

Village Board

August 3, 2009

Present: Mayor Robert Yerick, Trustees Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Campbell, William Murphy, Jeannine Dirie, Richard Moore
Others: See attached sign in sheet

Mayor Robert Yerick called the Village Board to order at 700pm. Trustee Murphy led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor

Vince Hackett addressed the Board about his continuing concerns regarding boating on the upper creek and the proposed changes to the Boat Permit. He is not happy with the proposed changes to the permit and is even more unhappy with the leadership of the Esopus Creek Conservancy. He is against the proposal to merge the Village and Town Police Departments. Mayor Yerick assured Mr. Hackett that all his concerns would be considered.

Don Hackett spoke saying in light of the reported vandalism of a decorative horse by a Town Policeman, he is not sure the Village should be considering a merger. He urged the Board to bring the merger question to a public vote. Mayor Yerick responded that the vandalism was still under investigation.

Artist Willy Neuman asked the Board for permission to use the Village Beach for a 'beach party' on August 28th from 600pm–900pm. There will be a band, Shakespeare readings and more. He will advise the neighbors. He advised the Board that the frame sculpture at the beach has been repaired. The Village Board agreed to the party. Mr. Neuman invited the Board to the Artist Studio Tour on August 8 and 9. He also asked the Board to visit his gallery on Livingston Street in the evening to view a 'light show'. He will be showing a new exhibit featuring 2x4s soon. Mayor Yerick thanked Mr. Neuman for his efforts and praised him for working with the youth of the community.

Mary Kimble posed a question to Trustee LeBlanc. Mrs. Kimble had a newspaper clipping and asked what Trustee LeBlanc meant when she spoke at the last Village Board meeting saying there would be 'no reduction'? Trustee LeBlanc answered she meant that there would be no reduction in police service to the Village residents. Mrs. Kimble had additional questions regarding shift work and seniority—Trustee LeBlanc said all Civil Service rules would be followed.

Trustee Richard Moore presented the Abstract for August 3, 2009: General - \$33,091.11; Water - \$6,446.23; Wastewater - \$10,690.82. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the July 20, 2009 Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the minutes. Carried.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). The report updated all the ongoing and future construction projects currently taking place in the Village. The stormwater separation project on 9W should be complete within a week. The repair of the Wall has begun. The repaving of 9W will begin shortly—the work will be done in the evening. The CSX crossing on Ulster Ave. is complete. Mayor Yerick thanked Mr. Wade for all his work on these projects—a round of applause was given to Mr. Wade.

Trustee Myers reported on the significant amount of paving work underway by the DPW on Lafayette, Washington, and Montgomery. The DPW rented a milling machine to grind down the old pavement and the streets will be repaved beginning this week.

Trustee Myers discussed the proposed changes to the boat launch permit. She said she would like the Board to make a decision. She has met with Susan Bolitzer and Vince Hackett on the issue. Trustee Myers said the main purpose of the permit is to make boaters aware of the laws in place—if the Board has a problem with the fees, she has no objection to lowering them. After some discussion a motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Moore, to delay a decision on the permit until the 8/17 Board meeting. Carried. If Trustee Myers receives no comment from other Trustees, the Board will vote on the permit suggested by Trustee Myers.

Trustee Myers discussed the proposed changes to the animal maintenance law. Attorney Alex Betke has reviewed the changes but has misunderstood—Trustee Myers does not want to license cats. She wants the law to address dangerous animals, however there is a problem with enforcement. Police Lt. Tom Rea spoke saying enforcement of any law dealing with stray, feral or dangerous animals will be a problem. Much discussion followed. Trustee Myers said she feels we need a law in place to be able to take action in case a situation arises. Lt. Rea said the Police Department could destroy a violent, dangerous animal. Trustee Myers said she would continue to work on the law.

Trustee Myers is still developing a shade tree ordinance. She will send a draft copy to Central Hudson for comment.

Trustee Dirie advised that the Building and Grounds crew is performing regular maintenance at all Parks. There have been some discipline problems with young teens at the beach but after speaking to the parents involved, things have been resolved. Trustee Dirie complimented Supervisor Terpening for his guidance of all the summer crew including the young teens from the Ulster County Youth Program. Bob Kelly is making the needed repairs on the streetlamps. Trustee Dirie has written to the Board of Education to formally request that the Cahill School playground equipment be given to the Village. The Mum Festival Committee has begun work—it is the 100th anniversary of Seamon Park and the 44th Mum Festival.

Trustee Murphy reported that Merritt Construction hit a water main while working on the storm/sanitary sewer separation project. Some residents experienced brown water due to the break. On 7/29 7' of rain fell at the treatment plant and on 7/31 and 6' of rain fell. The

water entering the treatment plant was extremely turbulent and Joe Bisignano made the decision to shut down the plant. No residents were affected by the shut down—the system was fed from the 3 million-gallon water tank. Joe and the water department personnel work around the clock all weekend to make sure residents had water—a retired employee of the water department—Bill Holden- was called in to help—thanks to Bill. The plant is back to normal and the 3 million-gallon tank has been refilled. Trustee Murphy complimented the entire crew and thanked them for their work. Mayor Yerick mentioned the Water Department recently gave a tour of the plant sponsored by the Saugerties Library.

Mayor Yerick complimented the Village Police for the outstanding job done with the vandalism investigation on the Hors'n Around project. As a result of their work a suspect has been arraigned in Village Court. The investigation is on going.

Trustee Campbell had nothing to report on behalf of the SFD. Alex Wade covered all the transportation improvements currently underway.

Mayor Yerick thanked the Trustees for their hard work for a small \$3000.00 per year salary.

Trustee LeBlanc advised the Board that the Zoning Board is considering an application for a use variance on Livingston Street. The owner would like to convert a commercial space into a residential space.

Trustee Moore presented Resolution #6/2009. This is a BOND resolution in the amount of \$575,000.00 for the stormwater and wastewater sewer separation and water line replacement project on Route 9W currently underway. The majority of these funds will be reimbursed to the Village by the NYS DOT who have agreed to pay for this project. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Murphy, to approve Resolution #6/2009. Carried unanimously.

Trustee LeBlanc presented Resolution #8/2009. This resolution names the Village of Saugerties as Lead Agency in the SEQRA process for the latest streetscape enhancement project to include new crosswalks and streetlamps. Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve Resolution #8/2009. Carried.

Trustee Campbell then presented documents outlining the proposed merger between the Village and Town of Saugerties Police Departments. The package will be available to the public at the Clerk's Office on August 4, 2009. Trustee Campbell believes that the benefit to the Village residents are:

1. a stronger police force under one chief—Louis Barbaria
2. a larger total force for the Village
3. budget relief for Village residents

The funds for the feasibility study came from a grant and Fairweather Associates conducted the study. Trustee Campbell feels that if the Village does not approve the consolidation plan, Village services will have to be cut or taxes will have to be drastically

increased to cover the cost of running the Village. Trustee Campbell presented a timeline for passage of a law that will merge the two police departments. The timeline includes 2 public meetings—the 1st on August 17 where the entire plan will be presented; the second is September 8 when the public will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions. The 1st step in the process is for the Village Board to pass a resolution regarding the merger. Trustee Suzanne LeBlanc introduced Resolution #7/2009 by saying that the Village committee assigned to study the merger (Trustees Campbell, LeBlanc and Murphy) have tried to accommodate all concerns. Resolution #7/2009 authorizes the transfer of certain personnel and police functions from the Village of Saugerties to the Town of Saugerties subject to a permissive referendum. Trustee Myers asked the difference between a permissive and a mandatory referendum—Trustee LeBlanc explained that with a permissive referendum residents are required to submit a petition calling for a vote on the merger within 30 days of passage of the law. In a mandated referendum the Village Board mandates a vote on the merger. Trustee Myers wants the Board to call for a mandated referendum and not burden the public with the need for a petition. Don Hackett (from the audience) asked the Board to call for a mandatory referendum. There was much discussion regarding the referendum. Ron LeBlanc (from the audience) spoke urging the Board to move ahead with the consolidation. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Myers to amend Resolution 7/2009 to call for a mandatory referendum. That vote carried with Trustee LeBlanc voting no. Trustee LeBlanc thanked Trustee Campbell for his tireless work on the police consolidation issue.

Trustee Myers spoke again about the Boat Launch Permit. She said she has no problems with reducing the fees for the permit. The intent is to get people to obey the laws in place. The Board requested that this be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 9:01pm. Immediately after the Board adjourned, they realized that a vote was never made to pass amended resolution #7/2009. The Board reconvened at 9:02pm. Motion was made by Mayor Yerick, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to pass amended Resolution #7/2009. Carried with Trustee Campbell voting no.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk