**Minutes of Saugerties Democratic Caucus 27 June 2017**

The Caucus was called to order by Lanny Walter, Chair of the Saugerties Democratic Committee, at 7:08.

**Town Board Candidates Endorsement:** The SDC Chair commented that the Candidate Screening Committee was Executive Committee and commented that that there were not as many Democrats running for Town office as we would like. The Tax Collector and Clerk were running unopposed so were not endorsed. He noted Mike McIsaac and Chris Allen’s candidacy for County Legislature in Saugerties. He then announced the Screening Committee’s decision to endorsed Fred Costello for Town Supervisor, and John Schoonmaker and Paul Andreasson for other Board positions. The Chair noted that any others have the right to be nominated and that neither the Screening Committee nor the Democratic Committee pick the nominees, the Democrats voting tonight do so.

**Appointment of Temporary Chair:** Nancy Schaef nominated Lanny Walter. It was seconded and approved.

**Appointment of Temporary Secretary:** Elisabeth Lennon nominated William Barr. It was seconded by Finlay Schaef and approved by general consent.

**Motion to Adopt Caucus Rules:** Barbara Boyce moved to adopt the Caucus Rules. It was approved by general consent.

**Tax Collector:** Beth Murphy nominated Julie Dunn, incumbent. She outlined her duties, accomplishments and goals (on-line payment and viewing of charges). The nomination was seconded by Jennine Mayer and the motion passed with unanimous consent.

**Superintendent of Highways:** Doug Myer was nominated by Michael Harkavy who noted that it is first four-year term for this position. He noted that Doug has served three two-year terms with distinction and integrity and commented on his volunteer work during Hurricane Irene. Under his supervision, town bridges have been completed on time and under-budget. The nomination was seconded by Beth Murphy who added that Doug thinks of the town first. She noted that budget has been held to less than 1 percent increase and Doug has vowed to keep it up. Passed unanimously.

**Town Judge:** No nominee

**Town Clerk:** Amy DiCaeser nominated Lisa Stanley. She noted her kindness and knowledge and her experience with her. Seconded by Helen Grandello who has known her for 4 years and testified to her qualifications and skills. Lisa Stanley then stated the responsibilities of the Town Clerk and that it is non-policy job and nonpartisan. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Board Supervisor:** Fred Costello was nominated by Lawrence Thornton who cited Fred’s qualities: Family Values (and his father’s credentials), his business acumen, and public service. The nomination was seconded by Nancy Campbell who stated how impressed she was while serving with him on Town Board. Fred expressed his gratitude for confidence shown in him and the support of the community and his family. He pledged to try to keep taxes low and be sensitive to community’s needs. The nomination was unanimously approved.

**Town Board Nominations:**

Peter Osterhoudt nominated Paul Andreassen. He cited Paul’s help in getting his business established and his extensive list of qualifications as a building inspector and teacher of Building Code, but most important is the integrity he will bring to the board. The nomination was seconded by Alan Bryan. He related his great admiration and respect for Paul. He also noted his musical talent. He said that most importantly, Paul ignores political lines and looks at the issues honestly.

Chris Allen nominated John Schoonmaker, noting his testimony against the Pilgrim Pipeline and subsequent attendance at Saugerties Democratic Committee meetings. He commented that he was a frequent attendee at Ulster County Legislature meetings where he was favorably considered for a position on an environmental committee. John’s nomination was seconded by Timothy Scott who vouched for previous comments. He said he has known John his entire life and admires him.

Samantha Wamply nominated Chad McPeek. She has served with him in Little League in Saugerties. She noted his dedication and careful management of finances. His father was Saugerties Police Chief. Chad’s nomination was seconded Samantha Whitaker who has known him her whole life. She commented on his selflessness and what a good guy he is. Miranda Aiken also seconded.

Paul Andreasson cited his experience in Saugerties and with the NYS government. Promised to work with all citizens in Saugerties; he said he believes in term limits, consolidation of functions and pledge for fiscal responsibility.

John Schoonmaker introduced himself. He said he attended Sienna College and decided to come back to our special community. He said he is proud of our vibrant Main Street, but need to do more, to diversify industry such as film industry, solar or other renewable energy for town. He said he would like to offer weekly office hours to the public, if elected.

Chad McPeake, a native of Saugerties, attended Ulster Community College. He said he has a strong belief in volunteerism, as demonstrated by his experience in Little League and teaching Catechism. He said he pays attention to politics at all levels, but thinks working at local level will have the biggest impact. He said he will make sure we get the most benefit for money spent, and will keep a close eye on county budget.

**First Round Vote:** Paul Andreasson and John Schoonmaker.

**Committee to Fill Vacancies:** Mike Cimorelli nominated Lanny Nancy Walter and Margo McGilvrey. It was seconded by Rick Cousin and passed by unanimous consent.

Nancy Schaef **moved to adjourn**, seconded by Sue Rosenberg.