

PRE-BOARD MEETING – MARCH 9, 2005

The Pre-Board Meeting was held on March 9, 2005 at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located at the corner of Market and Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties. The meeting was opened at 6:20 p.m. with the following members present:

Supervisor Greg Helsmoortel
Councilman Tom Macarille
Councilwoman Leeanne Thornton
Councilman Fred Costello, Jr.
Councilman Phil Tucker

Councilman Tucker stated that Chief Hulbert would like to move forward with using Emergency One for medical assistance for Town of Saugerties employees; ie: initial police physicals, drug testing, etc.

Marie Post discussed adding a part-time animal shelter laborer. Councilman Tucker concerned with “over shooting” budget with only three months into the year. Budget has been overspent in the past. Marie explained this position would just be to feed/water/clean animals on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. The town has a contract with Sue Trnka to cover Animal Control Officer if Nancy Gage is out of town. Councilman Costello concerned that previous part-timer, that was let go, still wants to work and was not given the opportunity to fill this position.

Town Clerk

TOWN BOARD MEETING – MARCH 9, 2005

The Town Board Meeting was held on March 9, 2005 at the Frank D. Greco Multi-Purpose Building located on the corner of Market & Robinson Streets in the Village of Saugerties. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Supervisor Greg Helsmoortel
Councilman Tom Macarille
Councilwoman Leeanne Thornton
Councilman Fred Costello, Jr.
Councilman Phil Tucker

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Bill Buck – spoke regarding taxes; can't afford to live here, there are no jobs and the taxes keep going up. Have worked to get a better home for family and then get notice of new assessment and taxes are outrageous. Town is driving all local people out.

Bill Trumpbour – assessment on property went up 2 ½ times; family has paid taxes on this farm since 1732, this is our home and heritage and it not for sale at any price. Need to preserve open space but people cannot afford taxes and subdivide to make money to make ends meet. Everyone who he has talked to, assessment has at least doubled. Hope board can do something to help.

Eliner Trumpbour – spoke regarding assessment or “for sale to the highest bidder” which certainly will not be the present owners. Need to keep open land in town. Organization started in the Town of Marbletown called The Property Tax Reform Task Force. Their mission is (1) support equitable tax reform at the local, county and state levels (2) develop a network of communities throughout New York State and (3) work with local schools to support education while reducing taxes. There are presently bills proposed by Senator Bonacic and Assemblyman Joel Miller to shift the cost of education from a property tax to an income based tax.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Tom Melville – works in building trade for many years; wants the board to help the assessor compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges. Lives in a 40 year old home and should not be compared to a new construction.

Ralph Childers – obviously no one actually looked at my property/home. My assessment went up 2 ½ times and the letter never should have been mailed the way it was mailed. The work has not been done, it wasn't ready to be mailed.

Casey Bennett – spoke regarding HITS motion on agenda tonight. The rodent problem still has not remedied and therefore, you should not vote on anything for HITS.

Ann Miller – taxes are killing us, we need help.

Josh Randall – MLS from January 2001 to present date the average cost of home in Saugerties was 75.5%; county wide, which included the town & village increased by 76.3%. Assessment went from \$90,000.00 to \$63,900.00 and now got letter that it's assessed at 133% more than it was assessed for less than a year ago. Also, would like the town board to respond to concerns.

Vince Hackett – effect this assessment will have on school budget vote cannot be good. Wants to find out exactly how this assessment is figured. Property went from \$97,000.00 to \$264,000.00.

Tom Rowland – wants to see government get smaller; fat needs to get cut. Will vote down any budget put forth.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Tire remediation clean up efforts going well, unfortunately work on the site revealed another pit containing an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 more tires in the ground. Clean up continues under the state and completion is now expected in June.

Councilman Macarille spoke as people were leaving to let them know to see the Assessor's Office by stopping in or calling to make an appointment. Some adjustments may be able to be made right away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Supervisor Helmsmoortel, seconded by Councilman Costello to approve minutes of Public hearing on February 15, 2005 regarding HITS rezoning; Pre-Board Meeting of February 16, 2005; Town Board Meeting of February 16, 2005; Truck Bid Opening of February 22, 2005; and Special Town Board Meeting of February 22, 2005.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion made by Supervisor Helmsmoortel, seconded by Councilman Macarille to approve bills presented for payment.
Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

General	\$207,743.23
General Outside Village	24,324.14
Highway Townwide	37,843.63
Highway Outside Village	27,126.60
Barclay Heights Sewer	3,185.98
Glasco Sewer	8,448.68
Malden Sewer	1,288.75
Glasco Water	1,382.26
Malden Water	147.00

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Hulbert – complete report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Also, wanted to commend Sgt. Kevin Drescher, Officers Castagnola, Mullen, Swart, D. Drescher, Gambino and Helmsmoortel for responding to the Hudson Valley Mall regarding the shooting on February 13, 2005, some of them on their own time and some voluntarily. Two officers would like to join the Ulster County ESU (Emergency Services Unit) SWAT team, they are Officer Chris Helmsmoortel and Officer Mike Dodig.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Macarille – Town of Woodstock sent landfill check of \$20,000.00 for their share of operating costs regarding contract, Town of Shandaken's share is \$10,000.00. Building Inspector complete report on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Councilwoman Thornton – *Cable Access* – Kevin Martino reported 99 scripts and everything running smoothly; *CAC* – meeting on March 17, 2005 at Senior Center and

CPC meeting on March 31, 2005 continuing discussion on sign ordinance. *Library* meeting cancelled due to inclement weather. May 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. will be a combined meeting of all town committees regarding water resources in the Town of Saugerties.

Councilman Costello – would like to compliment Ice Rink staff for manning a booth at the Lions Expo in Kingston, which was very good exposure. Compliment two officers who want to join SWAT team, it will be a great asset. Also, River Rats will be at the Ice Rink next Wednesday, call the rink for more information.

Councilman Tucker – K-9 officer Vega received her vest in the mail. Donna Cafaldo commenced a week long fundraising effort in early December with the assistance of children from Mt. Marion and Cahill Elementary Schools as well as several local businesses and organizations. Enough money was raised not only to get the bullet proof vest for Vega but also put a vest on another K-9 in the city of North Pole Alaska. The remaining money enabled Vega's handler Officer Mike Craft to purchase a bite suit used for training, something the town did not have before and always borrowed, as well as other supplies for Vega. In the very near future, Vega will be doing demonstrations at our local schools and several other venues so everyone can see her in her new vest. The custom made vest was purchased through a program "Pennies to Protect Police Dogs" and cost half of what it might have had we purchased it on our own. Also, wanted to thank the Water/Sewer plant employees for doing a great job with the break at Riccardi School.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:

Motion made by Councilman Costello, seconded by Supervisor Helsmoortel to authorize repair work to the Little League rest rooms at the rear of the Joe Benjamin concession stand at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00 to be paid from the Recreation Trust Fund.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Costello to authorize the Town Clerk to re-schedule a public hearing regarding a proposed local law enacting a cross control and backflow protection program for the Town of Saugerties Water Districts to be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Frank D. Greco Senior Center.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Macarille, seconded by Councilwoman Thornton to adopt Local Law #1 of 2005 to amend the zoning map to re-zone a portion of lands of Struzzi Properties, Inc. from the R-3 District to the Recreation Commercial District.

Discussion – Councilman Macarille suggested board entertain re-zoning the balance of Washington Avenue so all the lands are identical.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Helsmoortel, seconded by Councilman Macarille to appoint Peter Gay temporary part-time Animal Shelter Laborer for weekends, holidays and on an “as needed basis” at a rate of \$9.00 per hour effective immediately.

Discussion – Councilman Tucker stressed that every effort needs to be made to stay in budget.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Councilman Costello abstained)

Motion made by Councilwoman Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Helsmoortel to accept with regret the resignation of Dan Ellsworth from the Conservation Advisory Committee effective immediately.

Discussion – Councilman Macarille said this is a tremendous loss for the committee. Councilwoman Thornton added that Dan is on the Zoning Board, which takes up a lot of his time.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Supervisor Helsmoortel to appoint Blanche Duffy to the Conservation Advisory Committee for the remainder of 2005 effective immediately.

Discussion – Councilwoman Thornton noted that Blanche became involved in the Historic Preservation and has already been attending CAC meetings. Councilman Macarille added that Blanche also attends Planning and Zoning meetings and she will be a great asset.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Macarille to approve a Certificate of Registration for B. Murphy Plumbing and Heating, Inc. of Saugerties to install water and sewer hook-ups in the Town of Saugerties.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Costello to enter into a Contract with Emergency One for the purpose of new employee physicals, comp cases, return to work cases and other personnel related items, as per the recommendation of Chief of Police.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Macarille to approve the concept of two officers joining the ESU SWAT and for working out budget issues with PBA and Chief of Police; the two officers being Chris Helsmoortel and Michael Dodig.

Discussion – Councilman Tucker added we will tap into every avenue to fund this program.

Vote: Adopted – 4 Yes (Supervisor Helsmoortel recused himself.)

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

Public Hearing 6:00 p.m.
RE: Cross Control/Backflow Connection

Pre-Board 6:30 p.m.
Town Board 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Supervisor Helsmoortel, seconded by Councilman Costello to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation at 8:15 p.m.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Motion made by Supervisor Helsmoortel, seconded by Councilman Macarille to exit Executive Session and adjourn Town Board Meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Vote: Adopted – 5 Yes

Town Clerk