

**DECEMBER 28, 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 December 28, 2009.

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

GUESTS: Tom Germain, Allison Braunius, and Tom Preston, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE – None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hoffman asked about the Executive Session at the end of the last meeting. He was told that it was to discuss hiring personnel for Oak Mt. as was stated during the meeting.

Mr. Preston said he was at the meeting to support Ms. Braunius and reviewed his experience with skiing and ski schools.

Ms. Braunius was present to make her recommendations on how to pay the ski instructors. Responding to a question by Mayor Smith, she said McCauley Mountain only has a couple of people on the books and wanted to know how the Village is going to handle this situation. She shared some ideas on how to pay the instructors. A lengthy discussion ensued on whether there should be an additional charge when a patron requests a specific instructor. Ms. Braunius recommended that the hours equal out to the amount that they used to make. Some discussion took place on the amount per hour. There was also discussion on whether any of the instructors are certified and how skiers get their certification.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay the ski instructors \$12.00 per hour for non-certified instructors and \$15.00 per hour for certified instructors and to hire the instructors according to a list that will be provided the Clerk-Treasurer and on file at the Village Hall. It was noted that there are no certified instructors at this time; however, several are working toward this designation. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

MINUTES

Trustee Paestella made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14th meeting as presented. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Paestella, Cook, and Smith – aye; nays – none.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page noted that most of her time over the past two weeks was spent on creating employee files for new hires at Oak Mt.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Rudes made a motion to pay Abstract #14 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$7609.43, Water Fund - \$1536.29, Sewer Fund - \$2493.13 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$8482.15. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

ROGER BLANCHARD, JR., DPW SUPT.

Mayor Smith said the DPW had helped out on a water main break on the public beach on Christmas day and thanked Mr. Blanchard. Mr. Blanchard said they'd been plowing and sanding. He noted the skating rink is open and the cross country ski trails are passable although there are some bad spots on it. Due to the snow storm, he had to borrow a person from the Water Department to assist with plowing. There was some discussion about Mr. Blanchard getting rid of surplus items with the County.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Smith said the Village Hall remains on the Old Business as does the National Grid gross receipts tax.

Trustee Cook made a motion to rehire John Hughes, Russell Harrington, and Zachary Young at the rates paid in the prior year and to hire Paul Beaudoin at the rate of \$10.00 per hour for the ski patrol. All hires are for Oak Mt. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to approve a membership to ISKINY at the cost of \$190.00 from the Oak Mt. Special Revenue account CR7180.4. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Mayor Smith said the event at Oak Mt. scheduled for January 2 included fireworks which are estimated at \$1,500. American Fireworks will have a licensed person present for the event.

Trustee Cook made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$1,500 for the fireworks from American Fireworks as noted above. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Mr. Germain arrived at the meeting at 7:55 p.m. He said they will be pulling the transfer pump with backhoe help from the DPW. He expects that it could be fixed tomorrow.

Mr. Germain said that they will need springs for the t-bars before the next meeting. The Village insurance company will be contacted regarding the windshield on the groomer as it was broken over the weekend. Mr. Germain said there were issues with updating the website more

frequently as the information has been incorrect. Mayor Smith said he would talk with Town Supervisor McGovern regarding manning the Chamber office on Saturday. Some discussion ensued. It was suggested that the Village request access for Mr. Germain on the website so that it can be updated daily. There was also discussion on requesting that the Chamber office be open on Saturdays as the area is a tourist area and information is needed then.

Trustee Cook made a motion to authorize Mayor Smith to draft a letter to the Town, if necessary, asking that the Chamber office be opened on Saturday. Trustee Rudes seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Cook said there are issues about proof of residency for Hope residents. Trustee Rudes suggested that the Town's issue a card saying that they are from the Town's that are part of the agreements.

Trustee Rudes made a motion to reschedule the public hearings for Local Laws #3 and #4 of 2009 on January 11 at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Trustee Rudes made a motion to authorize the mayor to execute the Cable Franchise Extension Agreement with Hamilton County Cable TV, Inc. as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #1). Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Cook made a motion to enter into an intermunicipal Memorandum of Understanding among Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties regarding water quality in the Watershed of the Black River as made a part of these minutes (Attachment #2). Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Rudes, Cook, Paestella, Tracy and Smith – ayes; nays – none.

Trustee Paestella made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Trustee Tracy 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 – January 11, 2010

Attachment #1 - Copy of Franchise Extension Agreement
Attachment #2 - Copy of Black River Watershed Memorandum of Understanding