

Village Board

April 20, 2009

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

Absent: Trustee William Murphy

Others: Nancy Campbell, Alex Wade, George Terpening, Joe Bisignano, Bob Ciarlante, William Kimble, Eyal Saad, David Radavanovic, Dave Minch, Penny Milford, Diana Bryan, Rosemarie Brackett, Richard Frisbie, Joan Keefe, Melanie Gardner, William Kemble-Freeman, Heather Plonchak-New Sau Times, students from SHS Government Class and others

Mayor Yerick called the regular meeting of the Village Board to order at 7:06pm. Trustee Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Privilege of the Floor

Dave Minch, the current Chair of the Historic Review Board spoke. He asked if the appointments for the Historic Review Board were on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Mayor Yerick replied yes. Mr. Minch said he had met with Mayor Yerick last Tuesday. Mr. Minch felt it was the mayor's duty to make sure that the replacement of the HRB was legal. Mayor Yerick read an opinion from attorney Alex Betke explaining that because no appointments were made to the HRB in 2008, those seats that expired were considered "holdovers". In 2009 the Village Board can appoint all 5 seats on the HRB. Mr. Minch asked if the Mayor had Mr. Betke's opinion for the Tuesday meeting. The Mayor replied no.

Diana Bryan spoke saying the Mayor is discouraging people who wish to serve in government by getting rid of anyone who doesn't share his opinion. The Mayor disagreed, but Ms. Bryan continued by saying the Mayor makes it difficult to participate.

David Baker said he was outraged by the manner Mayor Yerick treated the HRB members.

David Radavanovic said the Mayor has dismissed the HRB because the HRB has concerns regarding the Partition Street Project. The Mayor has done the HRB a disservice and his actions are very disheartening.

Joan Keefe questioned whether it is a good idea to replace the entire HRB.

Rosemarie Brackett spoke saying that the Mayor brought a list of grievances to the Tuesday meeting with the HRB. She said a former Struzzi project was on the top of the list. A heated exchange between Ms. Brackett and Mayor Yerick followed.

Dave Minch spoke again defending the actions of the HRB over the last 14 years.

David Baker asked if the list of grievances could be made public and asked that it be published in the paper.

Penelope Milford said she was very disturbed that laws should be waived for Tom Struzzieri. The Village existed before Tom Struzzieri. It is very clear that money talks and the law walks. Does David Minch want the grievance list to be published?

Dave Minch responded that being on the HRB is not a popularity contest however he did not want the list to be published in the paper.

Mayor Yerick said he is willing to sit down again and discuss the list of actions where he feels the HRB has overstepped its bounds.

Trustee Myers said the HRB plays an incredible role in Village government and the Board is very appreciative of their work.

Mayor Yerick said the law is in place to guide us, however common sense must also be considered.

Mayor Yerick presented the Minutes of the 2 Public Hearings held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, the regular Village Board meeting of April 6<sup>th</sup> and the Special Village Board meeting of April 13<sup>th</sup> for review. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to approve all the above mentioned minutes. Carried.

Trustee Richard Moore presented the Abstract for April 20, 2009: General - \$61,440.45; Water - \$3,356.29; Wastewater - \$10,377.31 and Building Reserve - \$2250.00. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

Bob Ciarlante presented the DPW report (copy attached). The street sweeper is back in service after an extensive in-house repair. Spring clean-up is in full swing. The North Street DPW staging area will again be open on Fridays from 10:00am until 2:00pm for yard waste only. The damage to the DPW garage caused by the rock wall collapse has been repaired. Insurance covered all expenses. Mayor Yerick complimented everyone involved for the efficient repair of the DPW garage.

George Terpening presented the Buildings and Grounds report (copy attached). Clean up is underway at all Village Parks. The boat ramp and dock is in at the Beach. The Library donated some bushes and they will be planted in areas in the Parks.

Trustee Jeannine Dirie reported that the Saugerties Historical Society would be holding an event at the Tina Chorvas Waterfront Park on June 14. She also advised the Board that she has been approached by a group, the River Voices, funded by the NYS DEC. They would like to install an interactive phone at the Saugerties Beach. Trustee Dirie has spoken with the group and with George Terpening and they are working out the details for the installation of the phone. She also advised the Board that she is investigating

alternatives regarding the use of Central Hudson – she will report at an upcoming meeting.

Joe Bisignano presented the Water Department report (copy attached). There were several service leaks in February and March. The homeowners made repairs.

Police Chief William Kimble presented the Police report (copy attached). The Chief advised the Board that much construction would be taking place in the Village this spring and summer. He urged the public to obey flaggers and signs. The STOP DWI Task Force was out over the past weekend. Trustee Myers mentioned that there already seems to be more traffic in the Village and the timing of the traffic lights on Main/Partition and Market seems to be off. Chief Kimble said he would speak to the NYS DOT.

Trustee Michael Campbell presented the Fire Chief's report (copy attached). March was a fairly quiet month for the SFD. Chief elections were recently held with Joseph Schaffer, Jr. as Chief, Anthony Bell and Brian Martin elected as Assistant Chiefs. Congratulations and good luck to all three men. The Snyder Hose truck had the brakes repaired for a cost of \$900.00. Trustee Campbell presented the name of Cody Davis Rocco for membership into the CA Lynch Hose Company. Motion was made by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to approve Cody Rocco for membership into the CA Lynch Company effective April 26, 2009, his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Carried unanimously. Trustee Myers reminded everyone that Friday is Chief's night.

Trustee Suzanne LeBlanc advised the Board that the Saugerties Area Chamber of Commerce would like to display art in the windows of empty storefronts. Mrs. LeBlanc will help with this effort.

Eyal Saad presented the Building Department report (copy attached). The contractor for the Library is keeping the Village up to date with its expansion plans. They will attend a Village Board meeting this spring to present the plan and the construction schedule. Trustee LeBlanc complimented Mr. Saad for his work on the DPW garage wall.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board the Trustee Bill Murphy is doing well after his recent hip surgery.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). Mr. Wade explained Local Law #2/2009 which updates our existing floodplain law. This is a requirement of the NYS DEC and FEMA. A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 4 at 6:45pm to receive comment on the proposed law. Mr. Wade also advised the Board that Central Hudson is replacing the gas line from Overbaugh Street to Hill Street starting 4/27. He has also met with Victor Cornelius, the grantwriter, to discuss stimulus dollars for solar panels for the Municipal Building.

Trustee LeBlanc presented Local Law #1/2009 (copy attached). This law deletes the special use in an R3 Zone, which allows for 4 or more apartments in residential units.

Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve Local Law #1/2009. Carried unanimously.

Mayor Yerick read a note from Nancy Campbell asking each Trustee to donate \$30.00 for a flag for the Quadracentennial.

Mayor Yerick presented the various Board appointments for 2009/2010 (copy attached). Trustee LeBlanc asked Dave Minch if he would be willing to help with the transition to a new Historic Review Board. Mr. Minch said he would. Trustee Campbell suggested that further discussion take place between the Village Board, the Mayor and Dave Minch before any action is taken regarding the Historic Review Board. After some discussion, motion was made by Trustee Myers, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to appoint Richard Frisbee to fill the vacant seat on the Historic Review Board. Carried. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc; to approve all the appointments suggested by Mayor Yerick with the exception of the Historic Review Board. Carried.

Mayor Yerick presented the General, Water and Wastewater Budget for 2009/2010 (copies attached). Trustee LeBlanc spoke saying she could not support the budget because she feels the Village will be in the same position next year – having to borrow funds that need to be paid back in the following year. Trustee LeBlanc feels that drastic reductions need to be made including personnel reduction. She feels this budget is not a true picture of Village finances and says residents cannot expect every service that they have had in the past. Mayor Yerick asked Trustee LeBlanc how she thought the Village could solve the budget situation. Trustee Campbell spoke saying the Board has committed to have a plan to reduce the budget by \$300,000.00 by September. Trustee Myers said major spending cuts have already been taken out of the budget. Trustee Moore said that \$73,000.00 has been removed from the budget, however the oil spill costs of \$135,000.00 have not been covered by insurance, Worker's Compensation cost rose by \$75,000.00, legal costs rose by \$60,000.00 and there are \$114,000.00 in unpaid Village taxes dating back to 2003. Trustee Moore said he feels the Board is postponing a problem but there is a solution in sight. Trustee Myers again that every nickel has been squeezed out of this budget. Trustee Moore stated that layoffs were considered, however before any full time personnel can be terminated, all part time workers would have go. This would include the part time office staff, all summer help including lifeguards and parks workers. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Campbell, to approve the three budgets for 2009/2010. All Trustees present and the Mayor voted yes, with Trustee LeBlanc abstaining. The budgets carried.

Trustee Moore commented saying that the Village Board spent time at the last Village Board meeting and 48 minutes at tonight's meeting discussing appointments to the HRB verses 10 minutes discussing a \$3 plus million budget.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to adjourn. Carried. The Board adjourned at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Frank – Village Clerk

