

TOWN BOARD MEETING – MARCH 20, 2013

The Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 8:20 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Multi Purpose Building on the corner of Market and Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with the following members:

Councilman Bruce Leighton
Councilwoman Leeanne Thornton
Councilman Fred Costello
Councilman James Bruno
Supervisor Kelly Myers

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Mary Olsen was in attendance to present youth awards to two individuals who were nominated. *Congratulations to Ryan Curran and Addy Tompkins!*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Nancy Campbell – reiterated letter sent to the Town Board in support of Safe Act. Needs to take away assault rifles. Safe Act is a good start to rid gun violence.

Bruce Freleigh – Veterans point of view that this Safe Act is an insult. It violates Bill of Rights and Constitution. Freedoms are being eroded of law abiding, tax paying citizens. Mental Health, video games and Hollywood are to blame. Town Board should repeal the Safe Act of 2013.

Gilbert Hales – has enjoyed life, liberty and pursuit of happiness without owning a gun in 83 years. The Second Amendment could not envision the type of weapons of today. Need laws to prevent mentally ill from obtaining weapons. Revise resolution but not needed to send to President and Vice President – that would be overkill.

Gregory Klein – supports repeal of Safe Act. Mr. Klein gave a history of laws passed regarding guns. Laws punish people who did not commit crimes.

Santos Lopez – marijuana is illegal and people still use – laws don't stop people. Is it a gun issue or control issue?

Patti Kelly – opposes resolution of Safe Act to repeal. Why did Supervisor Myers agree to do this? Spoke to Assemblyman Lentil about police departments and agrees and has submitted revisions to the Safe Act. Several factual errors in resolution to repeal Safe Act and should not speak for all of Saugerties.

Bob Lippmann – thank all who oppose the Safe Act and being here tonight.

Susan Weeks – don't know why misconception in Safe Act means being against guns. Well-regulated militia with law-abiding citizens shouldn't have a problem with this.

Finlay Schaef – worked in Brooklyn as a minister and saw many young people killed with guns. Repeal doesn't tell what is in the law. We should be thankful to the legislature for trying to make us safe.

Beth Murphy – unfortunate that Supervisor brings this forward and should stick to the issues town board can address. Should not overturn entire law but amend specific areas.

Bruce Tuchmann – NYS already has ten round magazine limit. This law was created and passed wrongly. There is very little in the law that will save lives. Should not single out specific guns. The town should send a message and repeal Safe Act.

Andrea Perez – ram-rod methods were used to pass this law – wrong, 3 days should have been used.

Mike Harkavy – don't think this is a political issue, it affects all citizens of this town. Safe Act will never be repealed since it passed by 70%. Should put forth amendments and some have already been made. We need to talk about children and keeping them safe.

Gary Bischoff – gun owner and believes in the Second Amendment. The repeal does not specifically say what to change. Amendments are in process. The Bill also gives additional penalties in shooting at First Responders, EMT and Fire personnel.

Gaetana Ciarlante – NYS already had stricter gun laws. What really is an assault weapon? Much more than guns. This law is creating criminals and the state is offering \$500.00 for tips on people not following laws. In favor of passing the resolution to repeal.

Lanny Walter – town board represents entire town. (Also, submitted written letter, which is on file at the Town Clerk's office).

Mike Myers – drop in Bond Rating and increase in cost to taxpayers. In favor of tabling the resolution to repeal and address topics that are really important to the town. Focus on bond rating, good schools and lower taxes.

Charles Lantz – found it ironic that resolution was given to the town board three hours prior to the meeting. The resolution does not speak to own beliefs. Veteran and gun owner of assault rifle – it is a good idea to file amendments.

Judith Simon – town board has no power over this. 32,000 die in gun violence per year with 20,000 of them being suicides. Rates of homicides correlates to gun laws. More guns = more killing. Safe Act is not 100% perfect.

Eric Stock – director of Federated Sportmen’s – many amendments show that the law was pushed through. Supports the resolution to repeal the Safe Act.

Mary Rell – statistics available for guns but knives also kill. Safe Act will not stop murders. Guns have been taken away from people with Order of Protection. Citizens need to have protection.

Jeff Helmuth – this act is critical, it does infringe on our rights. As NY goes, so goes the country. There will be impact if oppositions are sent to the state. Jamaica has the highest murder rate and no guns are allowed there.

Marjorie Leopold – very strong opinions on both sides. What does well-regulated really mean?

Donna Greco – a lot of misconception about Second Amendment. 2011 more deaths were by medical malpractice than assault rifles. Believes in personal freedom and limited government. Police department does everything to protect us but by the time they come its usually too late.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS:

A couple of items will be added to the agenda tonight: Bond resolution brought forward is regarding going out to get funding. The Highway Superintendent and Police Chief along with Saugerties Fish & Game will work with an agreement for use of the range and improvements being made to up-grade. Some things in the Safe Act are good and some points are not. Just received the amended resolution right before tonight’s meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Myers, seconded by Councilman Bruno to approve the minutes of Pre-Board and Town Board Meeting of March 6, 2013, carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Myers, seconded by Councilman Bruno to approve the bills as presented, carried.

General Fund	\$29,490.29
General Outside Village	350.95
Highway	4,233.79
Capital Projects	3,375.00
Barclay Heights Sewer	41,053.61
Glasco Sewer	197.68
Malden Sewer	8,984.39
Malden Water	15.00
Kings Highway Water	15.00

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Leighton: nothing to report

Councilwoman Thornton: remind everyone to view the Comprehensive Plan for the Town and Village on TV23. April 27th the Kiersted House will raise four walls on the barn. At 7:00 a.m. TV 23 is going live streaming and on-demand.

Councilman Costello: Chief of Police will submit written report. Benson Steel donated all materials and time for new poles on the Dutchmen field, many thanks to them for their continued support. March 29th is the last day of public ice skating.

Councilman Bruno: nothing to report

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilman Bruno, seconded by Councilman Costello to accept the resignation of John Beckert from the Water & Sewer Department, effective March 13, 2013.

Discussion: Councilman Bruno added that John has been an employee for 10+ years and is moving on to other things.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Myers, seconded by Councilman Bruno to accept the resignation of Roger Winchell from the Highway Department effective March 30, 2013.

Discussion: Councilman Costello would like to wish Roger well in his retirement, he has been a long time employee and will be missed. Roger would be the first one to step up when needed. Supervisor Myers added that she would like to see the positions posted.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Costello, seconded by Councilman Leighton to approve the DWI Task Force Agreement, as on file, between the Town of Saugerties and Ulster County.

Discussion: Councilman Costello said that the Chief went over the document and enhanced it.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Costello, seconded by Supervisor Myers to approve the Resolution of the Saugerties Town Board authorizing Town of Saugerties Supervisor, the Town of Saugerties Highway Superintendent and the Town of Saugerties Chief of Police to enter into an agreement with the Saugerties Fish & Game Club for the Town Police's use of the range.

Discussion: Councilman Costello said that the police department has used the Fish & Game before for training but now it will entail over four times per year.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Myers, seconded by Councilman Bruno to approve the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD
Town of Saugerties, Ulster County, New York
March 20, 2013

WHEREAS, the Town Board has received approval and authorization from USEPA to bid projects TSA-131 (Furnishing of Water Meters) and TSA-132 (Installation of Water Meters) for the Glasco Water District, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has also authorized design and financing of the Water District Improvements, and

WHEREAS, the plans and specifications for the project have been prepared by Brinnier and Larios, PC, Professional Engineers, of Kingston, New York, 12401; and

WHEREAS, all necessary state and federal environmental reviews have been performed.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Contract TSA-131 – Furnishing of Water Meters for the Glasco Water District and Contract TSA-132 – Installation of Water Meters for the Glasco Water District be advertised for bids in accordance with the General Municipal law and that the bid date of April 16, 2013 be established.

By Order of the Town Board, Town of Saugerties, this 20th day of March 2013.

Roll Call Vote:

Kelly Myers, Supervisor	voting	Yes
James Bruno, Councilperson	voting	Yes
Fred Costello, Jr., Councilperson	voting	Yes
Bruce Leighton, Councilperson	voting	Yes
Leeanne Thornton, Councilperson	voting	Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Myers, seconded by Councilman Bruno to vote on resolution, as on file, opposing the SAFE Act.

Discussion: Supervisor Myers said this resolution has been available for two weeks.

Motion to amend made by Councilman Leighton, seconded by Councilman Costello to amend the Resolution concerning the New York SAFE Act, as on file.

Discussion: Supervisor Myers is very disappointed, the board had two weeks to consider the first resolution and I just received this second one tonight at 7:35 p.m. Government needs to take three days to consider – we are not under war time. We should really sit down and go page by page and make a complete list of amendments. There are Mental Health privacy laws that need to be considered. Councilman Leighton said the law is

changing on a daily basis and how can you logically not exempt police. Also, original state law on assault rifles. Tried to make the resolution speak to the Town of Saugerties and is in favor of gun owners rights. Councilman Costello said that it rings hollow for the Supervisor to say she got this late when she just added two resolutions to tonight's agenda. Other board members received the first repeal late. We are trying to manage to keep children safe and protect gun owner's rights. The second resolution largely addresses these things but can not agree to repeal the whole law. Councilman Bruno said it is not necessary to get this done (SAFE Act) a.s.a.p. Blame needs to be placed where it should – person behind the gun did the killing. Need to point out changes that need to be made. Councilwoman Thornton added that it took her a week to read the entire SAFE Act. Had a lock-down drill at school today and the children took it very seriously. The SAFE Act is not perfect – amendment needs to send the message to Albany. Would like to recommend setting up a Workshop to draft a letter.

Vote on amendment: Adopted – 3 Yes (Councilman Bruno and Supervisor Myers vote No)

Vote on motion as amended: Adopted – 3 Yes (Councilman Bruno and Supervisor Myers vote No)

Motion made by Councilman Costello, seconded by Councilman Bruno to adjourn Town Board Meeting at 11:15 p.m., carried.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, April 3, 2013	Pre-Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Town Board Meeting	8:00 p.m.

Town Clerk