

**Village of Rhinebeck Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
Wednesday February 18, 2015 6:00 PM**

Meeting opened at 6:10 by Mayor Tortarella with Pledge of Allegiance. Present at the meeting were Mayor Heath Tortarella, Deputy Mayor Howard Traudt, Trustee Gary Kenton, and Trustee Scott Cruikshank, Trustee Heinz Sauer.

Motion made by Mayor Tortarella to enter executive session to discuss matters related to the employment of a single individual and seconded by Trustee Sauer. All were in favor.

Motion to close executive session and resume public meeting made by Mayor Tortarella at 7:40 and seconded by Trustee Kenton. All were in favor.

Trustee Sauer reported on the break of the service line at his residence, 37 Stortini Dr. He reported that at the location of the break, the service line was 24-25" below sidewalk and that installation was not completed per code. He reported that he has had to hire a contractor to thaw this line on multiple occasions and a contractor today to excavate and locate the line break. He feels that he should not be responsible for the cost of repairs. He reported that he will need to run water through his meter to prevent freezing for the remainder of the winter and that he will seek adjustment to his water bill in the spring. Mayor Tortarella identified the potential conflict of interest as Mr. Sauer is a Trustee and liaison to the Water Department with direct oversight of the Water Department. Trustee Cruikshank suggested that the Village Attorney be consulted to determine potential liability of the contractor who installed the water line or the engineer who approved the installation. Mayor Tortarella will contact the Village Attorney to confirm any financial liability in this case.

Deputy Mayor Traudt addressed the need to clear snow from fire hydrants in the Village. There seems to be some confusion as to the responsibilities of the Street Department, Water Department and others for removing the snow. The number of hydrants currently blocked by snow is unknown and Mayor Tortarella requested that an assessment of the current need for snow removal be completed by the Fire Department. Once the immediate need is identified a plan for removal will be developed and executed ASAP. A policy will be developed to define each department's responsibility for future snow storms.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mayor Tortarella at 8:40 and seconded by Trustee Cruikshank. All were in favor.

Heath Tortarella, Mayor
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