

**OCTOBER 26, 2009
VILLAGE OF SPECULATOR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A Regular Meeting of the Village of Speculator Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall, 112 Elm Lake Road, Speculator, New York, on October 26, 2009.

PRESENT: Neil P. McGovern, Mayor; Letty Rudes, Del Cook, and Munro Collie Smith, Trustees; Roger Blanchard, Jr., DPW Supt.; and Bonnie J. Page, Village Clerk-Treasurer. Trustee Paestella was absent.

GUESTS: Tom Germain and Barbara Tracy, regarding Oak Mt. Ski Center; Robert Hoffman, resident, and Pete Klein, representing the Hamilton County News.

Mayor McGovern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and began the pledge of allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE – All correspondence would be addressed later in the meeting.

MINUTES

Trustee Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13th meeting as presented. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ROGER BLANCHARD, JR., DPW SUPT.

Mr. Blanchard said they would be moving the trailer donated by Cindy Parslow to Oak Mt. for use for storage of the tubes. He said the plow would be going on the vehicles this week. The mower for Oak Mt. needs repair on one brake and there is backhoe work that needs to be done at Oak that they will get to this week.

Mr. Blanchard said the lights on the bump-outs are still a problem. There was some discussion on switching out the electric eyes. He mentioned that Mark Rudes sent a flag and other mementos to the Volunteer Fire Department.

The Board reviewed the specifications for the Skid Steer. Some questions were answered by Mr. Blanchard. *Trustee Rudes made a motion to put the Skid Steer loader or equivalent out to bid with bids to be received and opened at the regular meeting on November 23. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cook and passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.*

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page reviewed the bid specs for the sewer camera as submitted by Mrs. Braunius. She said there are other legal forms that need to be added to the specs but the general description was ready to go.

Trustee Smith made a motion to advertise for bids for the sewer pole camera in accordance with the bid specifications received from Mrs. Braunius. Bids will be received until and opened at the regular meeting November 23rd. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mrs. Page submitted a training request and the following motion resulted: Trustee Cook made a motion to approve the attendance of Mrs. Page and Village Attorney Katie Smith (if the Village Attorney can attend) at a labor law briefing by Bond, Schoeneck & King on November 17 at the cost of \$35.00 per person. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #10 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$31347.10, Water Fund - \$3557.41, Sewer Fund - \$3416.32 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$696.08. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

OLD BUSINESS

The Village Hall remains on the Old Business. Trustee Cook said the Revitalization Committee was moving ahead on the purchase of benches. Their next meeting will be in the spring.

Mrs. Page said the National Grid Gross Receipts Tax will not be paid and NYCOM is encouraging National Grid to abide by the opinion of the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance and abandon their attempts to recover supposed overpayments of GRT from 150 cities and villages; immediately begin to collect and remit the GRT in accordance with this opinion; and make a supplemental GRT payment to the cities and villages for underpayment of GRT since November 2008.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on Local Laws #3 (Aquatic Invasive Species) and #4 of 2009 (metered water use) on December 14 at 7:00 p.m. during the Regular Meeting. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Mayor McGovern reviewed the recommendations of the Smith Commission that oversees the operations of Oak Mountain. They recommended the Village rehire Barbara Tracy and hire Linda Slack to share the position of office manager. They also recommended promotion of Oak Mt. at a ski & snowboard expo in Albany. There is also a recommendation that Allison Braunius and Ben Gallup share the duties of ski instructor supervisors. He said there are a couple of people interested in the concession at Oak Mt. and he'd told them to put written proposals to the office by November 2nd, suggesting there may be a special meeting that week to hire a concessionaire.

Mayor McGovern reviewed the proposed agreement with the Town of Wells for skiing for the season. Wells students already go to Gore Mountain on Sundays so the value-added negotiation wasn't appropriate for Wells. They have come up with a counter offer of \$2,500 with no discounted season passes. Wells residents would be able to ski free on Sundays according to the agreement.

Mr. Germain said the Expo in Albany is good for business and suggested that whoever goes to the Expo take some sort of discount coupons to give out as it is very well attended. In the past, buy one ticket, get one free discounts were done.

He mentioned the backhoe work that needs to be done at the mountain. There was some discussion about burying the electric line for the tubing hill and he wanted to put it into conduit. The inspector had recommended they clean out around the tower bases. He said there are people on town that have small excavators that will do the work for \$85 per hour. He said before the steep part, the Village backhoe can do the work.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to hire Ryan Germain and Randy LaVarnway at \$85 per hour at an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to do the work noted above. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Mr. Germain said that there was some trouble last year with the tubing hill module. It's been fixed a couple of times and he is trying to find a replacement. He said Rick Wilt is trying to find a source for the module and pricing. There are a couple of windows that need repair and he asked if the Village had a preferred supplier of glass. The Board advised him to buy locally if he can. Some discussion took place on the electric to the warming hut at the top of the mountain. He noted the purchase of grease in conjunction with the DPW Dept's needs to get better pricing.

Mr. Germain brought a promotion to the Board on Oak Mt. through Mobil. It was handed to Mrs. Tracy to handle. Mayor McGovern said there was another free promotion that he'd like completed and returned to the office so it could be sent in. He said Mr. Blanchard won't be taking the tractor to fix the brake until the next rainy day. Mr. Blanchard will be bringing in some fill from his ditching this week for areas needed at the mountain. There was some discussion on other items that need attention at Oak.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to approve mileage and one night's accommodations not to exceed \$250 for the Ski & Snowboard Expo. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Rudes made motion to place an ad with the Leader Herald for their fundraiser from the Oak Mountain account. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Smith made a motion to authorize the mayor to execute the agreement with the Town of Wells regarding Wells' participation in Oak Mt. funding. Trustee Cook seconded and asked what the proper identification would be for Town of Wells residents/taxpayers. Mayor McGovern said current residents can use license and property owners can use a utility bill the same as Speculator residents have provided in past years for the Sunday discount. The motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Some discussion took place on hiring Barbara Tracy and Linda Slack to share the duties of office manager. Trustee Smith asked that with two people on staff, would there be a maximum number of hours between the two people. Mrs. Tracy said that in a normal week, they wouldn't overlap time but in holiday weeks it may be necessary for both to be there at the same time. Mayor McGovern said that if they can garner enough volunteers, it shouldn't be hard on the payroll.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to hire Barbara Tracy and Linda Slack at \$12.00 per hour as joint office managers for Oak Mt. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Mrs. Tracy asked if the charge machine was activated. Mayor McGovern said it wasn't actually turned off last year but they will have to be called. Mrs. Tracy said she'd already started to do some ordering. She will be going to the discount gloves vendors in Amsterdam and Gloversville. She put out a notice for the work day on October 31st and has several people who have given her hours for volunteering. She said she'd like to offer a discount to the schools for every ten children that a chaperone gets a free ticket. She also mentioned a pre-season sale at the ski shop during the time that tubing is open and before the ski season starts. Some discussion took place on the discounted prices for the Towns.

Mayor McGovern asked that the accruals for Tom Germain that the Town of Lake Pleasant has requested to be reimbursed be tabled until further negotiations can take place with the Town.

Mayor McGovern asked that in the event that the weather cooperates, the Board do the appropriate hiring at the next meeting for Oak Mountain if needed. Mr. Germain said he wanted to be able to schedule the inspections. There was some discussion on working the ski instructors on another job if there aren't enough lessons.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Smith, Cook, and McGovern – ayes; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie J. Page, CMC, RMC, CMFO
Village Clerk-Treasurer

Attachment #1 - Town of Wells agreement

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – November 9, 2009