

APRIL 28, 2008
VILLAGE OF SPECULATOR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Special Meeting of the Village of Speculator Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall, Elm Lake Road, Speculator, New York, on April 28, 2008, and advertised for 10:00 a.m. as there would not be a quorum for the regular meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. the same day.

PRESENT: Neil P. McGovern, Mayor; Del Cook and Munro Collie Smith, Trustees; James Desrochers, ROC; Roger Blanchard, Jr., DPW Superintendent; and Bonnie J. Page, Village Clerk-Treasurer. Trustees Rudes and Paestella were absent.

GUESTS: Robert Hoffman, resident; and Pete Klein, representing the Hamilton County News.

Mayor McGovern called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and began the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Trustee Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of April 7th and April 14th. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith, and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

BUDGET

Mayor McGovern mentioned that the budget had been adjusted as discussed and Mrs. Page presented the summary. He mentioned the budget included a 3.8% salary increase on the wage schedule and he'd met with the department heads to cut what could be cut. Trustee Cook made a motion to discuss the proposed budget. Trustee Smith seconded. Trustee Smith said that the village is doing well to keep the budget at a 3.28% increase in the tax rate. The others agreed and the budget was moved to adoption. The motion to adopt the budget was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith, and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Trustee Smith made a motion to advertise for summer help. Trustee Cook seconded. Mr. Blanchard said that with Herb Ralph leaving and using up his time, he'd like to see three people hired for the summer. Some discussion ensued on the options for hiring and who may be hired to take Herb Ralph's place upon his retirement. Mayor McGovern mentioned that one of the employees from Oak Mt. is interested in the permanent position. The Board agreed to advertise for two people for summer help at this time and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith, and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Smith made a motion to pay Abstract #22 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$27425.91, Water Fund - \$3769.69, Sewer Fund - \$4900.94 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$7049.28. Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith and McGovern - aye; nays - none.

Mayor McGovern informed the Board that Rob Peck turned his cell phone in as he no longer needed it as he increased the minutes on his own phone. Mayor McGovern asked Mr. Blanchard to use the phone. He also mentioned the street sweeping.

Trustee Cook made a motion to authorize the playground project at \$28,000 to be financed in part by a grant from Senator Little's office for \$20,000 and the village budgeted amounts over the past two years and other donations. Further, to authorize the budget for same and to transfer funds to the Capital Project for same and to authorize a down payment of \$14,000. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith and McGovern - aye; nays - none.

Mayor McGovern noted the notice was received of a grant for \$20,000 for the project from Senator Little's office. Trustee Cook mentioned there would be a shortfall of \$8,000 above the grant money and that donations were being solicited for that.

Trustee Smith made a motion to adopt the Poppy Day proclamation as attached to these minutes (Attachment #1). Trustee Cook seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith and McGovern - aye; nays - none.

Applications for lifeguards were reviewed. The Board discussed the rate of pay briefly. Trustee Cook made a motion to re-hire Jaclynne Lewis as the WSI/Lifeguard at the rate of \$11.50 per hour and Nicholas Knapp as lifeguard at the rate of \$10.50 per hour. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith and McGovern - aye; nays - none. It was noted that another lifeguard would need to be hired.

Mayor McGovern mentioned the letter sent to Jim Hammond, Gospel Volunteers, regarding the Inflow & Infiltration issues asking them to contact the Water-Sewer department so this can be addressed. Mayor McGovern also noted a letter from Del Cook with Hamilton County GIS laying out the plusses of the GIS system.

Mrs. Page informed the Board that she was getting responses on the road naming. Trustee Cook recommended that the highway committee meet to review them and present it to the Board.

Mayor McGovern said he'd met with Brad Dake and Town representatives about the AATV initiatives. The survey needs to be completed and he said he would meet with Mrs. Page to complete it on May 5. He said they discussed the proposed change to Article 14 on the land bank. Mr. Dake is going to each municipality to review projects that might be viable. They also talked about the Forever Wild status of lands the State has purchased. This proposal would set aside up to 500 acres a year and the municipalities could purchase lands needed and the money would go into a dedicated trust with NYSDEC. Mayor McGovern explained the purpose and possible uses of the money. He said that roadbeds would be a good purpose as the snowmobiles would not have to cross waterways and could make it safer and extend the season.

Mr. Hoffman said that Paul Wilber does a lot for the community and suggested that on his 80th birthday that a proclamation be done regarding his contributions to the community. Mr. Wilber's birthday is May 13th. Trustee Cook made a motion to recognize Mr. Wilber for his 80 years of service to the community by proclaiming May 13th as Paul Wilber Day and presenting him with a proclamation. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Mayor McGovern asked the highway and water-sewer departments to be considering areas where a change to Article 14 would benefit their departments.

Trustee Cook made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. Trustee Smith seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Cook, Smith and McGovern – aye; nays – none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Attachment #1 - Poppy Day Proclamation

Next meeting – Regular Meeting – May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.