

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 9, 2007

A special workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session in the Red Hook Firehouse, 42 Firehouse Lane, Red Hook at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump
Councilwoman Sue Crane
Councilman Harold Ramsey
Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilman James Ross
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale
Deputy Supervisor William O'Neill

Supervisor Blum Bump welcomed everyone to the meeting then opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced that the special workshop meeting is regarding the sewer feasibility study. Supervisor Blum Bump acknowledged representatives from not only the Town Board, but from the Intermunicipal Task Force, the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli, Dutchess County Department of Planning, Gary Male from C.T. Male and Associates, Bard College, the McCarthy Foundation and representatives from the office of Kirsten Gillibrand. She then turned the meeting over to Deputy Supervisor Bill O'Neill.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill explained that the purpose of this meeting is to direct the attention to the issue of central sewer for the Village of Red Hook. The concept has been around for many years. The Task Force adopted the vision of the Village of Red Hook and incorporated the concept into their plans. The key ingredient to the Centers and Greenspace Plan is a central sewer system in the Village of Red Hook. A feasibility study for a central sewer system has been completed and was funded by the Village and the Town. The study was done by C.T. Male of Latham, New York. The plan was offered in part by John Clarke from Dutchess County Planning and Development. He has also been working with the Village of Red Hook independent of the Task Force. The Task Force has been asked to "fine tune" it by putting into process a vision or plan of how a sewer system could be done. The first thing that the study suggested was to make a decision on a location. Regarding the types of system, there are three choices that may be presented. One type is a treatment plant which treats the sewage and would have to be located near the Sawkill Creek. The second choice would be a community septic system which involves a wetlands development. This would be a fairly progressive modern approach and because of the uniqueness of our soils in the area it might be available. The third choice would be to establish a sewer system and pump it away from the Village to the Hudson River which has been done in other municipalities along the Hudson River. These three choices will be addressed, both the pros and cons of them. Keeping in mind the three aspects which the Task Force has looked at are cost, the expansion of it, and the maintenance issue. Planners have been looking at locations and Deputy Supervisor O'Neill referred to an area on a map with no homes or development. There are about two hundred plus acres in that area. The three areas this presentation will be referring to are the Leone/Migliorelli, McCarthy and Hardeman properties. It was stressed that these are ideas right now, not commitments.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill recognized Harry Colgan from the Intermunicipal Task Force, NY State Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro, from the Village of Red Hook Jack Gilfeather, Brent Kovalchik, Ed Blundell and Town Water Department Chairman Hank VanParys. Deputy Supervisor O'Neill stated that all the studies we've done about saving the aquifer don't seem to be a concern right now. The concern is that if we use the water and we have the wastewater, can we put it through a sewer and get rid of it. How do we do that and how does it benefit people financially? Funding is a concern the Task Force will look into.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill introduced Village of Red Hook Mayor Dave Cohen who has worked closely with Gary Male and Brent Kovalchik regarding a sewer system.

Village Mayor Dave Cohen said that the Village of Red Hook is very proactive in the infill process. Every time they get to a certain point in the process the issue of central sewers comes

up. They want to move forward. The school is very interested. They are at the point now of discussing where to put a plant.

Brent Kovalchik explained that Gary Male has been instrumental in helping with a plan. His first solution is to discharge to the Sawkill Creek but there are DEC regulations. Another idea is to discharge to the Hudson River, which Gary Male gave the highest recommendation to. The issues involved with that are the length of pipes, the cost, land usage and the possibility of tying into Bard College's plant. The plan talked about primarily is community septic. The types of soils we have here can accommodate this kind of septic. The original site they were interested in has a conservation easement on it which is very restrictive. Each proposal would cost about 14 million dollars. They are the point now where we need to pinpoint a site so we can further investigate and work with a purpose. They'd like to secure grant money. He explained that we can't put in more retail or business opportunities without a central sewer system.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill explained that in order to obtain grants we need to make a choice about what type of a system and where it would be.

Gary Male, of C.T. Male, explained that the Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) is located north and south of the Village along the Route 9 corridor and some along East and West Market Street. He discussed several options for sewage treatment. One would be a constructed wetland sub surface disposal. The soils are good here, they perk very well. There would have to be an extensive investigation of the land before purchasing it. Another option is the Sawkill Creek but he got the sense there are a lot of people who don't like that idea. The third option, given all the challenges and the one he likes best, is going to the Hudson River. If Bard were interested they could possibly treat through their system. As far as cost they all fall within a million dollars of each other. They estimate about 350,000 gallons of effluent a day.

John Clarke of Dutchess County Planning explained that there were four goals of the Intermunicipal Task Force. The primary goal is to save farmlands; the second was to shift development in and around the Villages therefore reinforcing the businesses and the commercial viability of the Village center. Third, was to redevelop the strip on South Broadway so that it feels and looks more like the Village rather than a strip development separate from the Village. The fourth goal was to provide for a sewer system because, not only is the Village over an aquifer now, but it is probably putting undertreated effluent into the aquifer. Development in and around the Village would subsidize a sewage plant. In order to survive the economic forces of it, he suggested building into a sewer system rather than put the burden on the existing residents and businesses. He calculated about 750 connections. The different sewage treatments options were discussed.

Chuck Simmons from Bard College explained that they have their own facility. They have a permit to send about 250,000 gallons to the Sawkill Creek. No one has talked to Bard College yet regarding a shared plant as a possibility. Gary Male hasn't spoken to them.

John Clarke asked about the costs. Do the numbers reflect any land costs? Piping to the Hudson River might take more land acquisition.

Gary Male answered that it includes land costs.

John Clarke wants to make sure we use the best possible and cleanest possible solution.

Deputy Supervisor Bill O'Neill asked Chuck Simmons to give some information about what they have at Bard College.

Mr. Simmons explained their plant. The effluent is treated, chlorinated, diluted and dechlorinated before it goes to the Sawkill. It sits about 1500 feet from the bay along the Hudson River.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill asked about starting a dialogue with Bard College about connecting to something with the Village of Red Hook.

Marc Molinaro explained that Tivoli's sewage plant is similar to Bards. They discharge into the White Clay Kill and they use reed bed technology. It saved the Village substantial energy costs.

Their facility is very small and couldn't take additional capacity without substantial expansion. They cut back the reeds when they grow and they expect 30 – 40 years without much maintenance. The life span was estimated somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 years for the membrane and the facility, but keep in mind the system is small. Mr. Molinaro explained that if Red Hook wants to get federal, state, or county financial assistance they will not be able to make use of a private facility in its entirety. You could create a relationship with a private entity but those funding sources will require municipal sponsorship so the government can insure that the municipal waste meets the environmental standards.

Deputy Supervisor Bill O'Neill asked Chuck Simmons if he could meet with the Task Force.

Paul Finch, Superintendent of Red Hook Schools thinks that from the schools perspective this is an opportunity to model an environmentally friendly way to handle this. He is concerned about the tax base and enrollment growth and how they play into this. He also has concerns that if the system is placed adjacent to the districts property there would be an offensive odor. He doesn't have a complete grasp of it yet because it is a complex issue. The district is looking at demographics.

Attorney Chale briefly explained that placement of a sewer system is based on benefit. It would be subject to permissive referendum.

Gary Male explained if the vote for a sewer system passed, then every property would be assessed for recovery of capital costs. Whoever is served by the district pays for the district.

Paul Finch said on balance this is a good thing for the school system at this point. We are not against it. If it's a good thing long term it makes sense.

Attorney Chale explained that the Recreation Park land under contract cannot be used for sewer treatment as per the contract.

The Board reviewed a map of possible sites for a sewage treatment system.

Deputy Supervisor Bill O'Neill referred to a piece of property owned by the McCarthy family and asked if any thought was given to it.

Hal Wilkins who represents the owners of the McCarthy property explained that the property has limitations because of the flood plain. He explained that the family is willing to consider whatever is reasonable.

Deputy Supervisor O'Neill suggested that we get someone to test the soil.

Hal Wilkins told the Board that the family would support C.T. Male and give them carte blanche to investigate the property.

Village of Red Hook Mayor Dave Cohen suggested the Task Force, Mr. Wilkins and Gary Male sit and talk about the options.

John Clarke told the Board that he spoke to Scott Chase from the Water and Wastewater Authority who told him there is money available for studies.

Supervisor Blum Bump thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilwoman Crane, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes 4	Blum Bump, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Ross

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McCann, Town Clerk