the Property Maintenance Law. Currently, the Code Enforcement Officer writes a violation letter that gives the offender 10 days to correct the violation. In many instances the violation is corrected within the 10 day time period, but then in another month, the violation occurs again and the process begins anew. Trustee Landewe and Mr. Saad suggest changing the law to say if a repeat violation occurs within 180 days of the original, the Village can issue a summons to take the offender to Village Court. Trustee Landewe also advised the Board that there are ongoing discussions regarding the unfinished portion of Latham Circle – the owners may ask to donate the land to the Village for a nature trail. Trustee Bueno asked for more detail as they become available before a decision is made. Trustee Landewe will try to attend a meeting with the DEC regarding the releases from the Ashokan into the Esopus.

Trustee Myers commented that the DEP/DEC process to receive input from residents along the Espous was inhospitable. The DEP proposals have been rejected with most people favoring the DEP funding of an outside consultant. There is a public comment period until the end of May and Trustee Myers urged everyone to keep a close eye on the DEP. She distributed a note from Willy Neumann requesting Village insurance coverage for his Saturday afternoon gatherings in the Reis Parking Lot. Motion was made by Trustee Myers, seconded by Mayor Murphy, to approve obtaining insurance coverage for the Reis Parking Lot contingent on receiving a letter from the Reis Group confirming use of the parking lot. Carried unanimously.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). Please, no more yard debris in the street! Street sweeping is ongoing. The Village has approximately \$71,000.00 in CHIPS funds for road construction/rehabilitation.

Trustee Myers asked Trustee Mayer to arrange for the rental of the Water Chestnut Harvester from the Town of Esopus in the next month if possible.

Trustee Mayer reported that work is ongoing to update the Town/Village Comprehensive Plan. TV23 will not have live programming from June 6 – July 10 – the studio will undergo an equipment upgrade. The bulletin board will still run. Many events are planned for the 200th Anniversary of the Town including Old Timers Day on August 8th and a “Hoedown at Hits”. Trustee Mayer attended at meeting with Trustee Hackett and Town officials to discuss shared services. She also reminded the Board of the many events taking place in the next few weeks.

Fire Chief Dave Mason presented the SFD report (copy attached). He is getting organized in his new position as Chief and thanked the Board for their confidence.

Trustee Don Hackett advised the Board that some repair and upgrade work is being done at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The co-generation report is in progress.

George Terpening presented the Building and Grounds report (copy attached). The parks crew has been hampered by the rainy weather. Some of the planned renovations to Village Hall are complete. Trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer must be removed at the Village Beach.

Trustee Brian Martin reported that the Water Treatment Plan is dealing with the constant rain – the plant has had to shut down several times recently and the crew is working overtime to deal with the turbid water entering the plant.

Trustee Vince Buono has followed up with the NYS DOT regarding the light at Price Chopper – that light has been corrected and traffic flow appears smoother. The DOT is still considering options for the right on red at Ulster and Market and areas on Partition Street.

He also attended an Economic Development Committee meeting that included discussion of a proposed hotel at the Lazy Swan Golf Club, affordable housing on Route 32 and the senior housing project on North Street in the Village.

Mayor Murphy advised the Board of a rash of car break-ins in the Village. He urged all residents to lock their vehicles and report any suspicious activity to the Police Department. He also advised the Board that the concession stands at Cantine Field have been burglarized and the Police are investigating.

Mayor Murphy presented Local Law #4/2011. This law provides a real property tax exemption on altered or rehabilitated historic properties in the Village. The Board held a Public Hearing earlier in the evening on the proposed law. Motion was made by Mayor Murphy, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve Local Law #4/2011 and it carried unanimously.

Trustee Landewe presented an application for a permit to keep farm animals pertaining to Village Code 66-11 and 66-12. After a short discussion, motion was made by Trustee Landewe, seconded by Trustee Buono, to approve the application. Carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Hackett, to adjourn. Carried. The Village Board adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank, Village Clerk

Filed 5/24/11