



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

## Village Board Meeting Minutes March 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, Dave Gordon, 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 and Susan Murphy** were on the call to talk about the Community Choice Aggregation project. They will wait for the discussion period.

**Mayor Murphy presented the Village Board Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021.**

**Trustee Parisian made a motion to approve the Village Board Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021.**

**The motion to approve the minutes from February 16, 2021 was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer.**

**All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mayor Murphy presented the Abstract for March 1, 2021:**

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| • General    | \$ 67,386.76 |
| • Water      | \$ 12,615.17 |
| • Wastewater | \$ 15,665.50 |

**Trustee Hackett made a motion to approve the Abstract for March 1, 2021. The motion to approve the Abstract for March 1, 2021 was seconded by Trustee Martin. All in favor, the motion carried unanimously.**

### Treasurer's Report

**Treasurer Paula Kerbert** reported that the outstanding balance for the 2020 taxes is approximately \$9000. There is only one payment plan left to be paid. Additional payments from Ulster County are expected by March or April due to foreclosures.

The budget meetings for three departments were completed held today. The budget is on schedule to be handed to the Village Clerk by March 15<sup>th</sup>. All departments are currently on budget and in good shape.

**Mayor Murphy** stated that the payment plans for the taxes worked out very well and should be considered for the June 2021 taxes. Paula on doing a great job.

### Trustee Reports

**Trustee Martin** reported that the Fire Department physicals are being done in the fire house tonight. The new ladder truck is now on the fabrication line at Rosenbauer in South Dakota. Photos of the cab are available. The projected delivery date would be sometime next spring.

**Trustee Helmuth** had nothing new to report.

Trustee Helmuth inquired how a resident can obtain an absentee ballot for the upcoming election. The clerk advised that an application for an absentee ballot may be obtained from the Village office, Ulster County BOE or online and submitted to the Village office. They will be added to the list to be mailed an absentee ballot.

### **The Community Choice Aggregation Project**

**Mayor Murphy** opened the discussion of the Community Choice Aggregation Project. The village attorney has reviewed the information and suggested a SEQRA form be completed. Mayor Murphy stated that agreeing to a local law would allow Joule to provide the program information out to the residents and does not commit the Village to the program. Mayor Murphy does not like the opt out only clause but also does not want to take away the opportunity for the residents to evaluate. It would be preferable to let the residents know about the program before going through the local law and Public Hearing process.

**Trustee Helmuth** stated that there are several solar program opportunities available in Saugerties that residents may choose on their own.

The contract would be separate from the law. **Trustee Parisian** discussed information that indicates there will be an increase in rates if the CCA and green program is chosen, not a decrease. A presurvey of residents to get a consensus was discussed.

**Marcus Arthur** stated that the initial phase is an information only letter to the residents and public meetings. Joule and Hudson Valley Energy provides the information to the community regarding this one option. The contracts are made at or below current rates. If they choose the solar then they get the additional solar discount too.

**Marcus Arthur** and **Susan Murphy** stated they could get signatures of over 40 village residents on letters of support, if needed.

**Trustee Parisian made a motion to have the Village attorney create the paperwork necessary to the move forward with the Community Choice Aggregation program. Deputy Mayor Mayer seconded the motion to have the Village attorney create the paperwork necessary to the move forward with the Community Choice Aggregation program. The vote was 4 Yes to 3 No. The motion carried.**

**Mayor Murphy** stated that the Village will help any resident that may want to opt out.

**Alex Wade** reported that the NYS DOT approved the traffic signal at the southbound Thruway intersection. To be completed by the Fall. A roundabout would be too expensive.

**Trustee Hackett** questioned what the bump outs in the Comprehensive Plan refers to. Alex explained that the Comprehensive Plan Committee includes the section regarding the bump outs at the intersections. The bump outs provide no safety and take up too much space in the intersection. The buses and trucks have issues making the turn. Our streets are too narrow. A line should be added to the section stating that the bump outs apply only to the Town. **Mayor Murphy** stated that it should be "approved" by the Village. **Deputy Mayor Murphy** will suggest the change to the wording at the next CPC meeting.

### **Trustee Reports – cont.**

**Trustee Hackett** reported he will be meeting and touring the Wastewater plant with Dennis Larios tomorrow regarding the plan for a bond to upgrade the Wastewater plant. Alex Wade and Michael Karashay are still looking for grants. Dennis Larios will be working on cost analysis within 30 days. **Mayor Murphy** stated that a letter was sent to Congressman Delgado in Washington.

**Trustee Parisian** nothing new to report. The DPW has a cohesive crew.

**Deputy Mayor Mayer** reported

- The Community sign is not finished yet. It will be placed on site in the Spring when the weather is better.
- The Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting has their final revision out for review. The changes to the wording for the "bump outs" on the intersections in the village will be suggested.

- The Chamber has received 124 gift cards donated by resident, totaling \$4000, for local restaurants to be distributed to families in need.  
The Artist meets Sponsor online event will be at the March meeting.
- The Revolving Loan Committee has received one application from a Village business.
- The Arts Commission has created three committees and is looking for a physical location to conduct cases and meetings. They are in the process of creative mapping in the Village.

**Trustee Buono** reported that the budget meetings are continuing and to contact Paula there any questions. Paula is doing an excellent job with the budgets.

**Trustee Hackett made a motion to adjourn the Village Board meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mayer. The motion carries unanimously. The Village Board meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.**

**The next Village Board meeting is Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Webex.  
<https://villageofsaugerties.my.webex.com/join/bmurphy>**

Lisa Mayone  
Village Clerk  
03/05/2021