

**VILLAGE OF SPECULATOR
AUGUST 22, 2011
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A Regular Meeting of the Village of Speculator Board of Trustees was held at the Village Hall, 112 Elm Lake Road, Speculator, New York, on August 22, 2011.

PRESENT: Cheryl Paestella, Deputy Mayor; Del Cook, William Tracy and Karen McComb, Trustees; Roger Blanchard, DPW Supt.; Florence Braunius, WWTP Chief Operator; Katie Smith, Village Attorney; and Bonnie J. Page, Village Clerk-Treasurer. Mayor Rudes was absent.

GUESTS: Matt O'Brien, Oak Mt. Ski Center; Jenny Novosel & Robert Hoffman, residents; and Peter Klein, representing the Hamilton County Express.

Deputy Mayor Paestella called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and began the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES

Trustee Cook made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8th regular meeting as presented. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and McComb – aye; nays – none.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

BID OPENING – TELEMETRY SYSTEM

There was only one bid for the telemetry system upgrade from Aqualogics, Inc. at the cost of \$39,750.00.

Trustee Cook made a motion to refer the bid to Lamont Engineers for review. Trustee Tracy seconded. Mrs. Page asked the Board if they would like to award the bid pending the review and approval of Lamont Engineers. The Board agreed to amend the motion to award pending the review and approval as stated. The motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and McComb – aye; nays – none.

ROGER BLANCHARD, DPW SUPT.

Mr. Blanchard reported he has a meeting with FEMA representatives this week to finalize the reimbursement for the spring washouts. He will be signing off on the paperwork to get the money back although he wasn't certain of the total amount. He also reported there is a problem at the fire hall with the electric box as it shoots sparks and an electrician gave him an estimate of the repairs. He will be getting other written quotations per the procurement policy.

Mr. Blanchard also said he'd investigated an issue at the pavilion as it was reported there were burnt stick matches and papers. He said there are young people at the pavilion after hours and

his crew is always cleaning up cigarette butts in that area. He was advised to contact the sheriff's department about patrolling the area.

There was some discussion on the summer help. Mr. Blanchard said one of his summer laborers would be leaving in the next two weeks and he asked if he could keep the other one on for a while. The Board agreed that he could keep the laborer through the end of September.

Mr. Blanchard had presented a "contract" for shared services to Mrs. Page earlier in the day. She went online and found the original sample and revised it then emailed it to the Board and the Village Attorney. Mrs. Smith said that the Town had adopted this "contract" on August 16 and although she has some corrections to give Mrs. Page, it seems that without this "contract" in place, the DPW would have problems in the future getting help when needed from other municipalities. As some of the Board hadn't had a chance to read it through, the matter was tabled to the next meeting.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Page submitted the following reports for the month end July 2011: Bank Reconciliations (Attachment #1), Operating Statements (Attachment #2) and Cash Accounts (Attachment #3).

She reported that Lyme Adirondack Timberlands is challenging their tax assessment with the Town of Lake Pleasant. The Village received a copy of the Notice as an assessing unit under the Town. There was also a notice received of a renewal for the liquor license for The Inn at Speculator.

Mrs. Page read a letter from James Olsen requesting removal of the sewer fee from his bill as the building has been removed. The Water-Wastewater Dept. has inspected and approved the work. Trustee McComb made a motion to remove the sewer portion of the bill for Account #310 – James Olsen from his account as the building was removed. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and McComb – aye; nays – none.

ABSTRACTS

Trustee Cook made a motion to pay Abstract #6 in the following amounts: General Fund - \$4630.77, Water Fund - \$1493.00, Sewer Fund - \$3952.55 and Oak Mt. Special Revenue - \$15344.14. Trustee McComb seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and McComb – aye; nays – none.

OLD BUSINESS

The Village Hall remains on the agenda. Regarding Oak Mt. Ski Center, Mr. O'Brien said they turned quite a few people away from the mountain as the zipline was not open due to the insurance issue. NYMIR is still working on a solution.

Trustee Paestella asked about the sewer pump situation at Oak. Mr. O'Brien said there is an estimate to repair it of \$30,000 and the Hamilton County IDA says they can't afford to have it

repaired so it will be sold as is. There was some discussion of the power at the ski lodge and the fact that the freezers and refrigerators are on constantly and costing the Village for storing the Stobo's inventory. There was some discussion of sending the Stobo's a bill for the utilities as they haven't been open when the mountain was open as per the lease. Mr. O'Brien was asked what the situation was with the old building and if it was going to be taken down. He said he isn't aware of any plan to take it down.

ORDER OF THE DAY

There was discussion of the situation with the water meters being taken out per the customers request and not being put back in for long periods of time. The following resolution addresses this matter.

Trustee Cook made a motion to bill customers the \$50 in/out fee on an invoice instead of the regular billing on an individual basis when the meter is taken out and there is no specified time to reinstall it. When they reinstall the meter, the fee will also be billed. Other customers who have their meters taken out seasonally and reinstalled will still be charged \$25 quarterly as in the past. Trustee Tracy seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and McComb – aye; nays –none.

Trustee McComb commented on a grant that was applied for through the Revitalization Committee. She suggested that the information come to the Village Board before anything is done. Trustees Paestella and Cook agreed to make the Board aware of their activities.

Trustee McComb said the library addition is back on and the architect is making plans. There is a fundraiser on board also. They are hoping that the funding will be 75/25 instead of the 50/50 grant funding for libraries.

Village Attorney Smith reported that the lawsuit brought by the Baers and Hansens on the streetlight matter was thrown out by the judge. The Village was awarded the maximum in costs, which is about \$300 and doesn't cover the cost of the defense.

Trustee Tracy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m. Trustee McComb seconded and the motion was passed by the following vote: Paestella, Cook, Tracy, and McComb – aye; nays -none.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Attachment #1 – Bank Reconciliations for month end July 2011
Attachment #2 – Operating Statement for month end July 2011
Attachment #3 – Cash Accounts for month end July 2011

Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – September 12, 2011