

**FEBRUARY 8, 2010  
VILLAGE OF SPECULATOR  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A Regular Meeting of the Village of Speculator Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall, Elm Lake Road, Speculator, New York, on February 8, 2010.

**PRESENT:** Munro Collie Smith, Mayor; Letty Rudes, Cheryl Paestella, and Del Cook, Trustees; Florence Braunius, WWTP Chief Operator; Katie Smith, Village Attorney; and Bonnie J. Page, Village Clerk-Treasurer. Trustee Tracy was absent.

**GUESTS:** Tom Germain, regarding Oak Mt.; Robert Hoffman, resident; and Aaron Weaver, representing the Historical Society of Lake Pleasant and Speculator.

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

**MINUTES**

*Trustee Cook made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – aye; nays – none.*

The following correspondence was reviewed by the Board: letter from Town Supervisor Neil McGovern to the president of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the possibility of weekend staffing at the Chamber office; the letter and accompanying information to the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors regarding the County taking over Village taxes for relevy; and a thank you note from the Fonda-Fultonville Student Government for Oak Mt.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Aaron Weaver was present to ask the Board to co-sponsor another re-enactment for August 11-14, 2011. This will be a Civil War re-enactment. The public will be there on August 13-14. The Board agreed to allow the re-enactment to take place at the pavilion, ballfield, and point areas.

Mr. Weaver also asked if the Village could fly the 15 star flag for the Town of Lake Pleasant centennial in 2012. In further discussion of the re-enactment, Mayor Smith said that they might want to consider Oak Mt. as a venue in the future. It was agreed that would be an ideal site.

**FLORENCE BRAUNIUS, WWTP CHIEF OPERATOR**

Mrs. Braunius submitted her written report which is made a part of these minutes (Attachment #1). She said she hoped that all the paperwork for the GIGP grant was submitted as they seem to ask for more documentation every other day.

Regarding the recent water usage report sent to the Board, Mrs. Braunius said that the Oak Mt. snowmaking usage was not included in her figures for the total water usage. With that amount added, it reduces the unaccounted for water to 23% which is within normal range.

She also said that with the NYS Dept. of Transportation doing the sidewalks on Route 30, they would like to get the waterline installed in that area and she will be speaking with NYSDOT on getting it installed along with the sidewalk installation. She said she'd contacted the project manager for NYSDOT.

Regarding the Archives grant money, Mrs. Braunius said that the money was spent on radio reads. She doesn't expect to put radio reads in homes where the owners are not in Speculator in the winter. There was some discussion on the recent power outage as it relates to the well building.

### **OAK MT. SKI CENTER**

Mr. Germain reported that it was a bad weekend with the groomer. There were several breakdowns that required expensive repairs on Saturday and Sunday. While the groomer was broken down, the cable on the tubing hill needed repair. It will be repaired on Tuesday. It will have to be inspected again before it can be used. There was some discussion on how to get pictures to the inspector. He reported the pump that was repaired is working well. The radios that they bought early in the year have worked out well. He said there is a need for skis and snowboards to be kept up. Some discussion ensued on forming a replacement schedule.

Mr. Germain said he is starting a list of things that will need to be addressed in the future. He said that some of the problems they are having are a result of age and exposure to the weather. He reported on some of the other repairs that need to be done. He said they purchased six sheaves and there are 89 that will need replacing. He described what has to be done. He said they are doing a visual inspection that will be written down each day so that they have a log on the lift and any issues. As a result of a comment from Trustee Paestella, Mr. Germain said he would speak to the people that work on the tubing hill about people kneeling in the tubes.

Mr. Hoffman asked Mr. Germain about costing out the bearings he needed to purchase. He made a couple of suggestions on where he could get the bearings at a better price.

The Board reviewed a report from Barbara Tracy regarding sales of the stock at the shop at Oak. She would like to have the Feb Fest sale until February 25 and then do a final markdown. Clothing is about a 70-75% markup although they do 100% on some pieces. The sale would be a 20% sale. As the end of February approaches, she suggested a markdown of 30-40%. Because of a few bad weekends and the economy, they have more inventory than they should for this time of year.

*Trustee Rudes made a motion to approve Mrs. Tracy's request to discount items in the shop as written above. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – aye; nays – none.*

### **CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Page submitted written month end reports for the month end 12/31/09. She also reported that the year end payrolls reports were submitted along with the annual report of wagering to the Racing and Wagering Board and the PESH SH900.1 (annual report of illness/injuries). She also noted there were no injuries in 2009 and three illnesses/injuries reported in the last week: one at

Oak Mt., her deputy fell on the ice and broke her arm, and one in the highway garage. She also said the budget sheets had been distributed to the departments and said that if the Board had anything to add to the budget, sheets would be provided for their use.

Tax enforcement letters have been sent to property owners with delinquent property taxes over two years old. Notices said that if the taxes remain unpaid past March 1, foreclosure proceedings will commence which means that they will be filed at the County; formal papers will be served which includes another period of time for them to pay prior to the Village taking the property. As was discussed at the last meeting, the property owners have paid in full prior to the deadline in the past.

Mrs. Page also noted receipt of the check from NYMIR for the Village's share of the current surplus based on the amount of initial capital contribution made to the reciprocal. The Village will receive \$1741.86 annually for three years.

After a brief discussion, *Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay the Hamilton County IDA for electricity Oak Mt. Ski Center used from a meter on the tower at \$51.04 from the Oak Mt. Special Revenue account. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – aye; nays – none.*

## **ABSTRACTS**

*Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #17 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$16014.96, Water Fund - \$2798.81, Sewer Fund - \$15351.79 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$21346.55. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella and Smith – ayes; nays – none.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Smith said the Village Hall remains on the Old Business as does the National Grid gross receipts tax. The proposed agreement with the Town of Benson for services at Oak Mt. was reviewed. It was noted that in the original discussions with the surrounding towns neither Hope nor Benson was asked to be included as there was no indication they would be interested. Subsequently, Hope asked to be included and an agreement was drafted and approved. Benson has also asked to be included and because it is later in the season and they have fewer residents, Mayor Smith recommended half the price of Hope (\$750.00).

*Trustee Cook made a motion to authorize Mayor Smith to execute an agreement with the Town of Benson for the same terms as the Town of Hope with the exception of the cost which shall be \$750.00. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella and Smith – ayes; nays – none.*

A request from Nancy Welch, Hamilton County Cooperative Extension, was received asking the Village Board for support for an application for a grant to build a high tunnel/greenhouse that they would place adjacent to the community garden behind the pavilion. It would be 10' x 40' and another teaching tool to show season extension. Trustee Cook suggested that the Cooperative Extension use the space they have now as space is limited in that area. Mr. Hoffman suggested that the area behind the tennis courts would be a better option as there is space and water available.

## NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Paestella asked that the Board support the Town of Arietta and Lake Pleasant in their efforts in seeking changes to the Jessup River UMP draft. Some discussion ensued. Trustee Paestella made a motion to support the Towns of Arietta and Lake Pleasant in their efforts to obtain changes to the proposed Jessup River UMP toward not allowing the interpretation of the Snowmobile Guidance document to create hardships for snowmobilers, the Towns and the business community. Trustee Cook seconded. Mayor Smith asked if either Town is formulating a formal protest. Some discussion ensued. The motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Rudes made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a particular employee incident at 8:10 p.m. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

As a result of discussion in Executive Session, Trustee Rudes made a motion to adopt a policy on nepotism, on recommendation of the village attorney, as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #3) and to be added to the Personnel Policy. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Rudes made a motion, in compliance with the nepotism policy just adopted, that Wayne Lucas shall act as the Supervisor in cases where nepotism is involved in the Department of Public Works. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Cook made a motion that the Department of Public Work be required to have a weekly staff meeting to discuss matters of scheduling or other issues that may arise. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion that the Dept. of Public Works Superintendent and assistant shall have a weekly staff meeting with the Highway Commissioners on Friday afternoon or a time that shall be convenient for all parties. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – February 22, 2010

- Attachment #1 – Water-Wastewater report
- Attachment #2 - Month end reports for 12/31/09 – Bank Reconciliations, Operating statement and cash accounts
- Attachment #3 - Nepotism Policy