

## TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 25, 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 7:50 PM.

Present: Supervisor Sue Crane  
Councilman James Ross  
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski  
Councilman Harry Colgan  
Councilman Robert Latimer  
Deputy Town Clerk Claire Horst  
Absent: Town Clerk Sue McCann  
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

After the Public Hearing the Board moved to the Business Meeting.

### TOWN HALL SOLAR PANELS BID – RAY JURKOWSKI

Supervisor Crane announced a report by Ray Jurkowski, Engineer for the Town of Red Hook, regarding quotes for the solar panels bid for Town Hall.

Ray Jurkowski explained that the Town received a single bid. That was from Hudson Valley Clean Energy from Rhinebeck. There was a base bid of \$42,830 which was based on the grant application awarded to the Town by NYSERDA. There was an add alternate to double the size of the unit for \$37,080. NYSERDA was waiting for the bid in order to process the paperwork. The grant has a maximum cap of \$25,155. The net construction cost for the base bid amount is \$17,675. That is the net cost to the Town. If the Town goes with the larger system the net cost would be \$54,755. The system itself is tied into the grid. Recent State legislation will now allow Towns to do net metering. It was not allowed in the past. As of just a few weeks ago the State realized that the benefits of net metering. Based on the funding and based on budget although Morris Associates did provide for both potentials, they recommend the Town move forward with the base bid of \$42,830.

Councilman Ross explained that the Town entered into a contract and half our energy purchased is wind generated. He asked, based on our present energy usage, what the possible payback time is and what the life expectancy is of the grids are today.

Ray Jurkowski answered there is a warranty period of 25 years. Based on what the Town is currently paying, the payback period could be anywhere between 12 to 15 years. They gave that a little leeway. That takes into consideration the grant from NYSERDA. If you look at the larger system, it would be somewhere in the area of 15 to 18 years.

Supervisor Crane asked if the contractor indicated when he could start and finish the project if it were awarded to him.

Ray Jurkowski answered that with this particular program, the checks from NYSERDA go to the Town then the Town to the contractor. A design process has to be committed. We'd have to enter into contract with the contractor, once performance bonds are provided we sign a contract, a design has to be submitted to NYSERDA, there is approximately a 30 day time frame for NYSERDA to come back to the Town and to the installer to provide approval. From that point we can order the equipment. At the present time there is a shortage of solar panels. He has a 10 to 12 week lead time to get solar panels. Once the design is approved it will be approximately 12 weeks before he arrives on site and starts working.

Councilman Ross asked about the payback if the Town went with the alternate system. Our cost is three times. How is the payback only 15 to 18 years?

Ray Jurkowski answered what you are doing is producing more over a period of time in anticipation that during that time frame the energy costs are going to continue to climb.

Councilman Colgan feels that from a fiscal point of view there is a payback and we do eventually own it and it begins to pay off. Although initially it is a substantial investment, he thinks it is a desirable for the Town to make that kind of investment to show the community that we can become greener. As the technology takes off perhaps it will be suitable for more of a broader use and people will have an opportunity to see it work.

Ray Jurkowski said that brings up a good point. As part of the grant there is a requirement with respect to outreach and public education regarding it. The Town has to provide two reports to NYSERDA, one after the first year, one after the second regarding the outreach program.

Councilman Latimer asked if there is a provision that if the Town went with the base system to reapply for another grant for expansion.

Ray Jurkowski answered that under this program the funding pool is limited and there is a cap. He is will check.

Supervisor Crane is ready to move to approve the base of \$42,830 she asked if anyone else is inclined to go more than that.

Councilman Ross agrees with the base bid. He is concerned with payback. As a Town we have a responsibility. We always owned up to that and we have to realize it costs the taxpayers money to go with these programs. Going with the base bid makes the most sense fiscally.

Jay Jurkowski agreed and told the Board to keep in mind that technology is always changing.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to accept the base bid of \$42,830 for photovoltaic installation. Our anticipated cost is \$17,675.

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

Marcy Appell asked if we could apply for the grant for a Highway Garage.

Ray Jurkowski answered not under this program, but there are other programs.

#### NORTHERN RED HOOK FARMLAND ASSEMBLAGE

Supervisor Crane recused herself from this discussion at 8:30 PM. Councilman Ross, Deputy Supervisor, chaired the meeting.

Attorney Chale handed out four resolutions that approve the four PDR acquisitions. She prepared a resolution that outlined some of the fundamental points in the conservation easements and the memorandums of understanding. Scenic Hudson will be primarily responsible for monitoring and enforcing the easement and the Town has the right to move in and enforce the easement if for some reason they don't do it. She handed out a conservation easement map of Agra-Gate farm which showed how the property is structured, what parts are protected, and explained reasons for the acquisitions. Agra-Gate is the most significant of the farmland assemblage properties, it is the foundation. The total purchase price of \$839,800 represents 75% of the fair market value that is based on the appraisal. Half of that is being funded by Scenic Hudson and half by the Town. In addition the Town and Scenic Hudson are sharing the closing costs. The cost to the Town is estimated to be \$6,968.50. The authorization that is proposed is to execute the conservation easement memorandum of understanding that is on file with the Clerk and to proceed to consummate the funding of the purchase through the issuance of bond anticipation notes.

Councilman Ross asked for a short synopsis of each parcel.

Attorney Chale explained that Agra-Gate is 124 acres. Schachat is 23.7 acres. The total purchase price is \$179,002 which represents 39% of fair market value as determined by appraisal. The total price is to be funded by a contribution from Scenic Hudson in the amount of \$55,000, a contribution from the landowner in the amount of \$34,502, and a contribution from the Town of \$89,500 provided that the Town's share of the total purchase price shall not exceed 50%. The Town and Scenic Hudson are to share equally in

closing costs, including monitoring fund contributions, at an estimated additional cost to the town of \$5,500.50.

McGiver/Blum property is approximately 33.8 acres. The total estimated purchase price is \$247,000, which is 39% of fair market value as determined by appraisal. The total price is to be funded by a contribution from Scenic Hudson in the amount of \$76,000, a contribution from the landowner of \$47,500, and a contribution from the Town of \$123,500, provided that the Town's share of the total purchase price shall not exceed 50%. The Town and Scenic Hudson will share equally in closing costs including monitoring fund contributions at an estimated additional cost to the Town of \$5,688.

Anne & Charles Blum property is approximately 42.896 acres. The total estimated purchase price is \$389,992 which represents 46% of the fair market value as determined by the appraisal. The total price is to be funded by a contribution from Scenic Hudson in the amount of \$120,000, a contribution from the landowner in the amount of \$70,492, and a contribution from the Town of \$190,500, provided that the Town's share of the total purchase price shall not exceed 50%. The Town and Scenic Hudson are to share equally in closing costs, including monitoring fund contributions, at an estimated additional cost to the Town of \$5,808.50.

Attorney Chale briefly explained that the permitted uses depend on the areas within the property. They are fairly broad and include single family residential dwellings, farm labor housing, agriculture related activities and different types of improvements. Within the farm area, outside of the farmstead complex, we have farming practices as defined by Ag & Markets, forestry management, agricultural structures, farm labor housing, fences, no single family houses. With respect to resource protection, because it is a buffer near a stream, we have limitations that are slightly different in each easement depending on what their resource protection agency area protects.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked why there is a difference in the percentage of the fair market value on the properties.

Attorney Chale answered that we relied on the appraisals and the appraisal reviewed what the appraiser believed to be the value of the easement in the case of each individual property. Each case is unique and has a different impact on the property's value.

#### RESOLUTION 2008 #44

RE: APPROVING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OF AGRA-GATE FARM, LLC.

On a motion of Councilman James Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to approve the resolution for the conservation easement for the purchase of development rights of Agra-Gate Farm, LLC. with the understanding that the total cost to the Town will be close to \$419,900 for the PDR with an additional \$6,968.50 for the estimated additional cost to the Town for this parcel.

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

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Councilman Ross explained that this is one of the four he is in favor of because it was a 50/50 split which he thought was the original intention of our PDR and he feels this is the only parcel appraised properly based on road frontage and the only one subject to development that could affect all of us.

#### RESOLUTION 2008 #45

RE: APPROVING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OF JANE SCHACHAT

On a motion of Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan, moved to approve the resolution for the conservation easement for the purchase of

development rights of Jane Schachat with a total cost to the Town being approximately \$89,500 with an additional \$5,500 for closing.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	1	Ross
	Recused	1	Crane

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The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman Latimer asked why Scenic Hudson's contribution amount was less than half of the purchase price and why the Town did not realize some of the landowner contributions.

Attorney Chale said it is her understanding is that when these were structured the proposal was the Town would fund half of the purchase price. Scenic Hudson worked out that they were willing to put up a certain amount and asked the owners to put up a certain amount. That was essentially the way the package was presented.

Councilman Ross said that is hearsay. If this is the case, that "gift" by the landowners should be split between Scenic Hudson and the Town. He feels very strongly about that. It also makes him have second thoughts about what Scenic Hudson thought from the very beginning about their own appraisal when they were not personally willing to put up the 50% that they expect the Town taxpayers to put up for these parcels. It leads him to wonder why we are spending taxpayer's money to save these if you look at the maps. What is the development pressure on those pieces? We're spending money to protect the taxpayers from development pressure and he doesn't see it.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the taxpayers overwhelmingly approved the money to be used for this purpose.

Councilman Ross said that was money to be used to for a PDR for a property the Town Board thought was justified.

Councilwoman Strawinski said regardless how Scenic Hudson brought their 50% to the table; the Town wouldn't be paying any more or less for this.

Councilman Ross explained that these three pieces are going to take about \$400,000 from our approved bond. If the majority of the Board feels that these parcels are a justified expense to save from development, fine. He has no problem if the majority of this Board feels this way, he personally does not.

Carrie Watkins-Bates explained the appraisals were done by Pete Hubbel and Scenic Hudson is very comfortable with the appraisals they received. They put forth what they thought was fair. She recalls the appraisals took zoning into account regarding the potential to break up lots.

Councilman Latimer senses an overwhelming feeling from the public that they are in support of this. He has a lot of questions. If this were a project starting today, he would address this differently.

#### RESOLUTION 2008 #46

RE: APPROVING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OF CORNELIA MCGIVER AND GREGORY BLUM

On a motion of Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan, moved to approve the resolution for the conservation easement for the purchase of development rights of Cornelia McGiver and Gregory Blum with a total cost to the Town of \$123,500 for the PDR and additional costs estimated to be \$5,688.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	1	Ross
	Recused	1	Crane

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The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman Latimer thinks after looking at the map that development potential on this lot would be somewhat limited based on the road frontage. Again, obviously the people that do this for a living found value in preserving this piece of property, as did the people that came to the Public Hearing. It seems to him if you look at the map it is not a very big right of way and questions the “developability” of this piece of property.

Councilwoman Strawinski answered that it has to do with the contiguous mass of critical land.

RESOLUTION 2008 # 47

RE: APPROVING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OF ANNE AND CHARLES BLUM

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to approve the resolution for the conservation easement for the purchase of development rights of Anne and Charles Blum with a Town cost of \$190,500 for the PDR and the estimated additional cost of \$5,800.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Strawinski, Colgan, Latimer
	Nays	1	Ross
	Recused	1	Crane

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Councilman Ross applauds all the landowners for wanting to save open space.

Councilwoman Strawinski thanked Scenic Hudson for their work.

Supervisor Crane returned to the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

HIGHWAY PAVING BIDS

Supervisor Crane announced the Highway Blacktop Paving Bid. It is the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent and Highway Superintendent to award the contract to Callanan Industries Inc. They were the lowest bidders at \$75.49 per ton. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2008 # 48

RE: AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF BID FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT CONCRETE PAVING

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

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

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DOG ORDINANCE

Supervisor Crane proposed the Board vote on the dog ordinance tonight

RESOLUTION 2008 #49

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2008, AMENDING CHAPTER 63, ENTITLED “DOGS” OF THE RED HOOK TOWN CODE

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman James Ross, moved to adopt the ordinance as it stands, understanding that we can modify it in the future if we need to.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan
	Nays	0	
	Abstain/Recusal with cause	1	Latimer

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Councilman Latimer abstained on the grounds that he would have to enforce the law.

#### ST. MARGARET'S UPDATE

Paula Schoonmaker reported that the appraisals are due July 1st and the RFP's for the architect are due July 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> but might be extended a week. Once the appraisals are back the State Parks and Recreation will be in the position with the Town to create a contract after which the town can get reimbursed for the construction expenses. She passed out a sample contract packet. The contract is not negotiable. It is a State template contract. The Town's responsibility is a timeline and a budget. Paula explained that it is important for the Board to familiarize themselves with the contract the State requires as part of its grant program. Attorney Chale is familiar with it and can explain the nuances. She asked if anyone had any questions.

Councilman Colgan asked if after the appraisals we immediately start on the project.

Paula Schoonmaker explained that the State will take a look at those appraisals and as long as they match they will say whether they consider that the value of the building. That then allows the State to sign the contract. They've been waiting for the appraisals. We cannot get anything reimbursed as far as construction until the contract is signed. After the contract is signed any expenses from the acquisition are reimbursable to the Town retroactive three years.

Supervisor Crane asked if the appraisals come in less, will the State match the \$425,000?

Paula Schoonmaker answered she doesn't know but can find out.

Supervisor Crane thanked her for her work on this project.

#### HIGHWAY GARAGE UPDATE

Supervisor Crane announced that we applied to NYSERDA for their new construction programs grant cycle. We need to move forward with what it is we are attempting to do. We've had a lot of discussion about what and where we are going. Most of you know we had a call for an air quality test of the Town Highway Garage and that has been bid on by two corporations that are being reviewed by our Town Engineer, D.F. Wheeler and we will get a recommendation from him within the week as to how we should move with that. We believe we should have that air quality testing done that was called for from Mrs. Feller.

Supervisor Crane referred to a communication from the CAC. They recognize that we urgently need a better facility and that we wish to move forward expeditiously. They say there is a possibility of shared services. Supervisor Crane said the Village is very serious about cooperating with the Town to locate their facilities in the facility the Town is planning. It would be an opportunity to recruit a shared services grant in that regard. Everyone is concerned about environmental impact and we will address that as we go along. Supervisor Crane thinks the longer we delay the more uncertain people become about the ultimate goal and reasonable length of time it would take to do this. She wanted a brief discussion and asked to vote on a site plan application to Morris Associates to have them get started.

Councilman Ross commented that we've talked about this for 5 ½ to 6 years now. We actually put this out to bid about 4 ½ years ago. He always felt strongly that the best possible location is our Town Hall property that we own, whether it is where it sits or further back if we work out an intermunicipal agreement with the Village. The Highway Garage today has very little if any impact on the water shed. A lot less so than development. If you look at the map the CAC provided, you can see that the ground water flow from where we are proposing to site the Highway Garage is away from the Village wells in the aquifer area. He would like to move with the site plan and let the engineers recommend what would be the most practical and cost effective.

Councilman Colgan is not willing to make a decision on location at this point. He thinks we should consider any other site. This property is high valued property that is being encroached upon by professional buildings and housing all of which fly in the face of heavy use by trucks, etc. He's done work with Rokeby site and wants that to be pursued. The site was walked and reviewed with a representative from the DEC. We have a rough sketch of wetlands and there is at least 5 usable acres. It was said there was a landfill there. The DEC rep said it looked more

like a farm dump. That's what it looked like to Councilman Colgan as well. He thinks we should wait until this is fully understood or whether there is another viable location.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants to hear more from the community about having it here as opposed to somewhere else. She doesn't agree it should be here because of the potential value of this property. The property was walked with Jim Pinheiro from the Bureau of Habitat. It was his charge to delineate the wetlands there. It looks like most garbage was thrown on the surface.

Councilman Latimer asked if anyone on the Board ever walked the site themselves.

Councilman Colgan said that he and Councilwoman Strawinski walked the perimeter.

Councilman Latimer actually had two alternative sites. For a long list of reasons they failed. One was the Rokeby Road site at which he spent three days walking, shoveling and looking at the wetlands. He came up with 25% of the total area useable if we went into the buffer area, 15% if we did not intrude into the buffer area. Through looking with a shovel, he disagrees that it was a farm dump. Through discussion with some "old-timers" from the area, there were significant disposal practices made on the site. It is evident to him that Rokeby would be very quickly ruled out. In his discussion with three Village Trustees, it was inferred that given the distance, the Village would also be less likely to want to participate in shared services. Given the deplorable conditions in the current building he is concerned that if we continue to mull over whether or not this property has commercial value whether or not people are getting sick due to the conditions is certainly not what he wants to go to sleep with every night. The notion that we can take the original site plan that located the building right behind us and move it back and possibly relocate recycling and the possibility of attracting the Village for shared services is certainly a very attractive proposition. We need to at least rapidly move forward getting a site plan so we can look at it in further detail.

Councilwoman Strawinski wanted to make a motion that we hold a Public Hearing about what our constituents feel about placement of the Garage. She thinks there is a groundswell of differing opinions and this is too big for us not to recognize the interest of our constituents.

Councilman Latimer explained we are still in debate

Supervisor Crane explained that they are in discussion right now.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to have a Public Hearing with regard to a site plan application.

Motion Failed	Ayes	2	Strawinski, Colgan
	Nays	3	Crane, Ross, Latimer

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilwoman Strawinski said there was a Public Hearing 8 or 10 years ago. We were in a very different economy.

Councilman Ross said it was not 8 or 10 years ago, it was in March or April a little over five years ago, maybe a little less than five years.

Councilman Latimer confirmed the outcome was that we ended up with a site plan directly behind where we are sitting right now.

Councilman Ross explained there was a Public Hearing on the Highway Garage proposal, then we also had a Public Hearing on approving \$1.5 million. There was 30 days if anyone wanted to call for a referendum, no one did, so we are still approved for bonding \$1.5 million.

Councilman Latimer confirmed that is only if we put it directly behind us where the original plan was.

Supervisor Crane said it isn't always pleasant to be the decision maker, it is always nice to have consensus and put things out to the public, but the point of fact is that we were elected to make these hard decisions and it is up to us to make them. That is her opinion.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Supervisor Crane, moved to ask the engineers to look at our present property and find the best place to site the proposed Highway Garage, whether it is where we anticipated it five years ago or further back on the property that we presently own behind the salt shed.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Crane, Ross, Latimer
	Nays	2	Strawinski, Colgan

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if we know what the cost is for the engineer.

Supervisor Crane answered no.

Councilwoman Strawinski said in the event the garage will be located elsewhere doing a site plan for this property is redundant.

Supervisor Crane said the assumption is we are doing a site plan to locate the garage here. That is pretty evident. We cannot wait; we cannot spend taxpayer money to buy property when we have property we can use. There is no reason. People have been satisfied with this location in the past and there is no reason why we can't move ahead and get on with this project.

Councilman Colgan feels it is worthwhile to wait another 4 to 6 weeks to begin this action and take an opportunity to really be certain there is no other site.

Councilman Latimer asked what 6 weeks will buy besides someone else getting sick.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the jury is still out on whether that garage made Bobby Feller sick.

Councilman Latimer asked if she is willing to take that risk.

Councilman Ross said we've been talking about this for years. If it weren't for a little glitch in the bids we would have a Highway Garage now for less than \$1.3 million, 75 yards behind us. They talk about the "value" of our property here. By the time we purchased another property and moved our present Town Hall, which he feels should be where it is now accessible to all of our citizens, there is no way the property we sit on would be worth enough to even come close to covering moving. As far as that goes, he pointed out a warehouse, storage sheds, commercial district and a firehouse. It is an ideal location when you talk about trucks and access, not to mention sharing services with the Village we are right in the Village. He asked to have respect for what prior Town Boards battled over for a long time. We didn't take that original decision lightly a lot went into it at that time.

Councilman Colgan said this is a 50 year decision we are making and we should do it with the utmost thought.

Supervisor Crane will sit down with the Town engineer and Morris Associates' Ray Jurkowski and hash out the very beginning of the site plan. She also had an offer from John Clark from County Planning to help us.

#### ZONING REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Attorney Chale explained they have two of the three amendments prepared and are still in discussion with Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole over some language on the accessory structure. She wants to make sure all the issues are dealt with before being presented to the Board. She referred to a draft Local Law dealing with multifamily density regulations and central water density bonus and explained the ZRC's recommendations. Attorney Chale went over the amendments for the Board's review. She said if the Board wants to set a Public Hearing she attached a draft resolution to establish a date for a Public Hearing regarding the adoption of the local law which is a Type I action requiring SEQRA review.

Councilman Ross would like to read through the handouts regarding the amendments and decide on a Public Hearing date at the next Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Crane appreciates the way the changes were submitted and suggested the Board read over them and set the Public Hearing at the next meeting. Steve Cole should have his recommendations ready by then.

#### REORGANIZATION VACANCIES

Community Preservation Fund Committee Chair - Supervisor Crane stressed the need for a Community Preservation Fund Committee chair. She referred to the list of members.

Councilman Ross asked if the members made recommendations. They should decide who to chair their committee.

Supervisor Crane met with Ted Fink regarding the Town of Warwick and he is willing to meet with our Community Preservation Fund committee. She is fine with having the CPF meet and decide who they would like as Chair.

#### Zoning Review Committee Chair

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Ross, move to appoint Susan Simon as Chair of the Zoning Review Committee term to expire December 31, 2008.

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

Councilman Ross asked about having an EDC representative to the ZRC.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Paul Fredricks as the EDC representative to the Zoning Review Committee.

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

Planning Board Alternate Vacancy - Supervisor Crane received a letter of interest from Kristofer Munn. Phoebe Prentice who lives in the Village is also interested. She is not prepared to vote at this time.

Supervisor Crane suggested setting July 3rd as a deadline for letters of interest for serving as alternate to the Planning Board.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants to finish the reorganization. She stated that she knows the people who expressed an interest.

Supervisor Crane would like to keep their options open and knows Pete Fenaroli showed interest. The Board will determine the appointment at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane received a request for proposals from Farmland Protection RFP due on September 15. She will make sure the Ag Committee gets copies.

Time Warner sent a letter regarding changes in the local system. She forwarded it to Kathy Hammer from PANDA who will get it to the Buske Group. She hopes to make it part of the negotiations.

On July 20th Big Brothers/Big Sisters are having a picnic at Wilcox Park. Town officials are invited and can contact Supervisor Crane if interested in attending.

Business Manager Deb Marks requested data from 20 Towns in the County to allow her to produce a County-wide comparison of salaries. She will use the information in preparation for the budget process.

The VFW is trying to raise \$15,000 for the Memorial Park project in honor of Red Hook WWI and WWII veterans. They would like to place their names on plaques. Contact Harold Fell at 758-2433.

Supervisor Crane received three e-mail correspondences regarding the need to connect the Village to the Recreation Park with a safe bike path or sidewalk. Supervisor Crane will send a similar letter to the Dutchess County Highway Department because it is they who will have to undertake this project. She will pursue it if the Board agrees. It has been looked at a couple of times and she thinks we should still keep at it.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the Greenway and Trails Committee has discussed connecting Abrahams Park to the Recreation Park. Their next meeting is July 3rd.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened the floor to comments.

*Linda Keeling* commented on the proposed garage. She asked if the Town will use the Planning Board in the site design. It is a good time to improve the flow of traffic and consider more parking. She also suggested a visual screen, maybe even some benches to improve the area. We should be taking pictures before, during and after construction.

*Brenda Cagle* asked if the Board will consider the services of a Hydro geologist when deciding the placement of the Highway Garage.

Supervisor Crane responded they will talk with the Engineer first and see what is called for.

*Rosemarie Zengen*, Save Our Town Committee, met with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand twice in the last month and is appalled at the conditions in the Highway Garage. She applauded the members of the Board for pushing it to be corrected. Wayne Hildenbrand should know where a garage should be. He's given 34 years of his life working for the Highway Department and keeping Red Hook the way it is now. She stood outside and looked into the garage. She would be furious if her husband or sons worked under those conditions. We know everyone wants to keep it "green".

Councilwoman Strawinski said no one denies we need the garage, the location is the issue.

*Linda Keeling* said we need to plan for the future.

Supervisor Crane explained that we are facing inadequate Court facilities. The multipurpose room doesn't seem to fit their needs according to the recent audit. She thinks this site is going to undergo a number of changes. Increasing the size of this building seems likely down the road. She is not willing to sell this site and build somewhere else.

*Ann Rubin* commented on the groundwater flow. She explained the soil groups and how they would relate to the location of the highway garage. The kinds of contamination associated with the Highway Garage are serious threats to public health. She spoke with various agencies and found out there are no regulations prohibiting the Highway Garage at this site, but none of them thought it was a good idea. If it is sited here the Town will have to be very careful about how it is built and what steps should be taken. We need to think about the water supply and public health.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claire W. Horst, Deputy Town Clerk