

**APRIL 14, 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 April 14, 2008.

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

**GUESTS:** James Desrochers, ROC; Robert Hoffman, resident; Aaron Weaver, representing the Hamilton County Historical Society; and Pete Klein, representing the Hamilton County News. Jeremy Edwards, village employee, arrived at 7:30 p.m.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor McGovern said that acknowledgement was received from Senator Little on the Board's letter protesting the legislation proposed requiring 10% of the registered voters' signatures on a petition to force a village dissolution referendum.

**MINUTES**

The minutes will be available at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mayor McGovern opened the Public Hearing on the proposed budget at 7:03 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Hoffman said that at the last meeting there was discussion on cutting the use of gas and diesel and said that the business garbage shouldn't be picked up two days a week as the residential taxpayers are not picked up twice a week. Mayor McGovern said they needed to talk about that and a lot more. He suggested that by cutting marginal trips with the village vehicles savings could be had on fuel. Some discussion ensued.

There was some discussion on how garbage work is recorded. Mr. Hoffman said the Town kept track of the work done on their payroll sheets by department. Mrs. Page explained that the only items that are not accounted for separately regarding refuse pickup in the Village General Fund are the employee benefits. In the Town, all employee benefits are charged to the individual funds. In the Village, they are charged off to the General, Water and Sewer Funds. Further discussion took place.

Mr. Weaver addressed the Board on behalf of the Hamilton County Historical Society who would like to place a geocache at the French Louie gravesite. He explained what a geocache is and that a lot of historical societies have used this to attract people to their areas. It is a game whereby people use GPS coordinates to find the station. There are items in the box to journal and trade. They would like to let people know more of the history of the area. There is a biography of French Louie in the geocache.

*Trustee Smith made a motion to allow the Hamilton County Historical Society to have the geocache in the Village cemetery. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.* Further discussion took place on various geocaches located in Hamilton County.

Regarding the budget, Mr. Desrochers and Mrs. Braunius made some comments and changes on the water and sewer budgets. Discussion took place on the riding lawnmower and the manure spreader. Discussion then took place on the General Fund budget. Mayor McGovern said the heat needs to be lowered in the village garage. Some discussion also took place on rerouting the entrance door for the village hall to prevent the cold draft. There was also discussion on the Fire Department budget and Mayor McGovern said he would speak with representatives of the fire department and Roger Blanchard regarding cutting some of the costs. He said that if it's a safety issue, he wouldn't feel comfortable cutting it but if we can spread out the cost, it would be better for the village.

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

Mrs. Braunius reviewed the report made a part of these minutes (Attachment #4). She said the big issue is the sewer line that served the lake front units at Camp of the Woods. Mayor McGovern reminded her that the Village has the right to go into Camp of the Woods and do an inspection and make them take action to correct this matter. The infiltration issue is costing the Village money in power and treatment costs and is not metered but going through our system. The mayor offered to go with Mrs. Braunius to talk with representatives as soon as possible.

Mayor McGovern suggested a resolution directing the Planning Board to always review any projects that involve the water and sewer departments.

Mrs. Braunius said Carl Brown asked to have the Village write a one paragraph review of our experience that may be included in the book he is having published, "How to Get Great Rates". The Village would be recognized and quoted and would receive a complimentary copy.

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

Mrs. Page gave the Board copies of the following written reports: Operating Statement (Attachment #1), Bank Reconciliations (Attachment #2) and Cash Accounts (Attachment #2) for the month end February 2008. She also passed around the PERMA report and informed the Board that there was an informational filing for unemployment benefits from one of the Oak Mt. employees.

### **ABSTRACTS**

Trustee Cook made a motion to pay Abstract #22 in the following amounts: General Fund – \$1284.09, Water Fund - \$398.42, Sewer Fund - \$252.56 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue – \$181.02. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The village hall remains on the old business. Regarding the 911 project, Mrs. Page sent out 69 letters to the property owners on private drives asking for their input regarding naming their "roads". Some responses have been received.

There was some discussion on the newsletter for the LPSA and whether anything had been published about donations for plantings and the playground.

On Oak Mountain, there was some discussion on the closing operations. Mayor McGovern asked Jeremy if anyone had been sent over to Oak Mt. to take care of the pump regarding the water running into the building. He said he was taking care of it every morning.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Trustee Paestella made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:38 p.m. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

### **NEW BUSINESS – None**

Trustee Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Trustee Paestella seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Attachment #1 - Operating Statement for month end 2/28/08  
Attachment #2 - Bank Reconciliations for month end 2/28/08  
Attachment #3 - Cash Accounts for month end 2/28/08  
Attachment #4 = Water & Wastewater Report

Next meeting – Regular Meeting – April 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.