

TOWN OF RED HOOK BOARD MEETING

November 1, 2007

PUBLIC HEARING

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook, at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Councilwoman Sue Crane
Councilman James Ross (8:07 p.m.)
Councilman Harold Ramsey
Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump
Also Present: Business Manager Deborah Marks
Ted Eglit, CPA

Councilwoman Crane chaired the meeting in the absence of Supervisor Blum Bump. She called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Councilwoman Crane announced that the gentleman interviewed for the Assessor's job accepted the offer.

RESOLUTION 2007 # 113

On a motion of Councilwoman Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman Harold Ramsey, move to hire the new Assessor, Jeffrey Churchill of Red Hook, to begin on November 19, 2007.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	
	Absent	2	Blum Bump, Ross

Councilman Ramsey questioned the need for an interim assessor and after discussion it was decided not to hire an interim.

Councilwoman Crane then moved into the public hearing regarding the budget.

Business Manager Deborah Marks began the review of the budget. She began with the Town Wide General A Fund. She went on to present revenues and the end of the year unappropriated fund balance and tax rate. Business Manager Marks explained the Town Outside Village – General B Fund expenditures, revenues and end of year unappropriated fund balance. The next part of the budget presentation explained the Highway Town Outside DB Fund expenditures, revenues and end of year unappropriated fund balance. She presented the Special Districts, Red Hook Fire SF Fund expenditures, Water Works O&M Fund expenditures. Business Manager Marks summarized the budget based on the library referendum failing, and also based on the library referendum passing.

Councilwoman Crane ... if the library referendum passes the increase of 15% will mean a house assessed at \$300,000 will pay approximately \$69.00 a year.

Councilwoman Crane thanked Business Manager Marks for her experience and for the extra hours she put in.

Councilwoman Pullaro also thanked Ted Eglit.

Councilwoman Crane would like the Planning Board expense for services rendered to the Town of Red Hook in the year 2007 and analyze whether or not we need to hire a part time planner instead of a consultant.

Rosemarie Zengen questioned if that can be done for the legal staff as well. The attorney figures are costly for taxpayers.

Councilwoman Crane asked if the Board agrees to wait for Business Manager Marks to run the budget numbers and leave the public hearing open.

The Board agreed to leave the public hearing open.

Marcy Appell asked if John Clarke gets paid.

The Board responded that he does not.

Councilwoman Crane introduced Mr. Henry Christopher who sent the Board a letter regarding communication.

Mr. Christopher told the Board that he is the Community Relations Director at the Seminary in Barrytown. He started the Barrytown Gazette in March which comes out once a month. Mr. Christopher proposed a newsletter for the whole Town to keep residents informed. He presented a general budget of a newsletter.

Rosemarie Zengen asked why not have advertisers pay for a newsletter.

Councilwoman Pullaro said we would have to explore the legalities. We've already recognized there is no one way to reach everybody.

Councilman Ramsey thinks it's worth looking at this further from a community point of view.

Councilwoman Crane suggested making Town Hall available to people who want to discuss this kind of thing. Having a meeting among private citizens would not be unreasonable. She asked everyone to think about it. She thanked Mr. Christopher for coming.

Robert McKeon asked about fund appropriation balances.

Business Manager Marks explained that it is not good practice to constantly draw on the fund balance and deplete it. It is used to help balance the taxes so that we don't deal with a big impact if something does come along. The State Comptroller determines what to keep.

Mr. McKeon questioned police costs and asked how they were calculated.

Business Manager Marks contacted the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department and asked for an update on the new rates. She also contacted the Village for their rates and based her figures on those services.

Councilwoman Crane said it's the responsibility of the Town Board to treat the funds as if they were their own personal funds and she feels the Board did a good job. She thanked Deb Marks for her patience.

Business Manager Marks will get the breakdown of legal and planning services for the Board, and make the change for PANDA.

The Public Hearing remains open and will resume on November 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Pullaro, move to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk