

**APRIL 12, 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 April 12, 2010.

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

**GUESTS:** Tom Germain, regarding Oak Mt.; and Robert Hoffman, resident.

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 March 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular meeting and March 29<sup>th</sup> Special meeting as presented. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing on the proposed budget at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Hoffman asked if the Village made up two budgets or just one. He asked if the Village was going to do one to include Oak Mt. and if there was going to be an informational meeting for the Village taxpayers. He said it would be nice if the County was the lead agency as they are the Owners of the mountain. He was reminded that the owner is not Hamilton County; it is the Hamilton County IDA. Mayor Smith said he felt the County as total would not be interested in supporting Oak Mountain as the northern Towns would not support it. It's the southern Towns that are the users of the mountain.

**ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS**

Trustee Paestella made a motion to appoint the following persons to the positions and terms of office noted: John Foley to the Planning Board for a term to conclude in 2017; Rosemary Tracy to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to conclude in 2013; the annual appointment of Spencer Tracy as Land Use Enforcement Officer and Victoria Bayce to the position of Fire and Building Code Inspector. The following committee appointment and designations are also included in the motion:

Sewer & Water	Smith & Cook
Streets & Highways	Smith & Cook
Parks & Playgrounds	Paestella & Cook
Finance and Office	Rudes & Paestella
Fire Commissioner	Rudes & Tracy
Youth Recreation	Paestella & Cook
Tourism	Tracy & Smith
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Paestella & Tracy

*Designations:*

1. That the Official Newspaper shall be the Hamilton County Express with others designated as needed; and

2. *That the regular meeting night, time and place shall be the second and fourth Monday of each month, unless such dates fall on a holiday where the meeting shall be held on the following day, and shall commence at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, Elm Lake Road, Speculator; and*
3. *That the rules of meeting procedure shall be as adopted and on file at the Village office; and*
4. *That payment prior to audit of claims for public utility services, postage and freight charges shall be authorized as provided in NYS Village Law; and*
5. *That the Clerk/Treasurer and Mayor or Deputy Mayor (Dual Signatures) shall be authorized to issue checks on all funds, and that the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer shall be authorized to enter any safe deposit box held in the name of the Village, and that NBT Bank, shall be designated as official bank and depository of the Village of Speculator; and*
6. *That the listing of water and sewer customers shall be used as the basis for computing fees for the 2010/2011 fiscal year and that adjustments shall be made during the fiscal year as needed; and*
7. *That whereas, there is to be held during the coming official year: A) the annual meeting conducted by the NYS Conference of Mayors for municipal officials in June and Legislative Meeting in February; B) the training school for municipal clerks and fiscal officers, conducted by the NYS Conference of Mayors and the NYS Office of the State Comptroller; and whereas it is determined by the Board of Trustees that attendance by certain municipal officials and employees at one or more of these meetings or conferences benefits the community; Now therefore be it resolved that the following officers are hereby authorized to attend the following conferences and schools; Mayor – Annual Meeting of NYS Conference of Mayors held in June or Legislative Meeting held in February; and Clerk-Treasurer – Annual Fall Training School sponsored by the NYS Conference of Mayors and the NYS Comptroller’s Office; and the NY Rural Water Association Annual Technical Conference. Expenses incidental to these conferences will be paid by the Village of Speculator, including mileage, room and board, and registration fees; and*
8. *That whereas the Board of Trustees has determined to pay a fixed rate for mileage as reimbursement to officers and employees of the Village using their personal automobiles while performing their official duties on behalf of the Village; Now therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees shall approve reimbursement to such officers and employees at the federal rate per mile; and*
9. *That the next Organizational Meeting shall be held on April 11, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. at the Village Hall, 112 Elm Lake Road, Speculator, NY.*

*Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy and Smith – aye; nays – none.*

Mayor Smith appointed Trustee Cook as Deputy Mayor.

### **FLORENCE BRAUNIOUS, WWTP CHIEF OPERATOR**

Mrs. Braunius reviewed the written report which is made a part of these minutes (Attachment #1). She said that all year-round water/sewer customers will have a radio read when the current stock is installed. Mrs. Braunius also reported that a water leak was found between the well control building and one of the wells and they are making plans for its repair.

There was some discussion on the proposed sewer extension project and how to get more points that would improve the grant money offer. She noted that if there were substandard sewer leech fields in the area or more users in the area, it would help increase the score.

Mrs. Braunius said that there are maintenance items that need to be addressed at the plant and she’s been looking into some contacts regarding an energy efficiency program through NYSERDA. Further information will be forthcoming.

The NYSDEC annual inspection was conducted on April 1 and a satisfactory condition was reported. She reviewed the list of training events.

Trustee Cook made a motion to approve Mrs. Braunius' attendance at the Sampling Procedure for WWTP Operators course to be held in Ft. Edward which includes 6 contact hours at the cost of \$60.00 from G8110.4. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy and Smith – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to authorize the attendance of Jim Desrochers and/or Rob Peck at the NY Rural Water Annual Technical Conference and to pay cost of up to the full registration or partial for either Jim Desrochers or Rob Peck to be split between G8110.4 and F8340.4. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy and Smith – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella asked if the panels could be painted on the pump station on Elm Lake Road as it has been an issue for the neighbors for quite some time. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Braunius suggested that a façade could be built that looks more like a little shed with a roofline in the back. She'd also like to sell the portable generator and get another that would be fixed. Further discussion ensued.

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

Tom Germain said they performed the load test last Monday. The report was sent in and he said the State does not charge because it's a mandatory test. They had to put 797 lbs. on each chair. His recommendation is to find a place to keep the boxes as although they got boxes from Charles Johns Store, they had to purchase about 100 to complete the job. The boxes were broken down to be stored. He reviewed the shut down and noted there would have to be a separate inspection if any rides were to be given during the summer.

The Pisten Bully is in Utica for summer servicing. They will be calling the Village for guidance on additional work to be done over the required items. Mayor Smith said the Oak property is talked about by the IDA in three parts: the tower, the ski area and property that might be sold as separate lots. Some discussion ensued.

Mr. Germain said there is also a culvert that is about to collapse that needs attention and items such as this need to be brought to the attention of the IDA. The ski/snowboard rental situation was also discussed. He suggested the Village contact Mr. McGovern to get the building cleaned up. Trustee Cook asked that a copy of the list that goes to the County be left at the Village Hall for the Board's review.

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

Mrs. Page sent an email with the proposed Code of Ethics to the Board prior to the meeting and asked if the Board would care to address it at this time. Trustee Paestella made a motion the adopt the Code of Ethics as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #2). Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy and Smith – aye; nays – none.

Mrs. Page noted she is working on an employee handbook which will include all known policies adopted by the Village to date.

### **ABSTRACTS**

Trustee Paestella made a motion to pay Abstract #21 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$4420.94, Water Fund - \$1526.67, Sewer Fund - \$490.34 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$3640.38. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Paestella, Tracy 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 issue. Oak Mt. was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

Mrs. Page reviewed the two written quotations on the community sign as obtained by members of the Planning Board. Trustee Paestella made a motion to accept the donation of materials for a community sign from Kingsboro Lumber Co. and to purchase the Plexiglas and corkboard from A7140.2. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Cook made a motion to authorize the Fire Department to proceed with the grant applications as listed in the letter submitted. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

### **BUDGET ADOPTION**

Mayor Smith asked if there were any questions on the budget. Mr. Hoffman suggested that some of the water and sewer payment that is charged to the fire department be charged to parks and playgrounds. Mrs. Page said it is moving money in the same budget and there is no good way to determine what percentage should be charged to each code.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to close the budget hearing at 8:10. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Cook made a motion to adopt the budget for 2010/11 as presented and made a part of these minutes (Attachment #3). Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – April 26, 2010

Attachment #1 – Water-Wastewater Report  
Attachment #2 - Code of Ethics  
Attachment #3 - 2010/11 Budget