

TOWN OF RED HOOK BOARD MEETING
November 13, 2007

A business 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 7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Sue Crane
Councilman Harold Ramsey
Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney for the Town, Christine Chale

Supervisor Blum Bump announced the continued Public Hearing regarding the Town of Red Hook 2008 budget. She then opened the floor to comments from the public.

Linda Keeling asked if all grants are indicated in the budget and if they will be utilized by the end of the year.

Supervisor Blum Bump answered that she isn't aware that we are losing any money from grants now. We keep track of the grants and expenditures and we do it in a timely fashion. We are aware of the deadlines for the grants.

Business Manager Deborah Marks told the Board that she made some changes. She increased the PANDA fund and since the library referendum passed the budget reflects that. Business Manager Marks explained that as it stands the Village rate will be \$.69 per thousand, the Town rate \$1.67 per thousand, the Fire Districts \$.35 per thousand, Consolidated Lighting \$.09 per thousand, and the water district rate is \$.00.

Supervisor Blum Bump asked what the impact of the library referendum passing will be on our taxes.

Business Manager Marks responded it will be an increase of approximately \$60.00 for a \$300,000 house.

Linda Keeling thanked Deborah Marks for all her work.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilwoman Crane, move to close the Public Hearing on the Budget for 2008.

Adopted Ayes 5 Blum Bump, Ross, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
 Nays 0

Supervisor Blum Bump moved to the Business Meeting, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

The Supervisor's monthly statement dated September 30, 2007 was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$2,404,443.74; Receipts - \$396,537.85; Disbursed - \$563,256.51; Balance - \$2,237,725.08. Budget adjustments in the General A Fund – increase in appropriations of \$1,850.00; General B Fund – an increase in appropriations of \$4,620.00. In the Highway DB Fund – increase in appropriations of \$16,900.00.

The Supervisor's monthly statement dated October 31, 2007 was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$2,237,725.08, Receipts - \$565,911.44, Disbursed - \$862,545.52; Balance - \$1,941,091.00. Budget adjustments in the General B Fund – increase in revenues \$35,959.00; and an increase in appropriations of \$38,159.00. In the General A Fund – increase in revenues of \$4,750.00; reduction of appropriations - \$27, 511.00; increase of appropriations - \$48,685.00. Offset to the Appropriated Fund Balance – increase of \$16,424.00.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The Town Clerk’s report for the period of October 1, 2007 to October 31, 2007 was read as follows: Total Local Shares Remitted to the Supervisor - \$1,281.18; amount paid to County Treasurer for dog licenses – \$99.87; amount paid to NYS Ag & Markets - \$15.00; amount paid to NYS Department of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$67.50; amount paid to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$2,663.55 for a total of State, County and Local Revenues of \$4,127.10.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Linda Keeling asked about having a policy regarding different groups meeting in Town Hall on the same night. Some meetings overlap and she asked if anything can be done about that.

Lee Ann Hansen suggested people turning their cell phones off during large meetings.

Supervisor Blum Bump read a letter dated 11/13/2007 from Norton Road resident, Jonathan Becker, regarding a short term appointment to the Planning Board, asking that a decision be delayed regarding the appointment.

Supervisor Blum Bump introduced PANDA representative Sue Simon.

Sue Simon thanked the Board for appointing her to the PANDA Board. She told the Board that PANDA is working on having the meetings available for internet viewing. PANDA needs volunteers to provide expertise, feedback and ideas. PANDA is committed to bringing interesting, informative and innovative viewing. She gave examples of ideas she has for PANDA programming.

Councilman Ramsey presented Sue Simon with information about a blood drive on November 21, 2007 in Tivoli to be put on the PANDA calendar scroll.

Supervisor Blum Bump thanked Ms. Simon and asked if there were any more comments.

Richard Hansen asked to backtrack regarding the letter from the Norton Road resident. He has been at Planning Board meetings where members had to be called in order for the Planning Board to have a quorum. Mr. Hansen feels it is appropriate to appoint a new member.

Supervisor Blum Bump closed the public comment period. She then announced that the Town Board appointed Mr. Jeffrey L. Churchill for the position of Sole Assessor, effective November 19, 2007.

ADOPTION OF TOWN OF RED HOOKS 2008 BUDGET

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilman Ross, move to adopt the 2008 budget as presented.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Blum Bump, Ross, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	

Copy Attached

Councilwoman Crane thanked Business Manager Deb Marks for all her work and expertise.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE REPORT

Task Force Chairman Bill O’Neill reported that their next meeting will be on November 20, 2007. They will continue their presentation, review and discussion of the affordable housing component. On November 29, 2007 they will ask for another workshop regarding the Ag Business District and that component of the Centers and Greenspace Plan. The Task Force has been working with the Village on the sewer project exploring sources of funding, location and CT Male has completed the soil study of the parcels. He hopes to have the soil study report soon. The Task Force engaged the DC Water and Wastewater Authority who will explore alternatives contained in the CT Male report.

LEGAL MATTERS

- Bid results for 2008 highway materials – Attorney Chale will review the bids with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand and he will make a recommendation at next week's meeting.
- Recreation Park acquisition – Attorney Chale reported it is moving along. A subdivision map is getting filed. She will have more information at a later time.
- 2010 local update of census addresses (LUCA) – Supervisor Blum Bump wants to make sure we are keeping up with what needs to be done for the census
- Tree ordinance – Attorney Chale reported that Brenda Cagle, CAC Chairwoman, is working on putting together an ordinance that would support creating an ordinance establishing a tree commission and a procedure for community forestry management. She presented a copy of the ordinance to the Board for their review. Brenda explained that the main goal is to develop a commission which is one of the requirements for Tree City USA. She explained the proposed local law adopting a new Chapter 5 of the Code of the Town of Red Hook entitled Trees.

Supervisor Blum Bump said this needs to be put in place for the Tree City application.

Councilman Ross suggested the Board read the document and possibly set a Public Hearing for November 20th, 2007.

The Board discussed future Town Board meeting dates.

Councilwoman Crane's concern is that there are things that must be done. We will be calling special meetings in order to get business done. She said this is the first year we were so far behind in reorganization. She does not want to repeat not getting an agenda until 4:00 in the afternoon on the day of the meeting. She is unwilling to sit here and say we cannot meet in order to get business done as it should be done. We have more time than Supervisor Blum Bump is indicating. She is willing to say that next Tuesday we should discuss the tree ordinance and decide on a date in December or January for a Public Hearing or for adoption. We have so much business to accomplish before year end.

Councilman Ross suggested deciding the Tree City Public Hearing date at next week's meeting and making the copies of the proposed tree ordinance made public now. He also suggested making the reorganization the number one priority

Councilwoman Crane is not willing to go into the new year with two new Town Board members, with no structure to the committee and chairmanships in place. This Board still can make a decision to make a special meeting. She wants to get everything done by the end of the year and in a timely way. She wants a business plan that shows structure to this Town Board which we haven't had.

Councilman Ross asked the Board to agree that at next Tuesday's meeting (November 20, 2007) we discuss and set the Public Hearing regarding the tree ordinance. Then he asked the Board to agree on the nights they'd all be available between now and the end of the year to conduct all the other business.

The Board decided to meet on Monday, December 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., and possibly on Monday, December 3rd.

Supervisor Blum Bump asked Attorney Chale if we discuss the Public Hearing on November 20, 2007, how many days we would need to advertise.

Attorney Chale answered if we set it on the 20th of November we could hold the Public Hearing on December 11, 2007.

Supervisor Blum Bump referred to a letter from Karen Sipperly regarding a donation for Winterfest.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilman Ross for discussion, moved to grant the Winterfest Committee's request for \$1,000.

Councilwoman Crane asked if this was budgeted and how much we spent last year.

Councilman Ramsey stated typically we support a portion of the cost.

Councilwoman Pullaro asked what other expenses there are.

Councilwoman Crane would like to know how the money is being spent and what the Town's fair share is.

Supervisor Blum Bump will ask Karen Sipperly more about the committee's needs.

No vote was taken regarding Winterfest donation.

Attorney Chale told the Board that the Ethics Board has been reviewing their ordinance and asked for her assistance in reviewing some of the provisions. Attorney Chale wanted to make sure this was alright with the Board. It is important for the Ethics Board to be used as a resource.

Supervisor Blum Bump read a letter from Mr. Gregory Fildes requested recognition of an Eagle Scout, Jeremy Hughes.

Councilman Ramsey would like to invite the Scout to receive the certificate in person.

PLANNING BOARD VACANCY

Councilman Ross told the Board that there were a number of people who interviewed for the Planning Board position. He wanted to nominate someone because the Planning Board has been struggling with a quorum.

Supervisor Blum Bump said the appointment is for a vacancy that will be up on December 31, 2007. If we make an appointment tonight it will be for one month.

Councilman Ross said even if the term is up then, there will be a person who's gotten their feet wet with the Planning Board.

Supervisor Blum Bump feels it's a conflict to have him on the Town's Planning Board since he is on the Village Planning Board.

Councilman Ross said he serves as the Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer in the Village of Red Hook. He is not on their Planning Board but he does have lots of planning experience.

Councilwoman Pullaro told the Board that she went into the interview process with no preconceived notions, only a piece of paper with their qualifications. It was clear to her after conducting the interviews that there was one person who had the qualifications, experience and desire to fill that position that, to her, rose to the top above the other applicants.

Supervisor Blum Bump felt there were two very qualified people and this person was not one of them. She felt his resume was the briefest and least pertinent. What he had going for him was that he is the Code Enforcement Officer in the Village. The request from the Norton Road residents has some weight and the Planning Board Chair isn't at the meeting tonight. In her mind she doesn't think it's proper to have the nominee represent both the Village and the Town, she thinks it is a conflict. She wants to wait until they have the reorganization.

Councilman Ross strongly disagrees with Supervisor Blum Bump and sees his experience as an asset to the Town.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Ramsey, move to appoint Sam Harkins to fulfill the unexpired term on the Planning Board.

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

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Disaster Preparedness – Councilman Ramsey reported that a copy of the updated disaster plan will go to Town Clerk Sue McCann.

Recreation Committee – Councilman Ramsey reported that he is still working with Morris Associates and the school district on a shared services grant. This is a very highly competitive grant.

Trails Committee – Councilman Ramsey reported that they are continuing to look at areas for the establishment of new trails, and they are looking at strategies to attract people to trails. The committee is also investigating the purchase of material for an observation post on the newly completed Rec Trail. On November 3rd new trees were planted along the Recreation Park trail.

Highway – Councilman Ramsey reported that the bids came in, as we already heard, and they will be moving forward on that.

Water Department – Councilwoman Pullaro gave a report for the months of October and November. The well levels were satisfactory, as was the testing. The cartridges are working satisfactorily and there was hydrant flushing on October 18th. Another flushing will occur during the winter of 2008. She reported the DC Department of Health inspection of the pump house took place on October 3rd and we are waiting for their report.

Recycling – Councilwoman Pullaro met with members of the CAC and TJ Hackett to give an overview of the connector road that will go through the recycling center.

CAC – Councilwoman Pullaro referred to information from Mary Ann Johnson regarding the Northern Dutchess Alliance workshop on conservation easements. The CAC will be on the Town's agenda on November 20th to give more information as a follow up to the energy star presentation. Denise Barton received the ICLEI software and she's been learning how to use it.

Councilwoman Pullaro brought up the recycling center/connector road issue. Councilman Ramsey shared information with her regarding the connector road that is being funded by the 2005 and 2006 block grant. We are running out of funds.

Councilman Ramsey said we should continue to protect the recycling center. Fencing needs to go back up to warn people of construction. We are also concerned with security. The recycling center was not part of the original grant but we decided to go with the two add alternates. The time has come and we are told the money is enough to go with item #4, not blacktop. Since half the recycling center land was cut off because of the road, a road needs to be redone to get to the dumpsters. We have to notify the company if we want item #4.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilman Ramsey for discussion, move to stay within the budget and use item #4 and spend as wisely as possible.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Blum Bump, Ross, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	
	Did not vote	1	Crane

Planning Board - Councilman Ross reported they had two Public Hearings and reviewed five items of old business regarding different subdivisions and one new minor subdivision.

ZBA – Councilman Ross reported the ZBA will have 3 continuations of Public Hearings, two new Public Hearings and one review on their agenda for tomorrow night's meeting.

Purchasing Report – Councilwoman Crane reported the purchasing activity from October 8 to November 13, 2007. There were 34 Purchase Orders issued in the amount of \$32,672.47, the largest being issued to the International Salt Company for \$7,063.70 for road salt. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy met with Morris Associates regarding the possible installation of solar panels for the Town Hall and provided the estimate for preparing specs for the bid. He needs the Boards concurrence to proceed with the project. Mr. Kudzy obtained quotes for installing fluorescent lighting with electronic ballasts for Town Hall. He also had the water shut off and drained for St. Margaret's for the winter. He would like the Board's decisions regarding the future of the building's use and maintenance.

Councilwoman Crane would like the Board to answer Mr. Kudzy at the next meeting if possible.

Dog Control – Councilwoman Crane reported that the Animal Control Officer picked up three stray dogs, two were adopted and one is still at Dr. MacDonald’s. Councilwoman Crane would like to have a policy in place regarding the length of time dogs spend at veterinarian James MacDonald’s.

ZRC – Councilwoman Crane reported that they met last week and Attorney Chale met with them concerning adult entertainment use.

Sue Simon told the Board that she is a member of the Zoning Review Committee and said they would like to be proactive. They need other information to put the pieces of the puzzle together to make a determination.

Councilwoman Crane reported they also discussed setbacks regarding sheds.

Police Report – Supervisor Blum Bump stated there was no report.

Supervisor Blum Bump announced the next meeting will be on November 20, 2007.

Linda Keeling asked about accommodating wheelchair access to the trail between the Recreation Park and Apple Ring Road.

Supervisor Blum Bump answered the trail was constructed to accommodate wheelchairs. She will bring it up with the Trails Committee.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilwoman Pullaro, move to go to Executive Session for attorney/client discussion at 10:15 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Blum Bump, Ross, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilman Ramsey, move to reopen the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Blum Bump, Ross, Crane, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Councilman Ramsey, seconded by Councilwoman Crane regarding the Recreation Park Requisition and purchase agreement, moved to approve the form of a common driveway agreement submitted by the seller for approval and substantially the form submitted by the seller subject to final approval by the Supervisor on the advice of counsel.

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

On a motion of Councilman Ramsey, seconded by Supervisor Blum Bump, move to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk