

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

January 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

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 Sue Crane
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert Latimer
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Crane opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Crane then announced the passing of three residents this week and asked the Town Clerk to set aside a page in the minute book for Mr. Sidney Mead who served the Town for many years, Bob Rockefeller who was key behind the Master Plan, and Richard Barringer who was a teacher and principal in the Red Hook School District. Our hearts go out to all the families.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Crane explained that the Supervisor's report was read at the January 8, 2008 meeting.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of December 1 – December 31, 2007 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$1,187.50; amount paid to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$85.77; amount paid to NYS Ag & Markets - \$42.00; amount paid to NY Department of Health for marriage licenses - \$45.00; amount paid to NYS Dept. of Racing and Wagering - \$30.00; amount paid to NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation - \$60.48. Total State, County and Local revenues - \$1,450.75.

Town Clerk Sue McCann also presented the Town Clerk Fiscal Report for 2007 to the Town Board. Town Clerk fees - \$46,351.70; total water revenues - \$111,589.45; total revenue collected - \$157,941.15.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to accept the Town Clerk's reports as read.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

FINAL REPORT FROM JUSTICE COURTS 2007

Supervisor Crane reported the totals for Justice Roland Page and Justice Kelly Flood-Myers.

Total revenue for 2007 from Justice Roland Page's Town Court - \$35,086; 558 cases.

Total revenue for 2007 from Justice Kelly Flood-Myers -\$41,129; 479 cases.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Ross, move to accept the Final Justice Court Report of 2007.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

MEETING SCHEDULES

Supervisor Crane announced the schedule for Town Board meetings. The meeting on the first Tuesday of the month will be reserved for department reports and committees. Any reports, requests, or items for the agenda should be submitted the Friday before that meeting to the Town Clerk. The same thing goes for the business meeting the second Tuesday of the month. Because of a third Town Board meeting, the Board will be able to have a "clean up" meeting which will be the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our goal is to complete business in an hour and a half, at the most two hours. If anything has to be tabled we will have the fourth Wednesday's meeting. There will hopefully be a public comment period at the end of this meeting.

LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 60, “DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS” OF THE RED HOOK TOWN CODE

Attorney Chale explained that the new proposal stems from a report from John Douglas, Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee. He submitted a plan for the Board’s approval and while they were reviewing the plan they found a minor correction they wanted to make to the Local Law. They wanted to clarify that each of the law enforcement departments they work with can designate a representative to be part of the group that meets at Town Hall and coordinates the activities during an emergency. This Local Law would become proposed Local Law #4 of 2008. She submitted an amendment and requests a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law.

RESOLUTION #1 2008

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 4 (PROPOSED) OF 2008, AMENDING CHAPTER 60, “DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS” OF THE RED HOOK TOWN CODE.

On a motion of Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, seconded by Councilman James Ross, moved to establish February 12, 2008 at 7:15 p.m. for a Public Hearing of proposed Local Law #4 2008, amending Chapter 60, “Disaster and Emergency Preparedness” of the Red Hook Town Code.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
 Nays 0

Copy Attached

A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 128 ENTITLED “TREES” OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

Attorney Chale explained that we did hold a Public Hearing on this Local Law. We had some comments, the majority of which were incorporated into the draft the Board has. We now have a resolution authorizing the filing of the Negative Declaration and also an Environmental Assessment Form that we need to review. She reviewed the SEQRA and said there are no negative impacts in the findings.

RESOLUTION #2 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, seconded by Councilman James Ross move to authorize the filing of the negative declaration.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
 Nay 0

Copy Attached

Attorney Chale explained the purpose of the law is to establish a tree preservation commission to develop a community forestry plan based on standard practices of preservations of trees. The plan will make recommendations about the care of trees and types of trees that should be planted. There are recommendations about planting along highways, in the recreation parks and coordination with development projects.

RESOLUTION #3 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2008 ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 128 ENTITLED “TREES” OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, seconded by Councilman James Ross, move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
 Nays 0

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LOCAL LAW CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 70 ENTITLED “ESCROW DEPOSIT FOR DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COSTS AND INTERNET POSTING OF SEQRA DOCUMENTS” AND AMENDING CHAPTERS 120 AND 143 OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK CODE

Attorney Chale explained this law was presented at a Public Hearing in December. We already have escrow provisions, but this is regularizing the provisions making sure procedures are consistent. This is intended to cover specific fees related to applications in particular. It is a pretty standard provision that most Towns are doing these days. It requires an adoption of a resolution of Local Law #2 of 2008, formally referred to as Local Law #4 proposed of 2007.

RESOLUTION #4 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2008 CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 70 ENTITLED “ESCROW DEPOSIT FOR DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COSTS AND INTERNET POSTING OF SEQRA DOCUMENTS” AND AMENDING CHAPTERS 120 AND 143 OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK CODE

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, move to pass the resolution authorizing the adoption of Local Law No. 2 of 2008.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
 Nays 0

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(Vote taken after the following discussion)

Councilman Ross referred to a letter the Board received from resident Richard Hansen.

Attorney Chale addressed the resident’s concerns. The first comment is general in nature. It applies to all developers, not just major developers. Secondly, the applicant has their own competent engineer as consultants and attorneys, but that doesn’t mean the Town doesn’t need them for their review purposes. The healthy process involves both parties reviewing to make sure the interests of both the applicant and the Town are reviewed in the process. Regarding the comment about the applicant granting a blank check to the consultant, part of the purpose of this law is to make sure there isn’t a blank check. There is an audit procedure and a procedure for the applicant to review invoices and to get estimates.

Councilman Ross said that was his big concern. He believes an applicant should always have access to a running account of his escrow and how it is being spent. If he has questions he should address the Town Board. He doesn’t see in the Local Law where it provides that protection.

Attorney Chale referred to the Local Law. This is not reflective of general administrative fees. This is for specific review of cases. The other provision that relates to this is review and audit of itemized vouchers by the Town Board. The Town Board is required to review these vouchers. There is a provision for the applicant to review them upon request.

Councilman Latimer feels that being able to review invoices upon request does not give the applicant the opportunity to review an estimate. Whereas if someone wants to subdivide their property and is required to put escrow money down, if he doesn’t have the opportunity to review the estimate he can’t make the decision whether to pull the plug on his project or not.

Attorney Chale explained this process does provide for both, to ask for an estimate and to get copies of vouchers. The applicant should get a copy of an estimate. Part of the reason to adopt the law is to understand the process so that it is fair to both the Town and the applicant in terms of how we are going to do things.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilwoman Strawinski and Councilman Colgan to audit the Supervisors books from 2007. Business Manager Deborah Marks will help them with the task.

Councilman Latimer asked to clarify the conditions of the escrow deposit. If an applicant is told he needs more escrow, is there a mechanism to get an accurate estimate of the additional escrow needed so the applicant can make an informed decision?

Attorney Chale responded the spirit of this provision is to say whatever monies are going into escrow the applicant should be informed of, not only the dollar amount but what the purpose of the escrow is so they can talk to the Board about whether they feel it is a reasonable escrow. There is definitely a savings for the applicant.

Councilman Colgan said it doesn't spell out negotiations or procedures between the Board and applicant as to the amount.

Councilman Ross doesn't see how it provides protection for the applicant to see how the escrow is based.

Attorney Chale explained the real constraint is the reasonable and necessary cost, and the case law in the area is on the side of the applicant. You can't just charge anything you want; you can only charge what is reasonable for this particular type of project in this place. You can't charge New York City prices in Red Hook.

Councilman Ross wants assurance that the applicants are provided full disclosure as to how we are spending their money.

Attorney Chale said it also has to be reasonable. That is the goal. The process involves discipline on both sides. It is designed to safeguard the public's purse too, as well as the applicant's.

Councilman Ross wants to make sure the applicant receives statements.

Supervisor Crane wrote a letter to the State Comptroller asking them to come and audit the books with no expense to the Town. She is waiting to hear from them.

Attorney Chale encouraged Supervisor Crane to schedule a private audit if she doesn't hear from the State Comptroller's Office.

Councilman Latimer asked who sets the fees.

Attorney Chale answered it's not a fee per se. Each consultant would have a consulting agreement with the Town. We would review rates with those agreements every few years.

Councilman Latimer asked if there would be a charge for controlling escrow amounts based on project size.

Attorney Chale answered there should be a rule of reason regarding complexity.

Councilman Colgan explained that having served on the Planning Board the projects can be a moving target so to speak.

Councilman Latimer is concerned that there is no sliding scale, control element or managerial chart where an applicant can go into a project knowing that it is reasonably expected that he won't have to spend more than a certain amount of money for consultants and engineers to sit and review his project.

Attorney Chale explained that each consultant would have an agreement with the Town.

Councilman Ross wants to make sure the law provides the best protection for the applicant.

Attorney Chale referred to the complaint of the escrow not being in an interest bearing account. She spoke to Business Manager Deborah Marks who explained the escrow amounts are not big enough and it is not cost effective to have interest bearing accounts.

Mr. Hansen thanked the Board for their consideration of his concerns.

LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 131 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK ENTITLED VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Attorney Chale explained this amends Chapter 131 which is two small parking prohibitions. One at the Recreation Park between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. and one on Rockefeller Lane Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. basically during bus loading hours. We did hold the Public Hearing on this already.

RESOLUTION #5 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2008 AMENDING CHAPTER 131 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK ENTITLED VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Councilman Latimer explained to the Board that he might have a conflict in that he may be held to enforcement of that law.

On a motion of Councilman James Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan
	Nays	0	
	Recused	1	Latimer

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Attorney Chale left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The Board took a five minute break.

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor Crane continued with the reorganization.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if there was a way to designate which Chairs get stipends and what those stipends are, as well as if they have secretaries, what those are.

Town Clerk McCann told her that Business Manager Deb Marks can answer that question.

The Board discussed who they thought received stipends.

Councilwoman Strawinski requested that as reviewing appointments the Board take into consideration the diverse interests of the constituents of Red Hook.

RESOLUTION #6 2008

RE: BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS OR FIRMS ARE HEREBY APPOINTED FOR 2008 TO THE OFFICE OR FOR THE PURPOSE INDICATED

Official Town Depository	Key Bank, M&T Bank, JP Morgan Chase
Official Newspapers	Poughkeepsie Journal Daily Freeman
Safety Officer	Highway Superintendent
Disaster Preparedness & Civil Defense	Supervisor
Emergency Interim Successors	Sue Crane, James Ross, Wayne Hildenbrand, Robert Latimer
Receiver of Taxes and Assessments	Sue McCann
Registrar of Vital Statistics	Town Clerk
Water Rents Collector	Sue McCann
Issuing Agent-Handicapped Parking Permits	Sue McCann
Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer	Stephen Cole
ZEO/Deputy Building Inspector (PT)	Robert D. Fennell

Director of Purchasing	Theodore Kudzy
Dog Control Officer	Cecil Moore
PANDA Representative from Town	Sue Simon
Buildings & Grounds	Supervisor, Highway Superintendent
Justice Court Clerks (PT)	Nancy Roberts
	Katherine Fell
Town Engineer	D.F. Wheeler
	Morris Associates

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan, move to accept the appointments as read.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

RESOLUTION #7 2008

RE: ESTABLISHING A MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE OF \$0.50 FOR THOSE TOWN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES WHO INCUR OFFICIAL MILEAGE WHEN THEY ARE OBLIGATED TO DRIVE THEIR OWN VEHICLES ON TOWN BUSINESS OR WHEN A TOWN VEHICLE IS NOT AVAILABLE. SAID PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE ONLY AFTER SUBMISSION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APPROPRIATE VOUCHER BY THE TOWN BOARD.

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan, move to accept the resolution.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

RESOLUTION #8 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF BLANKET FIDELITY BOND IN LIEU OF INDIVIDUAL UNDERTAKING PURSUANT TO SECTION 11(2) OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW, FOR THE PURPOSE OF COVERING ALL EMPLOYEES WHO COLLECT MONEY AS SHOWN ON THE REPORT FROM NYMIR, COVERING SUPERVISOR, TOWN CLERK, BUSINESS MANAGER, JUSTICES, JUSTICE COURT CLERKS, SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS AND RECEIVER OF TAXES

On a motion of Councilman James Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

RESOLUTION #9 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR SUE CRANE TO SIGN BANK CHECKS FOR ALL TOWN BUSINESS

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

RESOLUTION #10 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING THE DEPUTY SUPERVISOR JAMES ROSS TO SIGN BANK CHECKS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SUPERVISOR

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, seconded by Supervisor Sue Crane, move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

RESOLUTION #11 2008

RE: AUTHORIZING COUNCILMAN ROBERT LATIMER, COUNCILWOMAN MICKI STRAWINSKI AND COUNCILMAN HARRY COLGAN TO SIGN BANK CHECKS, WHEN NECESSARY, FOR ALL TOWN BUSINESS, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman James Ross, move to accept the resolution as read.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
 Nays 0

TOWN BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chain of Command:

Supervisor

Deputy Supervisor

Town Board Members in alphabetical order:

Harry Colgan

Robert Latimer

Micki Strawinski

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Chain of Command:

Department Head

Deputy Department Head (if one exists)

Supervisor

Town Board Liaison

Supervisor Crane noted that committee members are expected to attend two thirds or more of scheduled meetings and failure to do so may result in removal from that committee.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Ag and Open Space Advisory Board (PDR coordination and Limited Term Conservation Easement Review)

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the consideration that this be a sub-committee of the CAC.

Supervisor Crane is talking about the Agriculture Committee itself. The Ag Committee grew out of the Open Space Plan. Last week she suggested the Ag Committee continue its work as an Ag Advisory Committee to the Town Board and that the Open Space Plan separate itself out to deal largely with open space, which at times is integrated into agriculture. It is an awful lot of work with a top heavy committee in her opinion.

Councilman Ross questioned if he understood that the Open Space Advisory Committee should be a subset of the CAC. They are completely separate from the Farmland Protection Committee.

The Board continued to discuss the roles of the Ag & Open Space Committee and CAC.

Supervisor Crane tabled the Ag & Open Space Committee discussion until the next meeting. They hope to get comments in writing regarding the issue. She told the Board she has a small interest in an agricultural business venture and will recuse herself when it comes to voting on any agriculture issues.

The appointments will continue at the January 23, 2008 meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Rosemarie Zengen wrote a letter to Councilman Ross and thanked him for commenting on the importance of the public comment period. She doesn't think the sign-up sheet works for a meeting and should be used solely for Public Hearings, not at regular meetings. She would like to be able to respond to any comment she may or may not agree with.

Councilman Ross said that Public Hearings should have signup sheets. He feels if it is not too late the public should be able to speak.

Councilwoman Strawinski would like to see the public comment period at the beginning of the meetings to give the Board “food for thought” for what we discuss on the agenda. In prior meetings we had two comment periods and that would be her preference.

Councilman Ross would have no problem with that if the comment at the beginning of the meeting were kept short so that we could get to the regular business and people would have time to comment on the entire meeting.

Richard Hansen said the public comment at the beginning gives residents a chance to talk about what was discussed last week, and a public comment period at the end of the meeting allows comments on what is in progress.

Supervisor Crane wants to make sure we control the length of time for the meetings. She wouldn't want them to last for four or more hours.

Councilman Ross suggested comments at the end of workshops. The official business meeting might have comments before and after. If a resident has a comment on a particular topic they might be able to give input.

Supervisor Crane answered we will do our best to keep some kind of control of the time spent and how long people speak.

Linda Keeling is glad to see notebooks being used because the organization helps speed the process.

Steven Cole (not the Town Zoning Officer) said he did create a bit of a controversy when he wrote a letter to the editor after the last election concerning a comment about “ignorant residents in an e-mail sent by Councilwoman Strawinski. He was going to let the comment in the e-mail drop, but his employer was brought into the fray with an anonymous letter accusing him of being against students having the right to vote. That really angered him. He wanted to discuss the letter that appeared in the newspaper, Councilwoman Strawinski's response to him, and he asked for an apology to the “ignorant residents of Red Hook”. The fact that Bard students voted is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue. It is an issue of taxpayers in the Town. He has fought for student's right to vote and he firmly believes that student should vote, but he feels they should vote via absentee ballot at their permanent home of record not necessarily in a Town where they are a transient resident. Saying that people who disagree with that are ignorant offended him and it offended many of other residents of the Town. He sees nothing but the negative implication. He asked Councilwoman Strawinski for an apology to the residents of Red Hook who feel that she insulted them by calling them ignorant because they had a difference in opinion. We've seen it habitually in a highly bombastic website that is very divisive that tends to throw negative comments on anyone they disagree with and he is afraid that same interpretation is pervasive throughout a lot of people in the Town.

Councilwoman Strawinski appreciates Mr. Cole bringing this up because she did want to clarify this record. Yes, she did send an e-mail to registered voters in Red Hook that are faculty and staff members of Bard. The initial intent was to send it out to students as a tool for herself as a candidate similar to what they would send out as a post card mailing or if we did a robo-call. It's a tool that any of us can use. She does not apologize for anything she put in the letter, but she does apologize if people's feelings were hurt because of their own misinterpretation of the word ignorant. For some reason in our culture the word ignorant has come to be associated with somebody who is stupid or dumb. You are uneducated about the law as it applies.

Mr. Cole disagreed and said it's not the law. He is uneducated with her interpretation of the law. He said students should have the right to vote. You feel that people who disagree with the fact that we should pander to the Bard population, and we disagree with how you do that, are ignorant.

Councilwoman Strawinski would not use the word pander. Bard contributes a lot to this community economically, culturally, in a number of ways and during her campaign she did

indicate that she was going to try to build a better relationship between Bard and the Town. Part of that would be to include them in the voting process while they are here. The students are here for four years, similar to someone who might be renting here. When her family moved to New York they were approached by both parties to register to vote. When we make decisions in the voting booth we make decisions based on the future interests of people who may come after us. When the Bard students vote, they are voting for the people they feel will not only represent their best interest as current students, but for the interest of the students that will come after them. Any candidate for office has an opportunity to go and speak to the Bard students.

Mr. Cole, as well as other residents, said they have been called ignorant because they disagree with Councilwoman Strawinski. He asked for an apology and he regrets the fact that Councilwoman Strawinski feels she doesn't have to apologize.

Councilwoman Strawinski apologized for anyone who misinterpreted her intent for her statement and that their feelings were hurt, but she does not apologize for the content of that letter.

Mr. Cole will continue to watch what the Board does and he intends to continue to be a voice.

Clay Laugier said he is an outspoken Democrat and is very disappointed in his party and their representation on the Board during the last four years. He does not believe that her political party belongs on the Board. He is upset with actions of both parties. He went to Bard College for a short time. As a resident he is upset that we targeted students who live on campus. Any other college he went to, the students who lived on campus had to vote by absentee ballot. The students who lived off campus, who rent, get to vote where they lived. He thinks we should erase the past four years and focus on the people who live here long term. He can't afford to live here. Embrace the culture that is already here instead of trying to change it to "yuppie middle class". No one on this Board has spoken up and said that they are not going to take it as a resident of Red Hook. Don't go by party, but by residency.

Doug Strawinski, Chairman of the Recreation Park Commission recommended Mr. Charlie Nugent for the Rec Park Commission vacancy. Mr. Nugent is a resident of twenty years or more and would be a great asset. Mr. Nugent has indicated his willingness to serve on that Board.

Rosemarie Zengen, Save Our Town Committee, addressed the propaganda about the Bard students. She never heard any Board member say they didn't want the Bard students to vote. She said everyone she knows agrees that Bard is an asset to the community. No one ever said they shouldn't vote. Mr. Jeff Perry who condemned Dr. Ross in the local newspapers is ludicrous and its nasty politics. Anything like Kathy Stewarts website that causes divisiveness in our community is bad.

Dan Pullaro thanked Mrs. Zengen for her comments. He too referred to Ms. Stewart's website. It endorsed Councilman Colgan and Councilwoman Strawinski and he asked if they endorse that website that is vitriolic to the Town of Red Hook and the people of Red Hook. Do they endorse that type of rhetoric each and every day? The website is absolutely toxic.

Councilwoman Strawinski answered that there is the First Amendment right in this country and we can't dictate what anybody writes. She doesn't necessarily agree with what is on it and she doesn't often look at it.

Councilman Colgan is not inclined to perpetuate what is going on. People have the right to free speech and he won't criticize anyone on either side.

Dan Pullaro responded he agrees with free speech. He has been her for over twenty years and has never met anyone who was against Bard students voting. They have the right, they are American citizens but the voting should be done in their community where they live.

Supervisor Crane hopes that we can turn around any election negativity. Let's try to turn it around and tamp down the hurt feelings and negativity. If you believe a website is negative don't look at it. It will not succeed if we don't look at it.

Councilman Ross referred to a letter from Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand regarding the purchase of a vehicle for the Dog Warden. The Ag & Market's law says it is our

responsibility to buy the vehicle for the Dog Warden. Superintendent Hildenbrand found a 2005 Chevy cargo van to be used for \$9,995.00. Because it might be sold if we don't act quickly, he recommended the Board approve the purchase.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if this was in the budget and if it would come out of the Highway funds.

Councilman Ross explained that it was not a line item and it does not come out of the Highway fund, it is our budget.

Supervisor Crane wants to table it until we talk with Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand

Councilman Ross has confidence in Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand's discretion. He would like the Board to approve it as soon as possible so that it doesn't get sold.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Latimer, moved to have the Supervisor direct Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand permission to purchase the vehicle once she discusses it with him.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Latimer, move to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk