

Village Board

October 5, 2009

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Campbell, Kelly Myers, William Murphy and Richard Moore

Absent: Trustee Jeannine Dirie

Others: Paul Korczak, Richard Frisbee, Alex Wade, and others

Mayor Robert Yerick called the regular meeting of the Village Board to order at 7:50pm. Trustee Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Yerick announced that the Mum Festival was a great success. Thanks to the Mum Festival Committee, The Seamon Park Board and the Village Buildings and Grounds Department for making the day special. The Park celebrated the 100th anniversary of the donation of the land to the Village from John Seamon. Mayor Yerick also reported that the “Walkway on the Hudson” grand opening was a great event. Artist Jacqui Roland and Trustee Mike Campbell represented the Village. Thanks to Village Historian Marjorie Block for all her efforts. Make A Difference Day was also held Sunday October 4th. Trustee Myers said that many young people were in attendance.

Mayor Yerick commented that the DOT paving of Route 9W is ongoing. Thanks to Alex Wade for his oversight. Alex advised the Board that the crosswalks (similar to the walks installed in the Town of Esopus) are the next project after the paving is completed.

Privilege of the Floor

Paul Korczak, 16 Livingston Street, spoke to the Board. He advised the Trustees that he recently applied to the ZBA for a use variance (his property is located in a B1 Zone that does not allow residential space on the 1st floor of a commercial building). He said he would like to rent some of the 1st floor space as residential apartments. The ZBA denied his request on the basis that the “hardship was self-created”; that Mr. Korczak was aware of the Zoning Code when he purchased the building. Mr. Korczak explained that the ZBA had advised him to ask the Village Board to change the zoning in that area of Livingston Street. Trustee Myers asked how many parking spaces were available – Mr. Korczak answered 12. The two apartments he hopes to rent as residential are 1100 square feet per space. Trustee Myers remarked that most of the properties in that area are residential. Mayor Yerick responded by saying that Trustee LeBlanc would speak to the attorney and come back to the Village Board with a recommendation. Trustee LeBlanc said the ZBA denied the request because Mr. Korczak was well aware of the zoning restrictions when he purchased the building and the ZBA did not wish to set a precedent by granting the variance. However, the ZBA does acknowledge that the neighborhood has changed in the 25 years since the current zoning went into effect. Mr. Korczak spoke again saying he would be happy if the Village Board allowed him to rent just one of his 1st floor apartments. Richard Frisbee spoke saying if the Village Board considered Mr. Korczak’s request, he would like the Board to consider his situation on Jane Street.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of September 21, 2009. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Trustee Richard Moore presented the Abstract for October 5th: General - \$31,254.98; Water - \$12,858.61; Wastewater - \$46,249.94; Seamon Park - \$3,750.00; Partition Street Project - \$1,189.00 (from escrow). Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve the Abstract. Carried. Mr. Moore then spoke observing that the just concluded Public Hearing on animals and trees lasted for over an hour and brought out about 20 residents. Last spring, the Board held a Public Hearing on the \$3 million Village budget that lasted 10 minutes and not one resident attended.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that the newly formed Police Consolidation/merger Committee is meeting weekly.

Trustee Campbell advised the Board that this week is Fire Prevention Week and the SFD will be making visits to area schools and giving tours of the Firehouse to local children. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve Eric Reimers as a member of the Washington Hook & Ladder Company. Carried. Mr. Campbell said he was proud to represent the Village at the "Walkway over the Hudson" opening event. He said the view was spectacular and the list of politicians present was impressive. Trustee Campbell went on to say that the Village of Saugerties was named in the top 10 of the "Coolest places to visit and live" in the US by Budget Travel Magazine. The requests for information on the Saugerties website has jumped since the publication.

Trustee LeBlanc announced that the Hors'n Around auction raised over \$57,000.00. The Planning Board will hold a Special Public Hearing on the Partition Street Project on October 26th 7:00pm at the Senior Citizens Center. Recently the ZBA denied the use variance request from Paul Zorczak and some discussion took place by the Trustees. At the October 27th ZBA meeting, a Public Hearing will be held on the requested appeal of a Building Permit issued to John Dorans of Oakledge Park for a single-family residence. Trustee LeBlanc then discussed the letter from the ZBA to the Village Board (copy attached) that requested some changes to the Zoning Code and that the Village Board consider obtaining grants to hire a consultant to review the entire Zoning Code and map. The Code was written and the map was drawn in 1985 – the face and needs of the Village has changed and the ZBA feels it is time for a review. There was much discussion including the absentee landlord problem in the Village.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he is close to finalizing a plan that will save the \$300,000.00 amount that the Board had to borrow at the end of the last fiscal year. There was some discussion regarding the budget. Trustee Myers commented that she would like to attend "budget workshops" so she could better understand what other department budgets require. Mayor Yerick disagreed saying he thought each department could handle their own area. Trustee Campbell mentioned that the Village is actively pursuing a Police consolidation/merger that would certainly save over \$300,000.00. The Board then discussed the police merger status.

Trustee Myers advised that the DPW was installing several bike racks in public areas in the Village. The DPW removed garbage and debris that had accumulated at a Village resident's property and the cost will be added to the resident's property taxes. Neighbors complained about the condition of the property and the resident was given proper notification to have the property taken care of (to no avail). Several neighbors have contacted the Village to thank the DPW for the cleanup. The DPW is also working on catch basins.

Trustee Murphy reported all is running smoothly at the Water and Wastewater Departments.

Alex Wade reported that the Route 9W paving is almost finished – the project should be complete by the middle of next week. The crosswalks will be installed in the spring of 2010. The DOT "Wall" project is nearing completion – take a drive down Valley Street to observe the solution.

Trustee LeBlanc advised the Board that the new owner of a Valley Street property has removed the debris left from a fire. The new owner expects to rebuild.

Trustee Myers commented that she liked some of the ideas presented to the Board regarding the shade tree ordinance. She also commented that it seemed clear that the "Keeping of Animals" law revision still needed some work.

Village Clerk Mary Frank advised the Board that Time Warner Cable has notified the Village of a \$.50 increase in basic cable service that will go into effect in January 2010.

Motion was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Myers, to adjourn. Carried. The Village Board adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk