

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 27, 2008

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 7:30 p.m.

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

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the business meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor Crane presented a monthly statement which reconciles the general ledger for the close of the year, December 31, 2007. The totals are the same as previously reported but some deposits were recorded in one wrong account line, which is why we are reviewing it one more time. Opening balance - \$1,698,528.31; Receipts -\$2,455,371.97; Disbursed - \$2,375,952.14; Balance - \$1,777,948.14. In the General A Fund Total Reduce Revenues - \$88.00 credit; Total Increase Revenues- \$14,634.00 debit; Total Reduce Appropriations - \$34,168.00 debit; Increase in Appropriations - \$46,960.00 credit; Offset to the Appropriated Fund Balance - \$1,042.00 credit. In the General B Fund Total Reduce Revenues - \$9,837.00 credit; Total Increase Revenues - \$24,386.00 debit; Total Reduce Appropriations - \$21,729.00 debit; Offset for the Appropriated Fund Balance – credit \$36,278.00. Highway DB Fund Total Reduce Revenues - \$15,000 credit; Total Increase Revenues \$4,150.00 debit; Total Increase appropriations - \$4,000 credit; Offset to the Appropriated Fund Balance - \$14,850.00 debit.

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Councilman Ross move to accept Supervisor's report.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane announced that the applications for property tax exemptions through the Assessor's Office are due by March 1, 2008. The Assessor will be in the office on Monday, March 3rd to receive anyone who has not gotten their application in.

Supervisor Crane announced that the Tuesday, March 4, 2008 Town Board agenda will include a presentation from Winnakee Land Trust Executive Director Lucy Hayden. There will also be reports from Boards, Department Heads and Committee Chairs. Staff and committee members who attended the New York State Association of Towns Convention in New York City on February 18 and 19 are encouraged to make a brief report on their participation during the March 4 workshop. The Assessor will be sending a letter notifying residents of a tentative 2008 assessed value of property. He will include this and other information in his report at the March 4 meeting.

Supervisor Crane announced that the Town of Red Hook received a \$150,000 from the County for the town center sidewalk improvement. She then announced that the Senior Picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of January 1, 2008 to January 31, 2008 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$5,999.64; Amount paid to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$140.65; Amount paid to NYS Ag & Markets - \$27.00; Amount paid to NYS Dept. of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$22.50; Amount paid to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$77.46; Total State, County & Local Revenues - \$6,267.25.

Town Clerk Sue McCann also reported that as the Receiver of Taxes she collected \$3,855,161.31. The water rents collected is \$22,972.18. Town Clerk McCann reminded everyone that the Town Board monthly meetings are the first and second Tuesday at 7:30 pm and the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 pm. She re-faxed the information to the newspapers so they will correct it in their meeting schedules. Anyone who wants information about the AARP tax aid sight for Senior Citizens can call her at 758-4606.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

John Douglas said that a previous meeting a resident recommended the Town Board spend \$3,000 to videotape meetings to be put on PANDA. Mr. Douglas suggested the money go towards more important projects. One is that money would be better spent at the new recreation property on things like soccer fields, baseball fields, and softball fields. Also there has been a plan for ten years to build a bridge between Abraham Park and the Recreation Park which is another item that could be funded. Thirdly, the Town Highway Garage is very important. He'd rather see the money go towards one of those projects first.

Rosemarie Zengen, Save Our Town Committee, said the way the meetings have been run under the new Supervisor has shown how wonderful government can be when it's organized and there is respect. She is happy to have Sue Crane for Supervisor and thanked her for the way she runs the Town Board Meetings.

Sue Simon explained that taping for TV 23 is not being paid per se. It is a public service. TV 23 would not be paid extra to continue to do the taping. The tapes belong to the Town to be used any way they see fit. PANDA is not affiliated with the resident who made the suggestion.

Noreen VanValkenburg asked where we stand on current land issues in the Town.

Supervisor Crane will get information to Ms. VanValkenburg.

With no more comments the public comment period was closed.

HIGHWAY GARAGE

Supervisor Crane has had meetings with Mayor Dave Cohen, Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand, and Councilman Rob Latimer regarding the Highway Garage. There is a possible alternative site, but the weather conditions prevented them from assessing it. The effort is ongoing and will be presented to the public soon.

PRESENTATION FROM KEITH LORE CONCERNING ANDERSON COMMONS

Mr. Keith Lore described his proposal as a total of 53 units, a traditional neighborhood that borders the Village and the Town between Fisk Street and Glen Ridge Road. They've been around since February of 2005. This project has been a struggle because they have to satisfy the requirements of both municipalities. They have to reconcile a couple of issues and they are ready to go. The issues with the Town are the 26 acres they wanted to put in to a conservation easement for trails, and the Town decided it was of no significant use for trails at the time. Keith explained that they went ahead and put it into a conservation easement. It was proposed by them to the Planning Board then threw them a "curve ball" by telling him they can't do conservation easements anymore with the Town, they need a third party involved with Scenic Hudson or Winnakee Land Trust. They've done many conservation easements in the Town of Red Hook approved by the Town Attorney and there was never a problem before. He explained where he has already done conservation easements. He went to Winnakee but it will cost about \$15,000 - \$20,000 and asked if he can go back to the way it used to be and do a deed restriction. He requested this of the Planning Board, but it is now a Town Board decision.

Councilman Ross asked who would own this, a homeowners association.

Mr. Lore answered yes, a homeowners association. He is now required to pay the recreation fee. On top of that now they have to pay \$15,000 to \$20,000 to Winnakee Land Trust to do the same thing. It's being protected. It's in the restrictions. Nothing is ever going to be built there. Nothing can be and nothing will be. It is a waste of money. We've proven these things have worked before. Before the reign of Planning Board Chair Christine Kane, it was always done with deed restrictions. It's something new that just popped up on us in the planning stages. He thought the Town would accept the land in lieu of recreation fees.

Councilman Ross thought at the time the land was decided not to be accepted by the Town it was going to be deed restricted and in the hands of the homeowners association. They would be responsible for it.

Councilman Latimer said this project was before the ZBA years ago. We're still on this same topic?

Councilman Colgan asked if there was a law that all conservation easements be held by a third party.

Councilman Ross answered no that was an interpretation by the Planning Board of our code. There was no legal interpretation on that at all. It is written in the code, in the past deed restrictions have worked but apparently the Planning Board felt they want easements on the property.

Councilman Latimer asked what made them make that decision. Why allow the Planning Board to modify that.

Michelle Greig of Greenplan responded that cluster regulations require conservation easements, not deed restrictions. Deed restrictions can only be enforced by neighboring property owners and if not enforced, it becomes invalid. The Town doesn't have any third party enforcement rights on deed restrictions so it's hard to know if it's being enforced. It's only the neighbors that can enforce them.

Councilman Latimer said we are talking about a 23 acre piece of property that is going to be owned by an entity, a homeowners association. He would like to see the success rate of Forest Park or Sepasco Village that has applicability to this type of case. Based on his knowledge of this project from way back, he thought this was done.

Michelle Greig said this project has had an approval for maybe a year ago.

Councilman Ross explained in this case where you have a homeowners association with legal standard set forth by the Attorney General they are a legally billing entity for the common property which this is part of.

Keith Lore stated that part of his argument is that they've done numerous of these in the past and all of a sudden it changes. He doesn't see the need to spend additional money for some form of additional protection.

Michelle Greig suggested asking the Town Attorney about the conservation easement.

Keith Lore requested that we place a conservation easement on the land like we have in the past and its protection would be the filed deed restriction with Dutchess County.

Councilman Ross asked if our attorney thinks that is sufficient with the homeowners association holding the property on a deed restriction to prevent any further development or subdivision of that piece.

Councilman Colgan wanted clarified that the deed would be in the hands of the homeowners association as a separate parcel of land independent of the deed of the individual homeowners. It would have to be an incorporated homeowners association.

Keith Lore continued with the second issue he is dealing with. He gave the Board copies of correspondence. In trying to fulfill the final requirements of his approval the Planning Board went through their checklist and wants to collect their money in fees. They want \$3,000 per lot in recreation fees. He knew this situation would come up. He was around with his proposal since February of 2005 before the rate increase. He was almost a year ahead of the rate increase with his application. The Board voted to raise the fees from \$900 to \$3,000 in March of 2006. We applied in February 2005. He has a large file on his desire to try to straighten this out. Mr. Lore requested from the Town Attorney at the time, Al Trezza, that he give an opinion on this. Mr. Trezza actually responded with a letter to former Town Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump and

gave his opinion. The opinion suggests that Mr. Lore should pay \$900 per lot. Mr. Lore's application was in before the increase and he referred to the letter from former Town Attorney Al Trezza saying the Town never gave Mr. Lore a chance to speak. It was never advertised or opened for public discussion. It was a fifteen minute one night workshop meeting when they raised the fees. Mr. Trezza's opinion was that it was not justified and that it was frivolous. Since then Mr. Lore thought he would be paying the \$900 fee until he received the letter.

Supervisor Crane said it appeared that Mr. Trezza at the time was speaking as an agent of the Town. She frankly doesn't know at this stage of the game how we can fly in the face of his legal advice at the time.

Councilman Ross said that has been his opinion all along. We the Board never agreed upon or made a decision that we sent back to the Planning Board as to what the fee should be.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked when Mr. Lore received preliminary approval of this project. Her understanding was it was after the recreation park fees were increased.

Mr. Lore responded that may be so, but his application for the project was in more than a year before this was brought upon. It was a frivolous decision to raise fees.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks the fees were probably raised on the advice of a committee that oversees that. There was justification as to why those fees would have to be paid.

Supervisor Crane said the fact that the fees were raised is one issue. The fact that Mr. Trezza weighed in speaking for the Town as Town Attorney is compelling reason for her to believe if she were Mr. Lore that would be the fee that he would be charged at the conclusion of the project. Mr. Trezza was our attorney at the time.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, move to take the deed restriction proposal to our Town Attorney for a legal opinion before the Board makes a decision.

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

Supervisor Crane feels since Mr. Trezza at that time was speaking on behalf of the Town as Town Attorney, the \$900 fee be the fee charged.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Supervisor Crane for discussion, move that the fee for this project be \$900 per individual housing unit.

Denied	Ayes	1	Ross
	Nays	4	Crane, Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer

Councilman Colgan at this point doesn't have a sense of what is going on. He wants to understand the time frame when the fee schedule was changed, how it was changed, and where the project was at the time. He wants to understand what Al Trezza wrote. He only saw the correspondence for five minutes.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants to see how other properties were treated with regard to this. How were the fees applied to those properties?

Councilman Latimer recalled that this was the only major subdivision before the ZBA. There were concurrent issues because the project straddles the Village and the Town. During presentations back when the fees were changed, to his recollection, this was the only major subdivision before the ZBA requiring a variance.

Councilwoman Strawinski commented that the recreation park fees applied to all residential properties, not just subdivisions. If there was a single property that wanted to build a house during that timeline it would be \$900.

Councilman Ross corrected her and said if a person had ten acres and they split it into two lots you would pay one recreation park fee. It is for the increase in the number of lots.

Supervisor Crane explained that unfortunately this is one of those issues that goes back in time to such an extent that it will call for more research. We have three brand new people (on the Board) to this issue.

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Supervisor Crane, move that the Town Board do the homework necessary to give Mr. Lore a conclusive answer at the March 26th meeting on both of the issues.

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

Mr. Lore explained that time is of the essence because of his extension. We have to make a decision on it, the sooner the better. He also suggested that when they talk to the new Town Attorney they offer the old Town Attorney's opinion at that time. We did what we were told to do, to get an opinion from the Town Attorney. Everything we did was concurrent and had to be done in both municipalities, the Village and the Town.

Mr. Lore referred to his correspondence and stated that they are prepared to litigate this action. Mr. Lore looked through numerous minutes and this decision was not made. It's almost like the old Board did not want to make a decision.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Task Force Chairman Bill O'Neill requested to be allowed to present the final draft of the affordable housing component. Michelle Greig of Greenplan and Ann Saylor of Dutchess County Planning will give a brief presentation.

Michelle Greig handed out copies of the major revisions of affordable housing provisions. Ann Saylor met with the Task Force, reviewed revisions and made more. Michelle Greig reviewed the revisions of four major sections: Development Standards, Selection Priorities, Resale of Units and Occupancy Requirements. At some point she suggested sending this document to the Town Attorney for her review.

Ann Saylor offered to answer any questions in detail. She can be reached at County Planning, 845-486-3600.

Intermunicipal Task Force Chairman Bill O'Neill told the Board that they would like to schedule a Public Hearing regarding affordable housing and the Task Force would undertake it.

Michelle explained the first step would be to have the Town Attorney review it, then have a SEQRA review and Michelle would prepare those documents for the Town. It would then go to County Planning, and then the Public Hearing can be held.

Bill O'Neill updated the Board on the Task Force. They are beginning the Agricultural Business District preparation. It won't be done realistically before April. On March 6, 2008 there will be a Public Hearing in Milan and he feels someone from the Task Force should speak at that meeting and introduce Red Hook's Centers and Greenspace Plan. He asked if he could do that not speaking for the Town, but letting them know about the plan. He'd also like to do an update on the Central Hudson property.

Supervisor Crane asked him not to do anything regarding the Central Hudson property yet.

Councilman Colgan asked if we are ready to turn the affordable housing issue over to Attorney Chale.

Supervisor Crane would like to have a chance to look at it then possibly send it to Attorney Chale at our next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Hansen spoke regarding the matter that Keith Lore brought before the Board. He agrees with Mr. Lore. Mr. Hansen went through the process and the Board now agreed to consult with Attorney Chale on these matters. He wants to make the Board aware that he went through the same matters and the Planning Board stood hard on their decision and was backed by consultation with Keane & Beane which the taxpayers have paid for. These answers have

already been given. Secondly, he thinks it is highly irregular, given final approval, that the Town Board is even entertaining the decision to look into or modify the decision given by the Planning Board. They didn't do it for him. If this flies, the Board had other people to reconcile with. He's all for giving Mr. Lore what he is asking for but they better be ready to give it back to Mr. Hansen too.

Rosemarie Zengen thanked the Supervisor for the manner she handled things at the meeting tonight by giving the new Board members time to do research. She said it was very admirable.

Linda Keeling is pleased that the Board is addressing affordable housing.

DISCUSSION REGARDING NORTHERN ASSEMBLAGE

Supervisor Crane recused herself for the discussion regarding the northern assemblage.

Councilman Latimer announced that in regard to the northern assemblage there has been a preliminary approval on four properties in Tivoli. There were Public Hearings held last year on the purchase of development rights individually of the four lots in Tivoli. There has been nothing done with it and now it is in the lap of the new Board. In the interest of meeting with a representative who indicated that if we did not move forward with the approval or decline on the northern assemblage properties that we could not foresee getting approvals or money for any further projects. Evidently there was inference that those monies may be directed elsewhere in the future if we don't do something with it. In the interest of discussion and not railroading anything through, he brought it up to the Supervisor that he wanted to move forward with his colleagues on the decisions on these properties. Everyone has information regarding the appraisals and assessments by the independent third party assessors and appraisers. Everyone will have an opportunity to come up to speed on these properties and Councilman Latimer would like to decide on these properties at our March 26th meeting. There have been approvals in place for extended periods of time for what appears to him for no valid reason and they need to be put to rest either in the affirmative or the negative. He asked that it be put on the agenda for the March 26, 2008 meeting for a decision to be made.

REORGANIZATION 2008

EDC – Councilman Ross, as liaison to the EDC, met with EDC Chairman Doug Moat. He as eleven members who have been attending the meetings and we have it chartered at ten members.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan move to increase the Economic Development Committee to an eleven member committee, each for two year appointments.

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

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan move to appoint to the Economic Development Committee Paul Fredrick for a term to expire December 31, 2009, Michelle Martin, Ed Pruitt and Ronald Moore for a term to expire December 31, 2008.

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

IT Committee - Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the Information Technology working group. Do we know how many members are on that committee? She also asked if we voted on Councilman Ross and Councilman Latimer being the ZBA liaisons.

Town Clerk confirmed that the Board did vote on it and will get her a copy of those minutes.

PANDA – Town Clerk Sue McCann asked if there is a PANDA alternate.

Susan Simon answered at this time there is no PANDA alternate.

Tree Commission – Councilwoman Strawinski will act as the liaison to the Tree Commission.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross move to appoint Rosemarie Zengen and Karen Mead Cadorette to the Tree Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2008.

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

Councilwoman Strawinski understands that Celine Turchetti declined the appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Councilman Ross said the ZBA Chairman intends to send a letter to Supervisor Crane. There is someone else who expressed an interest.

Councilwoman Strawinski brought up the Conservation Advisory Board and the amount of people who expressed interest in serving.

Supervisor Crane explained that a huge number of people expressed an interest in serving on that committee. It will be a lengthy discussion and will most likely take half of a workshop to discuss. We could try to get it on the March 11th agenda in order to get it started.

CORRESPONDENCE

Winnakee Land Trust, Lucy Hayden - Supervisor Crane received correspondence from Lucy Hayden of Winnakee Land Trust who indicated that the grant money from Greenway will be used to develop a trifold brochure on the benefits of the proposed Red Hook Heritage Breadbasket Trail. They would like to give a presentation at a Board meeting and Supervisor Crane asked her to attend the workshop on March 4, 2008. They will discuss some of the undertakings Winnakee Land Trust is proposing.

Dial-A-Ride – Supervisor Crane referred to the Town’s contract with Dial-A-Ride. Dial-A-Ride provides transportation for people who are wheelchair bound or aging. The only requirements are being over the age of 62 and be registered at the Office of the Aging. It can be used anywhere in Dutchess County for a group trip.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, move to have Supervisor Crane sign the agreement with Dial-A-Ride.

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

Memo from Building Inspector – Supervisor Crane referred to a memo from Bob Fennel and Steve Cole, from the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Office. They met with Laurie Husted of the Conservation Advisory Council and Steve Cornacchini a local builder of Energy Star Qualified Homes and expert in the field. Mr. Cornacchini provided them an excellent overview of the Energy Star program and how it applies to the construction of homes. He estimated that an additional cost of \$5,000 is required for a new dwelling to receive an Energy Star rating. Mr. Cole and Mr. Fennell support the adoption of a local law to require all new dwellings meet the requirements of the Energy Star program. At this time they do not support an Energy Star rating for renovation, repair or additions to existing dwellings.

Councilman Ross thinks this information should be shared and he thinks the Building Inspectors should be fully versed in it and builders should be encouraged. He does not think that it should be a local law. We have a pretty strict New York State building code which was just revised that we have to enforce. If he were to build he’d want Energy Star rated but he doesn’t think it should be something made to do. He thinks they should conform to the building code and be educated and encouraged to build an Energy Star qualified home but he doesn’t feel it should be a local law.

Councilman Colgan brought up the issue of requiring Energy Star appliances. He will look at the cost of energy star appliances.

Councilman Latimer asked if incentives can be offered as opposed to a law to encourage people.

Councilman Ross doesn’t think the Town is in the position to do that. He suggested educating applicants.

Assessor’s Office: Supervisor Crane announced that there will be a notice sent to residents from the Assessor’s Office within the week that will identify the preliminary assessment for each individual property for the year 2008. Residents will see a difference between their 2007

assessments and the estimated assessment for 2008. It looks like a 3% reduction in the actual assessments. The tax rate could go up but that is not determined by the Assessor's Office.

Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had any questions about any other correspondence in their folders. They're largely for the Board's information.

Councilman Colgan has one concern of correspondence relating to minutes of the ZBA. He referred to a letter from Jackie Martin stating that she made a statement at the Public Hearing of the ZBA that was not included in their minutes. He thinks the Board should ask the minutes be corrected.

Supervisor Crane asked Town Clerk McCann about protocol of who keeps the minutes. Is it not true that the secretary or whoever is responsible for the minutes take the minutes as they can and that their minutes are their minutes. If deletions are made they can be addressed by the Chair and the committee.

Town Clerk Sue McCann answered that Supervisor Crane is correct the clerks minutes are their minutes.

Councilman Ross said the resident should attend the meeting when they review the minutes and make a comment about it. They will meet the first two Wednesdays in March.

Councilman Colgan felt it should be addressed and no one should be eliminated from those minutes if they made a statement.

Councilwoman Strawinski read an e-mail she received from a constituent who wanted to remain anonymous.

Councilman Latimer feels the letter should be stricken because we don't deal with anonymous things. The letter says "we" and there is no indication of who "we" is. He told Councilwoman Strawinski that she shouldn't address it because it is anonymous and has no bearing whatsoever.

Councilwoman Strawinski said it is correspondence she received as a Town Board member.

Councilman Latimer prefers that in the future no one introduces anything that is anonymous. In a court of law in Roberts Rules of Order it is not admissible in any capacity. He takes a little distain to the notion that Councilwoman Strawinski knew the author and didn't introduce that she knew the author.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the person who sent this wanted to remain anonymous. The context of the statement is the concern about the ethics not about someone's personal behavior.

Councilman Latimer stated that we have an Ethics Committee for review of such things and he thinks in a proactive sense if the Board feels there is a question about anyone's integrity that the intelligence level of this Board will be proactive enough to send it to the Ethics Board.

Supervisor explained there is a process by which we refer any issues that have either an appearance of impropriety or question we send it to the Ethics Committee. Having said that this is a small town and it's hard to imagine that she would be held in judgment by every party she attends and every person she talks to at those parties and the personal activities she attends on a daily basis or on a Sunday. She would be happy to refer this to the Ethics Committee. She will not stand for swearing in the meetings and she is not going to stand for insulting people whether they are here or not. Supervisor Crane asked the gentleman who spoke to identify himself and sign the letter. She wants to take this under advisement with the attorney and see what the attorney feels we should do in this regard.

Councilman Colgan just asked if the ZBA would correct their minutes. They have yet to have an opportunity to do so.

Supervisor Crane said the question she is asking the Board is if they think she should first consult with the attorney before making any kind of a judgment as to whether or not we make a recommendation to send this question of possible impropriety or appearance of impropriety.

Councilman Latimer answered no.

Councilwoman Strawinski thought it was up to the resident.

Councilman Colgan asked if we should just pass the letter on to the Ethics Committee.

Councilman Latimer answered no. We should go through our attorney to see if it even warrants a review. He thinks the whole thing is ridiculous. To suggest a bias or a question of integrity from a guy who made a very clear and on camera statement that his integrity was not in question that even he didn't feel there was a question of a conflict of interest is undermining the process.

Councilman Colgan thinks the Ethics Committee is a lesser and therefore a first action.

Councilman Latimer feels it would be a grave day if we were all to start bringing our extra-curricular and outside activities into personal relationships into the purview of the boards we serve on. Wouldn't you agree? If he was asked if he had a conflict of interest and he told everyone no, then the answer is no. He doesn't think it should go anywhere.

Councilwoman Strawinski hears a lot of conversation about this outside from people she runs into at IGA or at the bank and much like Councilman Latimer said these things go on. She would like this kind of thing squelched immediately. When she has constituents going to her with a concern of ethics or bias she feels she has to do something.

Councilman Ross said there are two issues. If the resident felt there should have been something included in the minutes, that haven't been approved yet anyway because the ZBA hasn't met again to approve them, we can forward that to the ZBA and she can bring it up before they vote on approving their minutes. The second issue is that if this letter is no longer anonymous it should be signed and addressed to the Town Board. We can refer it to the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Supervisor Crane would personally not have a problem referring it to the Ethics Board. She would have no question referring this to them.

Councilwoman Strawinski said as Board members it is our obligation to bring these things forward when we are talking to constituents about concerns.

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Supervisor Crane, move to send to the Ethics Committee the question of whether or not the Chair of a Committee has a direct or indirect or has a perceived conflict of interest at any level due to an association by casual connection to an applicant.

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

Councilwoman Crane said the length of time some of them have been in service and how risky sometimes it is to criticism by the public. She wanted to go on record as saying she believed Tim Ross when he said it was an acquaintance who met for a card game and she believed him when he said he can make a judgment about an issue without those kinds of associations coloring his judgment.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Supervisor Crane, move that since there is no further business the Board adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk