

**MARCH 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 March 8, 2010.

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

GUESTS: Barrie Byrne, William Tracy and Robert Hoffman, residents.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None at this time.

MINUTES

Trustee Paestella made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22nd meeting as presented. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

FLORENCE BRAUNIUS, WWTP CHIEF OPERATOR

Mrs. Braunius reviewed her monthly report (Attachment #1). She noted the Annual Water Quality reports can be sent out with the tax bills on June 1. She spoke with the NYSDEC engineer, Kevin Scheuer, who approved. Mrs. Page noted that there would be a savings on the mailing cost from \$.44 to any additional costs for including the mailing with the tax bills and newsletters.

Mrs. Braunius went on to review the plan for waterline looping. She said Rob Streeter had asked about the status of the Town of Lake Pleasant's waste hauler permit. She told him there was no response from the Town. She noted that she would be teaching a class at the NYSDEC training in Old Forge March 22-23.

She reported on a meeting she attended with Lamont Engineers, the Town Supervisor and the mayor regarding extending the sewer line into the Town of Lake Pleasant. She said they walked the area that is proposed to be served. USDA Rural Development has offered 40% grant money eligibility to the Village portion of the project and the Town is eligible for 70% funding. The average homeowner in the village would pay \$670 a year which doesn't seem to be affordable for the general resident. She said that the more people that hook up in the town the more affordable for the village residents but the funding is not stable. She reviewed the funding possibilities.

She recommended that the Board consider moving ahead with gathering information to go forward with the application process. Some discussion ensued and she offered to get further information on short term funding.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page presented the following written reports which are made a part of these minutes (Attachment #2): Bank Reconciliations, Operating Statement and Cash Accounts for the month end 1/31/10.

Mrs. Page noted that all four young women that were lifeguards for the Village last year had re-applied prior to any advertising and asked if the Board wanted to advertise. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that it would be a waste of taxpayer's money to advertise when past policy has been to re-hire summer help barring any negative performance reports.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to rehire Jaclynne Lewis as lifeguard/W/SI at the rate of \$12.50 per hour and Stephanie Page, Samantha Blanchard and Rianna Herring as lifeguards at the rate of \$9.50 per hour for the summer season to start with setting up the beach on June 24th or another date as determined by the DPW Superintendent. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Mrs. Page updated the Board on the tax enforcement letters sent about a month ago to those with past due taxes. She said there are four parcel owners that remain on the past due list and she will be asking the Village Attorney to begin foreclosure procedures.

In accordance with new State regulations, elected and appointed officials will have to keep track of the time they spend on official business in order to report to the NYS Retirement System the correct days. Mrs. Page said she would provide something to keep track of the time that can be turned in and reviewed by the Board for the resolution that has to be posted.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #19 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$42347.93, Water Fund - \$3266.09, Sewer Fund - \$2657.82 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$10421.58. Trustee Paestella seconded. 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. Some discussion took place on the events at Oak Mt. the past weekend.

There was some discussion on the Project Action request for a smoke-free playground policy. The resolution presented at the last meeting was edited and re-presented for Board action.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to adopt the smoke-free playground policy as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #3). Trustee Cook seconded. Mr. Tracy if there is a distance requirement and he was told that this policy is self-policing although signs will be posted. The motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Cook made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to address possible contract negotiations with the Hamilton County IDA regarding Oak Mountain. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

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

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session. There was a brief discussion on whether to advertise a position that will become open soon.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – March 22, 2010

- Attachment #1 – Water-wastewater report
- Attachment #2 - Bank Reconciliations, Operating Statement and Cash Accounts for the month end 1/31/10
- Attachment #3 - Smoke-Free Playground policy