

**JANUARY 25, 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 January 25, 2010.

PRESENT: Munro Collie Smith, Mayor; Letty Rudes, Cheryl Paestella, Del Cook, and Michael Tracy, Trustees; Roger E. Blanchard, Jr., DPW Supt. and Bonnie J. Page, Village Clerk-Treasurer.

GUESTS: Vicki Buyce, Fire & Building Code Inspector; Tom Germain, regarding Oak Mt.; Robert Hoffman, resident; and Pete Klein, representing the Hamilton County Express.

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

MINUTES

Trustee Paestella made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11th meeting as presented. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – aye; nays – none. Trustee Tracy was not present at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hoffman thanked the Board for their quick action on the ski lessons.

Ms. Buyce presented the 2009 code enforcement summary to the Board and reviewed the list (Attachment #1).

ROGER E. BLANCHARD, JR., DPW SUPT.

Mr. Blanchard said they continue to plow and sand. The skating rink was doing well until the recent rain and when the weather turns back to cold, he expects it will return to good condition. With the recent storm, several trees and limbs came down and his crew had been clearing the debris. Trustee Cook asked Mr. Blanchard about the snowmobiles coming off the lake and digging up the beach. He said they could fill in the area by moving snow. Mayor Smith said one of the school zone signs had come loose and presented a hazard and Mr. Blanchard fixed it promptly.

OAK MT. SKI CENTER

Mr. Germain reported on the lift issues that needed repair. He said the sheaves outlived their life in years and but not use. The parts are ordered. He went on to inform the Board of the process that happens when this part goes and what they would do if they don't find the one that might have failed within an hour. Evacuating the lift was discussed. Mr. Germain also reported CTEC would be coming to do their inspection.

Mr. Germain said the pump was returned although it hasn't been hooked up yet. The parts are on order and it will be installed this week. He said the portable pump is still being used. With the rain, Mr. Germain said that there are spots on the mountain that will need some snow moved and conditions will be icy. If the weather changes back to cold, they could make snow again.

There was some discussion of a recent incident where a young man was injured on the tubing hill and he had several friends there for a birthday party. Mr. Germain said the young man fell off the tube and the parents said it was his own fault as he was doing something he wasn't supposed to be doing. Since the party came to a sudden end, they will be returning at another time.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page submitted the following month end reports: Bank Reconciliations, Operating Statements and Cash Accounts for 10/31/09 and 11/30/09 (Attachment #2).

Trustee Cook made a motion to adopt the following resolution pertaining to the March 16, 2010, election: That there shall be no registration day for the Village of Speculator General Election to be held March 16, 2010, and the Village of Speculator shall adopt the listing of eligible voters of the County of Hamilton, Village of Speculator section, as the list of eligible voters for such election; further, be it resolved, that the official polling place for the Village of Speculator General Election to be held Tuesday, March 16, 2010, shall be the Village Hall, Elm Lake Road, Speculator, and shall be held between the hours of Noon and 9:00 p.m.; and further, be it resolved, that the following persons be appointed as Election Inspectors for the General Election to be held on March 16, 2010: Joan Tracy and Nancy Hoover. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #16 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$25612.28., Water Fund - \$2670.52, Sewer Fund - \$3578.17 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$28682.30. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, 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 until settled through the NYS Conference of Mayors.

In other Oak Mountain business, Trustee Cook presented a printout of the retail store/ticket sale at Oak Mt. He highlighted the amounts sold and reviewed it with the Board.

ORDER OF THE DAY

There was some discussion on a resolution to request that Hamilton County take the past due taxes for relevy to the County roll and subsequent enforcement.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to adopt the resolution as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #3). Trustee Cook seconded. Trustee Paestella asked if the Village had ever foreclosed on properties. Mrs. Page said that

foreclosure proceedings had started in the recent past and the property owner's had paid the taxes so it was cancelled. The last time a property was foreclosed was prior to 1985. The motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Mrs. Page noted receipt of a letter from the NYS Dept. of Transportation stating that sidewalks in the Village are candidates for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). There will be no cost to the Village. The area identified is from Timberline Drive to the end of the sidewalks on the south end of the Village.

A General Permit notice from the Adirondack Park Agency was received regarding a certificate for replacement of or installation of new telecommunication antennas on the existing tower on Oak Mountain. The permit authorizes emergency communications antennas for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

Mrs. Page informed the Board that the U.S. Census Bureau will be using the meeting room for several weeks in March for training and testing purposes during regular business hours. She said she told them there was one day unavailable due to the Village Election and they may make other arrangements for that week.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Paestella asked about the Freedom of Information meeting that is scheduled at Oak Mt. Some discussion ensued as some of the Trustees thought the use of the building should have been a Board decision.

Trustee Paestella asked who to contact about getting a permit to put flowers on the power poles. She was informed that the Town of Lake Pleasant gets permission for the flags so they may have a contact person with National Grid.

Trustee Rudes mentioned additional uses for the Oak Mt. lodge and asked what the future of the mountain should be in relation to the Village. Some discussion ensued. Trustee Cook suggested the Board should set a date at the end of the ski season to have a community meeting to ascertain the community's support of Oak Mt. Further discussion ensued on whether the Village should work with the Hamilton County IDA on extending the lease for a summer uses and into the future.

Trustee Tracy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 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 – February 8, 2010

- Attachment #1 – Code Enforcement Summary
- Attachment #2 - Bank Reconciliations, Operating Statement and Cash Accounts for month end 10/31/09 and 11/30/09
- Attachment #3 - Resolution to Hamilton County regarding back taxes

Attachment #3

Whereas the Board of Trustees of the Village of Speculator (the Village) believes that Hamilton County (the County) has the capability to foreclose on delinquent taxes in a more cost effective and efficient manner than the Village can do on its own; and

Whereas the marginal cost of foreclosing on delinquent Village taxes would be negligible for the County in as much as the County currently acts as agent for the town and school districts within its boundaries; and

Whereas the Board of Trustees hereby appoints the Mayor as agent to enter an agreement with the County;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Speculator hereby requests that Hamilton County annually assume the past due taxes of the Village of Speculator for relevy to the Town/County tax roll for eventual enforcement, if necessary, and that the County shall reimburse the Village for the listing as provided by the Village Treasurer. Further, that this resolution shall be effective immediately and apply to the June 2010 Village tax roll or as soon as practicable for the County.

The motion was made to adopt the resolution above by Trustee Rudes and seconded by Trustee Cook and passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.