

**NOVEMBER 23, 2009
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 November 23, 2009.

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

GUESTS: Tom Germain, regarding Oak Mt.; Robert Hoffman, resident; Russ Pugh and Tim Cruver, representing Milton Cat; and Pete Klein, representing the Hamilton County Express.

Mayor McGovern 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 November 9th meeting as presented. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

BID OPENING

Sewer Camera – Bids were opened and reviewed by the Board. The Bid register is made a part of these minutes (Attachment #1). The bids were deferred to the next meeting so they could be reviewed by the Wastewater Department.

Skid Steer – The bids were opened and reviewed by the Board and the bid register is made a part of these minutes (Attachment #2). It was noted that the Kubota bid by Anderson Equipment was a smaller horsepower and not up to the needs of the department. Mr. Blanchard said the Milton Cat was within the budget and met the specifications.

After a brief discussion, *Trustee Smith made a motion to purchase Milton Cat at \$48,886 per the bid documents submitted by Milton Cat. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.*

There was some discussion on where the Skid Steer would be stored to protect it. It was noted the purchase of this piece of equipment will make the crawler surplus.

ROGER BLANCHARD, JR., DPW SUPT.

Mr. Blanchard reported that the Christmas tree is up at the four corners. The clean-up around the garage has been taken care of and hauled away. Mayor McGovern said that he would be contacting the NYS Dept. of Conservation regarding what to do with brush since it can't be burned. There is no planned way to dispose of stumps and brush. Some discussion ensued.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to adopt a resolution opposing the ban on burning trash and brush in the Adirondacks which was adopted by the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation. The Board agreed that it will cause brush and other materials to be left roadside. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Smith, Cook and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mr. Blanchard said they'd repaired the culvert at Oak. They continue ditching Village roads and will be changing the banners. Trustee Paestella said that the DPW could change them before Thanksgiving. Mr. Blanchard said the 350 rack truck is unsafe in the rear and he would be asking Strahl Gallup to make a ladder for it. He will also be taking a tractor up to Oak for a cable inspection. Mr. Germain asked if there was a piece of culvert that could be used to store the toboggans so that they didn't have to brush them off each day. Some discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding Oak Mt., Mr. Germain said the cable inspection is on Tuesday, November 24. The slip test is done. The non-destructive testing was successful and passed. This concludes the plan for the last seven years. They have to write a new plan to the state on how they do the chairs for the next several years. The plan is to do 14 chairs per year providing that nothing fails. If there is a failure, they will have to do those and all the next years also. The snowmaking is ready to go. Mr. Germain said he's been asked why they didn't make it before now but the decision was good because of the warm days. He said they have a couple of snow guns on loan. Mr. Germain said they use less than half the air and it makes better snow. Some discussion ensued.

Mrs. Page explained that National Grid service tech was in her office and wanted to take the snowmaking meter out and she had to call the main phone to get it straightened out.

Mr. Germain said that the lifts have been operating but there are still things that need to be repaired and he would be working with Rick Wilt to get the right parts. He said the electrical is to the ski patrol building and work would be done to put a light in and finish the electric and heat.

Mayor McGovern said he'd contacted Paul Bowden about filling in for Rick Higgins as Rick is in very ill health. There are others that have offered to assist with the ski patrollers. Another issue is the radios and they had two of them adjusted. They can make two of them work. He asked that a battery be purchased and the small Motorola walkabouts. He suggested two sets at approximately \$100 each.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to purchase two sets of Motorola walkabouts for use by the patrollers not to exceed \$250. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Smith, Cook and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Some discussion took place on the arrangement for the ski school to divide it off from the retail area. Discussion took place on the donated trailer. Mayor McGovern commented on a walkthrough of the mountain by members of the IDA. He said some of them had never been there. Mr. Germain asked if the Board was interesting in selling advertising on the mountain in the lift area. He said it worked in other areas and would get more information to advertise on the towers. Mayor McGovern said he would also get more information on a sno-cross event that might take place at the end of the season.

Trustee Smith motion to hire the following people for Oak Mountain as temporary laborers at the rates noted: Paul Alfieri - \$12.50/br., Gregory Young - \$12.50/hour, Cornelia Waller - \$12.50/br., James Abrams - \$11.00/br., Helen Grier - \$10.00/br., Ethan Eobbi - \$10.00/br. and Jonathan Simard - \$10.00/br. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Smith, Cook and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mrs. Page reported she'd done the indemnification for Rossignol online in the mayor's name. Mr. Morrison would be contacted regarding the purchase of ski and snowboard rentals.

Mayor McGovern read a proposal from The Inn at Speculator for the concession for Oak Mountain. He suggested that the concession area/lodge should be used more and there should be arcade type machines and a pool table that would help defray some of the costs. He's spoken with all his regular vendors who will start moving in the machines as soon as possible if the Board agrees to his proposal. Some discussion took place on heating the lodge. Further discussion took place on the ski patrol and the fact that Mr. Higgins' records are not accessible at this point.

Trustee Smith made a motion to contract with Chru Restaurant dba The Inn at Speculator for the concession at Oak Mountain. Trustee Rudes seconded. Trustee Cook said that it should be made clear that the Village didn't seem to have a choice as no other offers were made. The motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Smith, Cook and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Regarding daily transactions at the mountain, Trustee Rudes said she would cash out at 4:00 p.m. daily; therefore, any transactions after that will be on the next day's business.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page reported on the labor law seminar she'd attended. The State of New York is getting more diligent on enforcing the independent contractors laws. According to the law, independent contractors have to have their own place of business and their own insurance. The Village has been treating ski instructors as independent contractors which is a policy that will have to change. The matter will be referred to the Commission on how to handle this matter.

This seminar also provided a new form to comply with a new State law requiring that new employees sign that they know their rate of pay, overtime rate and day of pay. She will begin using the form immediately along with the other payroll information needed.

MVP Health Care sent a notice that the premium will increase by 14% beginning January 1. Mrs. Page said the broker offered to research other plans in MVP if the Board felt it was necessary. It was suggested that joining with either the Town or County plan be investigated. Some discussion ensued. Mrs. Page will contact the broker to see what other plans are available.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #12 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$24778.53, Water Fund - \$9839.89, Sewer Fund - \$22211.15 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$32500.95. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Smith, Cook and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Smith, Cook and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – December 14, 2009

Attachment #1 - Bid register – Sewer Camera
Attachment #2 - Bid Register – Skid Steer