

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

Absent: Trustee Michael Campbell

Others: Alex Wade, Judith Spektor, Rudy LaBounty, students from the SHS Government Class, Eyal Saad, Joe Bisignano, Bob Ciarlante, George Terpening, Richard Frisbee, Don Hackett, Heather Plonchak, Nancy Campbell, Anthony Bell and others

Mayor Robert Yerick called the Village Board to order at 7:00pm. Trustee Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Yerick began by addressing the appointments to the Historic Review Board. He advised the Board that he had appointed Trustee Mike Campbell and Village resident Nancy Campbell to investigate the appointment situation. Mayor Yerick stated that although his actions may not have given this impression, "I do value our Village's history and the Historic Review Board's work over the years". He went on to say that he appreciates the work of all the various Boards of the Village. He has received the Campbell report and recommendations. The Campbell's reported they had interviewed Village Attorney Alex Betke, Julian Adams – from NYS Parks and Rec, as well as others. They concluded that the Mayor was within the law to replace the former Historic Review Board with new members, however the terms should have been staggered. Their recommendation for appointments to the Historic Review Board are as follows: Michael Fanelli (contractor) – 2 years; Richard Frisbee (historian) – 3 years; Dave Minch (architect) – 3 years; Suzannah Satten (real estate) – 2 years; Michael Sullivan Smith (historian) – 1 year. Trustee Jeannine Dirie will serve as the liaison to the HRB. Mayor Yerick agreed that this is a good solution and thanked Mike and Nancy Campbell for their work.

Mayor Yerick advised everyone that all future Village Board meetings would be held in the Firehouse to better accommodate the public. He thanked the SFD for their fine cooperation.

Privilege of the Floor

Judith Spektor addressed the Board saying that she had just been advised that Central Hudson plans to remove 150-year-old trees on Elm Street to put in taller poles. She is totally against this. She stated that there are always alternatives such as burying the lines. She requested that the Village Board say no to Central Hudson and their plans to remove trees in the Village of Saugerties.

Rudy LaBounty, of Elm Street, addressed the Board saying he received a phone call from Eyal Saad advising of the proposed tree removal. Mr. LaBounty is against the cutting of the trees. He has already called Central Hudson and told them he does not want his trees removed. He has no complaints with Central Hudson's service – the trees are not causing a service problem.

Alex Wade spoke saying Central Hudson came to the Village offices several weeks ago and advised him that they were planning to install taller poles and lighter wires throughout the Village. Mayor Yerick asked why he wasn't informed.

Richard Frisbee suggested that the Board investigate Woodstock's Tree Trust program. The program protects all trees in the township.

DPW Superintendent Bob Ciarlante asked who will bear the liability of the trees if they fall and damage property or injure someone. He went on to say that many of the trees in the Village are very old and are deteriorating. He asked who is responsible for sidewalk maintenance if the roots of a tree damage the sidewalk. He said he has a resident who wants to remove trees to repair his sidewalk.

Mayor Yerick replied that this must be investigated.

Judith Spektor encouraged the Village to go to great lengths to save diseased trees.

Trustee Kelly Myers spoke saying Central Hudson recently massacred the trees on Route 9W and then left the old poles in place after replacing them with new poles.

Mayor Yerick promised to speak with Central Hudson and get a copy of their plan and report back to the Board.

Mayor Yerick gave kudos to Nancy Campbell and Beth Murphy of the Saugerties Economic Development Committee. He said the horses look great and the kid's projects of painted horses to go into shop windows are also beautiful. He advised the Board that Sunday's Wing Fling was well attended and Saturday's Relay for Life met its goal of raising \$40,000.00. Judith Spektor invited everyone to the Ribbon Cutting of the Farmer's Market on 5/30 at 9:30am. Arm of the Sea Theater will be at the Kiersted House on 5/20 at 7:00pm for a performance.

Mayor Yerick presented the minutes of the Public Hearing of May 4, 2009 and the minutes of the regular May 4th Village Board meeting. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Dirie, to approve both sets of minutes. Carried.

Trustee Moore presented the Abstract for May 18, 2009: General - \$14,837.84; Water - \$9,643.02; Wastewater - \$8,604.30; Partition Street Project - \$4199.01. Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to approve the Abstract. Carried.

George Terpening presented the Buildings and Grounds report (copy attached). Work continues in all Parks preparing for summer. The hanging baskets in the business district will be delivered shortly. Mayor Yerick advised the Board that Trustee Dirie attended a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting to inform Village merchants that the Village will not be providing sidewalk sweeping this year. She asked the merchants to keep the front of their businesses clean and also help water the hanging baskets.

Mayor Yerick advised the Board that he has sent letters to several organizations informing them that the Village is not able to support them financially in this year of tight budgets.

Joe Bisignano presented the Water Department report (copy attached). The DPW has placed large rocks on Water Department property surrounding the reservoir to discourage parking and trespassers.

Motion was made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Moore, to schedule a Public Hearing on June 1 at 6:45pm to receive comment on the proposed Water/Sewer rate increase. Carried. The rate increase will also affect Town of Saugerties users. Trustee Murphy said even with the proposed increase, Village water/sewer rates remain well below the NYS average.

Mayor Yerick presented the Police report (copy attached). He advised the Board that work is continuing on the proposed consolidation of the two departments. He again reiterated that he would bring this matter to the Village residents for a vote. Trustee Myers spoke saying she noticed in the Police Report, a spike in bicycle thefts. She urged residents to secure their bikes and lock their homes and vehicles. Trustee LeBlanc asked if any of the local bars and restaurants have hired private security. The answer was yes.

Chief Anthony Bell presented the SFD report (copy attached).

Trustee LeBlanc distributed the proposed franchise contract with Time Warner Cable. There will be a joint Village Town Public Hearing at the Senior Center on June 17 at 5:30pm to receive comments on the contract. All Trustees are urged to attend. Trustee LeBlanc thanked the DPW for installing the horses throughout the Village.

Eyal Saad advised the Board that 30 Building Permits have been issued so far this year – that is ahead of last year. He reminded residents they must cut the grass on their properties and that yard waste may be taken to the DPW area on North Street on Fridays between 10:00am and 2:00pm. He also reported that the Planning and Zoning Board have been very busy. Trustee LeBlanc advised the Board that the Partition Street Project developers appeared at May's Planning Board meeting. They presented a new rendering of the project – very impressive.

Trustee LeBlanc reported that she attended a recent NYCOM conference on property maintenance. She distributed a list of ideas developed in other communities on how to handle property maintenance. She and Eyal Saad will work on some of the suggestions to incorporate them into Village of Saugerties law and policy.

Alex Wade presented his report (copy attached). He added that he met with Gil Hales regarding locations of bike racks in the Village. Several locations are being considered.

Trustee Myers commented that she loves the horses.

Bob Ciarlante presented his report (copy attached). He also spoke about the tree situation in the Village. Mr. Ciarlante said he welcomed input regarding the trees and bases his decision on whether to remove a tree on the recommendation of a tree specialist. Mayor Yerick spoke saying the Village only removes a tree if someone has complained or if it is obvious the tree is diseased. Mr. Ciarlante said he believes this is a “gray area” that needs some clarification. Who is responsible if a tree disrupts the sidewalk? Can the owner remove the tree without Village permission? Alex Wade spoke saying all of the trees that the Village removes are within the Village street right-of-way.

Motion was made by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Myers, to approve the people named earlier in the evening by the Mayor to the Historic Review Board. Carried.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Mayor Yerick, to move \$51,000.00 from the general water fund into the water capital reserve fund. This transfer was mandated by the USDA to cover equipment costs (pumps, motors, chemical feed and test equipment, etc.) per year until the closing of the USDA loan. Carried.

Trustee Dirie advised the Board that she delivered her letter regarding keeping the sidewalks clean and watering the plants to 63 businesses on Main, Market and Partition Streets. She will report on comments from the business owners at the next Board meeting. We are waiting for an opinion from Alex Betke regarding the MEGA energy contracts. Trustee Dirie mentioned that she has received comments regarding the Municipal Parking Lot behind Mirabella's. She wonders if the front section of the lot can be designated for 2-hour parking and the rear of the lot as unrestricted parking. The Clerk said there is a law on the books regarding parking in the Municipal Lots. She will provide Trustee Dirie with a copy. Trustee Dirie also said many residents have complained that the parking meters will only accept quarters. She suggested that the Village Office provide change when needed. Perhaps a notice could be posted on the meter with signage posted in the business district advising of this service.

Clerk Mary Frank advised the Board that Treasurer Julie Dunn has asked the Board to schedule a Special Year End Board meeting on May 29 at 11:00am. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to pay all year-end bills and perform budget transfers to close out the fiscal year. The Board agreed to meet on May 29th at 11:00am.

Motion was made by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc, to adjourn. Carried. The Village board adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Frank
Village Clerk

