

JANUARY 7, 2008
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 7, 2008.

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

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

Mayor McGovern called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and began the pledge of allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE – The correspondence was postponed until later in the meeting.

MINUTES

Trustee Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17th. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith, and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Buyce was acknowledged and said there are still about 14 projects in process although most are on hold for the winter. She said the Vescova project was awaiting another APA permit. Mayor McGovern mentioned the property was granted a buildable property although most of it is wetlands. He said he'd asked Vicki to provide an accounting to the Board anytime she issues a stop work order in the Village. Trustee Smith said it was helpful to the enforcement officers if the Board was kept in the loop so that they can back her up. Some discussion ensued.

Ms. Buyce said the owner of the old Graham Hotel is working on renovations. She said she doesn't have building plans for the new gym at Gospel Volunteers but has authorized the footing and cement pour.

On other business, Mayor McGovern said Barbara Tracy has agreed to be the paid cashier at Oak Mt. Ski Center. She presented a written report on the skiers at the

mountain. Mayor McGovern said the ski center took in substantial amounts of money over the opening week including donations for the sponsor board. Targeted advertising was discussed regarding future events. There was some discussion on special rates for the tubing as there was a small discount given in the past for groups.

Trustee Rudes asked how the funds were being accounted for. The problems with some of the credit card charges were discussed. Mayor McGovern explained that Kevin Smith is keeping track of that information and would be bringing it in to Mrs. Page. Trustee Paestella asked if a further breakdown could be done on the type of ski passes sold and the number of rentals, etc. Mrs. Tracy said she has that information and has learned a lot about staffing, etc.

Tom Germain said the furnace that was giving them problems either has to be restarted manually each time or a new furnace be installed according to Gary Foutch. When it shuts off, it doesn't automatically restart. He said they would be snowmaking as much as they can over the next several days but the expected warm weather and rain will take a lot of it away. The availability of the water is the only thing that has kept the snowmaking going. He said one issue is that the garbage needs to be emptied regularly and the dumpsters need to be moved to a better place. There was some discussion of the customers having to walk by the dumpsters to get to the tubing.

Mr. Germain said the plowing wasn't done early enough for the parking lot. Some discussion ensued. He told the Board they might want to reconsider the hours for tubing on Sunday night as there isn't the volume to justify staying open. The greasing on the lift will take place on Wednesday and he has a crew coming in that will assist in getting them off the lift if needed.

Mr. Germain said he needed to know who would be assisting in parking. Mrs. Tracy gave him the names of the people who have volunteered for Saturday and Sunday.

FLORENCE BRAUNIUS, WWTP CHIEF OPERATOR

Mrs. Braunius reviewed her report which is a part of these minutes (Attachment #1). She referred to some items to review regarding the sewer connections at Oak Mt. She noted that the transducer in the well had failed and stated the costs associated with the repairs which are noted in her report. Some cold weather repairs on the water distribution system were noted. Some discussion ensued.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page distributed copies of the reports for the end of October 31, 2007: Operating Statement (Attachment #2), Bank Reconciliation (Attachment #3), and Cash Accounts (Attachment #4). She reminded the Board that election packets are available for the March 18 election. The last date to file is February 12. The PERMA claims report was reviewed.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #15 in the following amounts: General Fund – \$15222.62, Water Fund - \$3548.98, Sewer Fund - \$2448.91, and Oak Mt. Special Revenue Account – \$1825.50. Trustee Smith seconded. Mayor McGovern noted that the expenses for Oak Mt. were large but it was being covered by the receipts. The motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

OLD BUSINESS

The Comprehensive Plan Committee report was removed from the Old Business as the Plan was adopted at the last meeting. The Dissolution Study Committee will be meeting on January 14 at 6 p.m. at the Lake Pleasant Central School.

Trustee Paestella submitted a draft of the Beautification Committee mission statement and outline of plans for the Board to review. Mayor McGovern said he would speak with Senator Little's office on the member item for the park.

After a brief discussion, Trustee Rudes made a motion to set the following rates of pay for temporary laborers at Oak Mt: Nick Mauro - \$10.00 per hr.; Seth Harrington - \$10.00 per hr.; Randy LaVarnway - \$13.00 per hr.; Doug Sietsma - \$12.50 per hr.; and Gregory Young - \$12.50 per hr. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to set rates for additional part-timer temporary laborers at Oak Mt. as follows: Linda Kennedy - \$10.00 per hr.; John E. Brewer III - \$10.00 per hr.; Christopher Smith - \$10.00 per hr.; and Elizabeth Susan Carpenter - \$8.00 per hr. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mayor McGovern said there had been a meeting at the mountain with discussion centered on promotion. The money from the grant from Hamilton County has not been received but \$5000 of that is specified for promotion. The free skiing was popular but promotion of the mountain needs to be done. Mayor McGovern brought up radio ads through WIZR with a \$1000 contract. WIZR is with Clear Channel Communications. They offered a 5 hour remote at the mountain. He asked that the Board approve the \$1000 contract with WIZR for advertising. Trustee Smith made a motion to approve a contract with WIZR for promoting Oak Mt. Ski Center for \$1000 and to authorize the mayor to execute same. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mayor McGovern presented ideas for promotion given to him by supporters of the mountain. He said that one of the ideas was fireworks. There seemed to be some support for the idea. He noted some ideas for Feb Fest that were proposed and there was further discussion on promotion of the ski area.

After a brief discussion, Trustee Smith made a motion to reduce the rate for tubing tickets for groups of 15 and over by \$1.00 per person on a 2 hour session. Trustee Paestella seconded and further discussion ensued. The motion passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Mrs. Page mentioned the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Study meeting invitation. The meeting will be held February 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Mayfield Municipal Building Meeting Room. This night is also the night of the regular Village Board meeting.

Trustee Cook made a motion to adopt participation in the Hamilton County Mutual Aid Plan effective immediately as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #5). Trustee Smith seconded and the motion passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mayor McGovern reviewed the events on the SMSI grant applications. The Board had pre-approved \$1500 for the grant application. The grant application was for the \$33,000. The cost was \$3,000 and he asked Board to approve and additional \$1500 to pay J. O'Connell & Associates for the grant application. Trustee Smith made a motion to approve an additional \$1,500 and appropriate same for the payment of the grant consultants as noted above. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook,

Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

ELECTION RESOLUTIONS

Trustee Rudes said she was in favor of personal registration but felt it would be foolish to go ahead with it until after this election.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to adopt the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that there shall be no registration day for the Village of Speculator General Election to be held March 18, 2008, and further, that the Village of Speculator shall adopt the listing of eligible voters from the County of Hamilton as the list of eligible voters for said election. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Smith made a motion to adopt the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, that the official polling place for the Village of Speculator General Election to be held on March 18, 2008, shall be the Village Hall, Elm Lake Road, Speculator, and shall be held between the hours of Noon and 9:00 p.m. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

The snowmobile and cross country ski trails were discussed briefly.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

- Attachment #1 - Water-Wastewater Report
 - Attachment #2 - Operating Statement for month end October 2007
 - Attachment #3 - Bank Reconciliations for month end October 2007
 - Attachment #4 - Cash Accounts for month end October 2007
 - Attachment #5 - Hamilton County Mutual Aid Agreement
- Next meeting – Regular Meeting – January 22, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday)