



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

Village Board Meeting Minutes February 1, 2021

Due to COVID19 pandemic and the Governor's Executive Order 202 regarding open meetings, this meeting was held via Webex. Connection information was broadcast online for residents to participate.

Present: Mayor Murphy, Deputy Mayor Mayer, Trustees Vince Buono, Terry Parisian, Don Hackett, Brian Martin, Jeff Helmuth **Others:** Alex Wade, Paula Kerbert, Ed Quirk, William Kemble, Andrew Zink, Marcus Arthur, Susan Murphy

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

Mayor Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor –

Marcus Arthur spoke to the Trustees regarding the Community Choice Aggregation project. The Town has signed up with Joule. If the Village is going to participate in this round, the deadline for the local law is March. The law allows the information to get distributed to the residents. There is a 10% discount for community solar for residents and the Village for joining.

Mayor Murphy responded that he liked the fact that we could sign up now, non-bidding and we have time to get information out and get the response from the residents.

Susan Murphy is also excited about the possibilities and is wondering what the Trustees are thinking.

Mayor Murphy stated that the last presentation provided a lot of good information about how the project works and made the process clearer. The Board members should be able to provide and present the opportunity but not to decide for all 5000 residents. The project is on the agenda and will be discussed further during the meeting.

No one else was on the call to address the Board.

Mayor Murphy presented the Village Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021.

Trustee Buono made a motion to approve the Village Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021.

The motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2021 was seconded by Trustee Helmuth.

All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Buono presented the Abstract for February 1, 2021:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| • General | \$ 42,416.24 |
| • Water | \$ 16,132.20 |
| • Wastewater | \$ 27,399.63 |

Mayor Murphy made a motion to approve the Abstract for February 1, 2021. The motion to approve the Abstract for February 1, 2021 was seconded by Trustee Hackett. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Reports

Trustee Hackett reported that the Wastewater Dept has received three quotes for a new roof on the main building of the plant. Superior Roofing is the company that has been chosen with a quote of \$24,100. The old flat roof will be removed, and a new roof put on. The roof over the digester will be replaced after the new budget is in place in June.

Mike Marino has a meeting scheduled this week with Mike Karashay to review grant opportunities for major projects that need to be done at the Wastewater plant. The valves that need to be replaced cost approximately \$240,000.

The Building Department is going well.

Mayor Murphy stated that there was a \$30,000 difference between the bids for the roof project.

Trustee Buono questioned the status of the RBC and the Main Street Sewer Sanitation project. **Trustee Hackett** stated that the RBC can be installed but it will not be operational until the media is available. The media has not been available due to manufacturing delays due to COVID19.

The Main Street project bids have been awarded and the project should start in the Spring.

Trustee Martin reported that things have been quiet.

Thank you to Eyal Saad and Mike Hopf for checking the heating circulator in the Snyder's Room in the fire house. They were able to get the circulator started and called in plumber Paul Sinnott to look at the heater and see what needed to be fixed.

Trustee Buono asked about the progress of the new fire truck. **Trustee Martin** stated that due to COVID19 everything is behind. Most likely delivery of the new truck will be sometime in the Fall.

Deputy Mayor Mayer reported

- The sketches for Chamber butterfly artwork are due by February 14. Monies are due for the sponsorship.
- There was better attendance at the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting. Some changes have been made and a revised document will be reviewed. There was verbiage added to have the Town and Village share their opinions on projects.
- An Acram FD member has requested FD participation in a birthday parade. The young man is handicapped and blind. The information will be shared with the Police and Fire Departments for coordination.
- The Community sign repainting will cost less than \$500 to repaint all the signs.
- Vernon Benjamin was the guest speaker at the Art Commission meeting. He spoke about the water releases into the Esopus resulting in the "chocolate" water.

A letter of support will be sent out. The website is complete – art@saugertiesartscommission.org
Three committees have been formed and fundraising discussed. The next Arts Commission meeting will be Feb. 26th.

- Patrick Landewe and Mary McNamara are presenting a talk for Shout Out Saugerties regarding the discharges into the Esopus. The talk will be posted on the Saugerties Public Library website.
- The Revolving Loan Committee is requesting some revisions to the purpose of the loan. *Due to the hardships of the COVID19 pandemic the Revolving Loan Committee would like to be able to make funds available to existing businesses for payroll, rent/mortgage expense utilities and supplies. The funds available would be \$2,000-\$75,000 with a rate of 1.5% for up to 5 years. No payment and no interest would be required during the first twelve months.*

Mayor Murphy supported the changes as a fantastic idea to assist struggling businesses. The information should be publicized as it may be incentive for other communities to follow.

Treasurer Paula Kerbert stated that there have been no problems with any delinquent payments with the current outstanding loans. There is an available balance of \$475,000 in the separate Revolving Loan Fund nothing to do with taxes.

Mayor Murphy made a motion to approve the revisions the objective portion of the Revolving Loan Program to include making funds available during COVID19 pandemic to existing businesses for payroll, rent/mortgage expense utilities and supplies. The funds available would be \$2,000-\$75,000 with a rate of 1.5% for up to 5 years. No payment and no interest would be required during the first twelve months.

Trustee Buono seconded the motion to approve the revisions the objective portion of the Revolving Loan Program to include making funds available during COVID19 pandemic to existing businesses for payroll, rent/mortgage expense utilities and supplies. The funds available would be \$2,000-\$75,000 with a rate of 1.5% for 5 years. No payment and no interest would be required during the first twelve months. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Mayer stated that the Revolving Loan Committee will have their meeting to approve the changes and get the information out to the business owners.

Trustee Helmuth reported that a leaking hydrant and a water valve on Lafayette Street have been replaced. Several homes in the area were without water for 6 hours and had a 24hour boil water notice. The Ashokan Release Working Group has been attended by Stan O'Dell.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paula Kerbert reported that the outstanding balance for the 2020 taxes is \$11,633.01. More payments are expected by March due to foreclosures. Past due notices have continued to be mailed out for all years back to 2013.

Trustee Buono congratulated Paula on doing a super job.

Paula stated that the budget schedule letter has been distributed to all the Supervisors. Meetings with the Supervisors are being scheduled this week. The preliminary budget will be forwarded to Mayor Murphy by February 8th and then back to the Supervisors and their Trustees for review and adjustments.

Mayor Murphy stated that all the Trustees will have access to all departments budgets if they want to review them. Appointments can be scheduled for evenings and Saturdays if necessary.

Trustee Parisian reported that Supervisor Rich Forbes and the guys are working long hard hours to keep up with the snow. **Mayor Murphy** mentioned that a resident sent him a complimentary email regarding the snow plowing on her street and Village in general. The business district will be cleaned Thursday into Friday.

Alex Wade complimented the Board on the approval of the revolving loan funds for COVID19. The muddy water from the releases is a big concern and Alex intends on being part of the Public Hearing.

Mayor Murphy mentioned that Village resident Neal Smoller has made COVID19 shots available to the seniors at the Mill and the Main Street community housing through his pharmacy. Arrangements were made within 48hours, forms completed, and the shots were administered at the locations within an hour. The second shots will be administered in 3 weeks. Thank you to Neal Smoller for the great gesture.

Mayor Murphy also spoke with Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan about having a COVID19 vaccination site in Saugerties. Arrangements will be discussed with Town Supervisor Fred Costello and Parks and Grounds Supervisor Greg Chorvas as to a possible location.

The Community Choice Aggregation Project

Mayor Murphy stated he feels the Village should start the process of the local law to allow the information about the CCA to be distributed to the residents and get their feedback. The Village has from now to September to decide based on public input. The local law is a required NYS regulation and gives permission to Joule to contact the Village residents.

Trustee Hackett still has reservations regarding the opting out clause. He does not feel comfortable to have all residents automatically included and having to opt out.

Marcus Arthur stated that the initial letter from Joule gives the resident the option to opt out of the program. Each communication has the opt out option available. A return envelope will be included. There is no contract or penalty, and the Village and residents can opt out of the program **at any time**. There is a website available for any questions that anyone in the community may have. Phone numbers and public meetings will be provided and paid for by Joule. A sample letter will be supplied to the Board for review.

Mayor Murphy will be contacting the Village attorney to review the requirement for the local law, the sample of the local law and the initial letter to the residents. A further discussion regarding the CCA program and vote will be held at the February 16th Board meeting.

Trustee Helmuth made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer. The motion carries unanimously. The village board meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

The next Village Board meeting is Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Webex.

<https://villageofsaugerties.my.webex.com/join/bmurphy>

Lisa Mayone
Village Clerk
02/03/2021