

**MAY 10, 2010  
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 May 10, 2010.

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

**GUESTS:** Jim Desrochers, ROC; David & Karen McComb, William Paestella, Robert Hoffman, Dennis Brooks, Ed Brooks, residents; and Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers.

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

**MINUTES**

*Trustee Cook motion to approve the minutes of April 26<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting as presented. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – aye; nays – none.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. McComb addressed the Board on not reappointing Mrs. McComb to the Planning Board. He said that they support Oak Mountain and he said that he felt that there is an ethics issue in this case due to a conversation between the mayor and Mrs. McComb. Mr. McComb made several accusations against Mayor Smith including that Mayor Smith took retribution on Mrs. McComb because she signed someone else's petition for the mayoral election. Mayor Smith said he has never commented on who signed any petition and this is never an issue when he runs for office. Mr. McComb also addressed the issue of Karl Blanchard's position in the fire department. He feels that anyone that says anything against village is bullied.

Mr. McComb asked for a full accounting of Oak Mt. and feels that if the mountain lost money the village should not continue to back it. He says that if it broke even or made money, the Village should go to the taxpayers for permission to continue. Mr. McComb ended and Mrs. McComb was recognized.

Mrs. McComb said she did not question the Board's right to remove her from the Planning Board. She reviewed Mayor Smith's discussion with her on a matter of a planned development district for Oak Mt. She said she did not oppose Oak Mt. She said Mayor Smith said she supported the opposition in the election. Mayor Smith reiterated that he hadn't said the things he was accused of saying. Mrs. McComb said these were the reasons given for removing her from the Planning Board and she should not be persecuted.

Mr. Hoffman defended Karl Blanchard as Fire Chief and said he donates a lot of his time to the Fire Department as a dedicated member. This conversation was apparently in reference to the

Board not taking action to approve the slate of officers of the Fire Department at the last meeting. Mayor Smith said that for the record, there has never been any discussion on the slate of officers by the Board of Trustees in a negative manner. The Board simply looked at the slate of officers and moved on to other business so it was an oversight on the part of the Board.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to approve the slate of officers of the Speculator Volunteer Fire Department as presented. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

### **BRENDON BECKER, LAMONT ENGINEERS**

Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers, was present to update the Board on the SEQR forms for the sewer extensions. He said USDA has 83% of the funding committed. He went on to describe the resolutions needed to continue the process.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to adopt a resolution regarding the SEQR and lead agency determination for the Wastewater Collection System Extension Project as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #1). Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion authorizing Mayor Smith to execute any and all documents necessary for completion of the application of the USDA/Rural Development loan and grant for the Wastewater Collection System Extension Project in accordance with the resolution made a part of these minutes (Attachment #2). Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

### **FLORENCE BRAUNIUS, WWTP OPERATOR**

Mayor Smith noted the concern of the water loss by the Water Department Board over many years although various attempts have been made to find the sources. The swampy area around the pump house was discovered to be water that was leaking from the water main underneath the well control building. Mrs. Braunius reviewed the installation logs and found some entries that were suspect because the line failed several pressure tests so it could have been compromised almost from the original installation.

The department contacted Bat-Con (the contractor who did the sewer line extension on Elm Lake Road) to plan the repair and they will be on-site at the end of this week. Another big concern was that the only source of water will be the tank while it's being repaired and they have to use the emergency plan to provide water. The parts will cost about \$1500.00 and it was noted that the end result will be a savings in system costs overall. Mrs. Page said the insurance company has been contacted and they have Mrs. Braunius' contact information. Some discussion ensued. Mrs. Braunius went on to review the balance of her report which is made a part of these minutes (Attachment #3).

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

Mrs. Page said she'd been working on closing out the Oak Mt. account along with doing the water-sewer billing. She mentioned that the first billing at the new rates would be Gospel Volunteers monthly billing.

Regarding closing out the month end, she said the accounting program has always had a glitch that results in additional journal entries in the debit side of the entry. She has asked Enhanced Business why this is and they originally said it doesn't happen until she proved it to them. Mrs. Page said this happens a couple of times a year and she has to correct the database to close of the month.

### **ABSTRACTS**

Trustee Paestella made a motion to pay Abstract #23 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$6459.05, Water Fund - \$538.82, Sewer Fund - \$1159.10 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$2538.87. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Smith said the Village Hall remains on the Old Business. Mayor Smith said Supervisor McGovern is having a pancake supper to support Oak Mt. Trustee Rudes said that since Supervisor McGovern is interested in supporting Oak Mt., he and the Town should take it over. The Board agreed. Some discussion ensued.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

Trustee Rudes made a motion to approve the membership of Barrie Byrne in the Speculator Fire Department effective immediately. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Tracy said he planned on attending the next Fire Department meeting and Trustee Rudes said she would attend also.

Trustee Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – May 24, 2010

Attachment #1 - SEQR authorization for Wastewater Collection System Extension Project  
Attachment #2 - Wastewater Collection System Extension Project funding signature  
Wastewater Collection System Extension Project authorization  
Attachment #3 - Water-Wastewater report