

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 12, 2008

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. following the Public Hearing.

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

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's monthly report dated July 31, 2008 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$2,910,499.30; Receipts - \$350,893.89; Disbursed - \$506,339.18; Balance - \$2,755,054.01.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Latimer, moved to accept the Supervisor's report as read.

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

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TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of July 1, to July 31, 2008 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$2,088.16; Amount remitted to County Treasurer for Dog Licenses - \$159.45; Amount remitted to NYS Ag & Markets - \$45.00; Amount remitted to NY Department of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$135.00; Amount remitted to NY State Environmental Conservation - \$411.89; Total State, County & Local Revenues - \$2,839.50

Town Clerk Sue McCann reminded residents that the 2008-2009 Sporting Licenses and Deer Management Permits are available for purchase on August 18, 2008. Applicants have from August 18th until October 1st to apply for their Deer Management permits.

Town Clerk McCann read a letter she received from David Dobson, Director of Rebuilding Together of Dutchess County. The letter asked for help finding qualified recipients who can benefit from the cost-free home repair services in 2009. The deadline for the receipt of applications in their office is November 28, 2008. Information and applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS APPLICATION: NORTHWINDS FARM

Supervisor Crane referred to consideration of the Town sponsoring an application to New York State Farmland Protection for Northwinds Farm. She introduced Mr. Art Collings, Vice President of Land Conservation at Dutchess Land Conservancy in Millbrook, to clarify the process. Dutchess Land Conservancy has agreed, if the Town is in favor of making the application of 75% funding of the PDR for Northwinds Farm, to help prepare the application.

Art Collings explained that they had a few conversations with the Town's Agricultural Advisory Committee about Northwinds Farm owned by Richard Biezynski. Northwinds Farm is located on the north side of West Kerley Corners Road near a large area of land already preserved. Northwind Farm is a working farm that also markets locally. It holds a large area of prime and statewide important farmland soil. Viable working farms and farms with excellent soil is what New York State is looking for in terms of purchasing development rights on farmland. NY State has a program that will pay for 75% of the cost of buying the development rights on a farm. He explained that when the development rights are purchased that means the property is permanently preserved as a farm. The 25% of the remaining cost would either be paid by the Town or municipality with matching money from other sources such as Dutchess County, or Scenic Hudson. NY States Department of Agriculture and Markets administers the program and they do a request for proposals once a year. It is due on September 15th of this year. The

Farmland Protection Board agrees to write a letter of support for this project if the Town wants to do an application. Dutchess Land Conservancy can devote time to work on this project if the Town decides to go ahead. There has not yet been an appraisal but the estimated budget for the project is \$7,500.00 an acre.

Attorney Chale has a document provided by Mr. Collings, a draft project budget for purpose of the application of an estimated total project cost of \$1,538,750. With a 75% match fund the local share would be \$384,688.

Art Collings said the State needs to know there is a committed partner for the 25%.

Attorney Chale explained that local procedure under our program requires that there is a proposed partner to hold the easement and a proposed plan for funding the easement. That project would need to proceed through the Farmland Protection Committee for their review. In view of the timeline it would do well to set a public hearing date so we can proceed to consider this as a Board.

Robert McKeon, Chair of the Ag & Open Space Committee, said the committee talked to the landowner, identified the partners and they handed the application to the Farmland Protection Committee for their review and recommendations.

RESOLUTION 2008 #54

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS IN NORTHWINDS FARM UNDER THE TOWN'S PDR PROGRAM

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to set the public hearing for September 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

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

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Supervisor Crane commented that this is a once a year opportunity to leverage a 75% match and it is a wonderful opportunity for the Town.

Art Collings asked if the Board wanted him to start to process the application.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to request that the Dutchess Land Conservancy start the process for the application for the Farmland Protection PDR Program.

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

HIGHWAY GARAGE

Supervisor Crane introduced Mr. Ray Jurkowski of Morris Associates who presented preliminary sketch plans/site plans for the Highway Garage at the Town Hall site. We authorized Morris Associates to begin the site plan sketch. She referred to two proposed versions and asked Mr. Jurkowski to explain them.

Ray Jurkowski referred to two site plan sketches he refers to as Concept A and Concept B. Morris Associates role is to create a concept to provide a potential vision of how the site could be utilized, how the buildings could fit in the existing property lines and also potentially to design for the future needs of the Town as well. He reviewed Concept Plan A which included provisions for separate campuses, the Highway Garage facility and the Town Hall facility. The Town would continue to have access off Route 9 and the concept provides for the potential for an addition to the Town Hall. They've also provided for a future building, i.e. community center. Also incorporated is the possibility of increasing the parking area to 79 spaces. The concentration towards the rear would be for the Highway Garage itself. That garage would gain access off a public use road that has been constructed as well as the existing Town road to the

rear. The highway building itself is envisioned to be 80' by 160' which is roughly 15,000 square feet.

The second sketch, Concept B, also provides for anticipating the future expansion of Town Hall. The change is the orientation of the Highway Garage and salt storage to provide for a connector road/access road, not to be a public thoroughfare, between Route 9 and the public road behind. The structures generally stay the same except for the future building which would be a smaller layout and parking has been reduced to roughly 67 spaces.

Mr. Jurkowski explained the purpose of the evening was to show how the layouts can be incorporated. He knows residents and some Board members are concerned with the visual impact of the Highway Garage. Screening could be provided to hide the bays of the garage. The size of the garage has been reduced to allow for the option of flexibility in the building material. He briefly went over the proposed concept plans with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand who liked the idea of having the connector road between the front and back because it gives them the most flexibility. He reminded the Board that the sketches are *concepts* only. Once the Board provides Morris Associates with feedback, from that point they will meet with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand and actually create a little more detailed site plan associated with the Highway Garage.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks the other concern the public has aside from aesthetics is the operation of how it might affect the operation of the Recycling Center and the Goods Exchange building.

Supervisor Crane said a lot will depend on if the Village of Red Hook collaborates with the Town. If that were to happen, we would be able to access their buildings on Firehouse Lane and that would be a perfect recycling center with existing buildings. We don't have the answer to that question now, but she spoke to Mayor Cohen who will bring it to the Village Board and get back to her as soon as possible.

Ray Jurkowski explained that if the Village were to partake in this Highway Garage, it does provide quite a bit of room for the recycling facility.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board if they would like to take time to consider this and talk about it again at the next meeting. She feels the Board should take their time and review both of the concepts and make some comments.

Councilman Latimer asked about fuel storage.

Ray Jurkowski hasn't shown that on the plans but when they prepare the detail it will show the footprint. He asked the Board's permission to go to Dutchess County Department of Planning. He knows they've provided feedback for the Town in the past. Once he receives their comments he will pass them on to the Board as well.

Supervisor Crane said they will bring this forward at the next meeting scheduled for September 2, 2008.

RESOLUTIONS

Justice Court Grant

Supervisor Crane referred to a resolution that was prepared by the Honorable Jonah Triebwasser regarding a grant application for funding for the Town of Red Hook Justice Court.

Judge Triebwasser explained that this resolution is a follow up to their meeting with the Board. The process includes the Board passing a resolution authorizing Justices Jeffrey Martin and Jonah Triebwasser to sign the application for the Justice Court Grant. He respectfully asked that the Board pass the resolution.

Councilman Colgan asked if Justice Triebwasser had any estimates for the work.

Judge Triebwasser had some estimates. He spoke with Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy and will have the estimates before the 31st deadline. Judge Triebwasser thanked Councilman Latimer for his assistance.

RESOLUTION 2008 #55

RE: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF RED HOOK TO PURSUE A GRANT APPLICATION TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR THE TOWN OF RED HOOK JUSTICE COURT

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to authorize the Town of Red Hook to pursue the grant application to obtain funding not to exceed \$30,000.

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

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Omnipoint Lease

Supervisor Crane deferred to Attorney Chale the resolution regarding lead agency determination for Omnipoint Communications.

Attorney Chale explained that this is the beginning of the process to establish intent to act as lead agency for the purposes of a proposed tower sublease agreement with options with Omnipoint that are not currently on our tower. They requested that the Town allow them to add an additional 10 feet to the existing monopole. They've given a site plan for the Board to review. She suggested considering the resolution to start the process and we can do a review of the EAF at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 2008 #56

RE: ESTABLISHING INTENT TO BE LEAD AGENCY (RED HOOK COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY)

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman James Ross, moved to declare the Town lead agency.

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

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RESOLUTION 2008 #57

RE: ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE SUBLEASE AGREEMENT WITH OPTIONS BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND OMNIPOINT COMMUNICATIONS

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to set a Public Hearing for September 9, 2008 at 7:45 p.m.

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

Attorney Chale will provide a summary for the Board before the Public Hearing.

COLD WAR VETERANS EXEMPTION

Supervisor Crane asked if the members of the Board had the chance to look at the Cold War Veterans Exemption from Real Property. She read a section of a letter from Kathy Myers of the Dutchess County Assessor's Office. Evidence of service must be provided. The Board can decide to offer a 10% exemption or at a local option, up to 15% exemption on the assessed value. A person who has served as a veteran may not qualify for the Veterans exemption *and* the Cold War exemption, it is either/or. The exemption from taxation shall be applicable to County, City, Town and Village taxation, but shall not be applicable to taxes levied for school purposes.

Attorney Chale explained that normally if the Town were to consider an exemption we would prepare a Local Law.

Councilman Colgan asked if we have an idea of the fiscal impact.

Supervisor Crane said that Assessor Jeffrey Churchill spoke with someone from the Dutchess County Department of Assessment who said they have 8 people registered.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Latimer, moved to ask Attorney Chale to prepare a Local Law based on a 15% exemption for Cold War Veterans.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION – 2009

Supervisor Crane asked if the Board has thought about applying for grant money, tentatively with the Village of Red Hook, for the sidewalk project running from Park Avenue in Red Hook to the Red Hook Recreation Park. She and Village of Red Hook Mayor feel that based on the priorities for the grant we would be eligible. She has had communication from parents who are concerned about the safety of their children who walk that road. She asked for feedback from the Board and would like to move ahead with it.

Councilman Ross thinks it makes a lot of sense to move forward with it.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks the school would also offer their support.

Supervisor Crane will try to get this on Beth Doyle's (Dutchess County Planning) calendar and see where the Village of Red Hook is with this. They intend to apply for this as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Supervisor Crane referred to a memo from Kathy Hammer regarding the Buske Group. There seems to be a fair amount of confusion among all five municipalities as to what the Buske Group has agreed to undertake on our behalf. Supervisor Crane spoke to Kathy Hammer noting that Appendix A was not included. Kathy Hammer told Supervisor Crane that she will get it to her, but as yet she has not received it. She referred to the section "Proposed Project Budget". Supervisor Crane thinks there is some confusion and that the Mayors and Supervisor's should meet to thrash out how much they want the Buske Group to undertake on our behalf. They set September 15th as the tentative meeting date and will confer by conference call with Susan Buske. Supervisor Crane will keep the Board up to date.

- Supervisor Crane provided copies of two letters she received, one, a blog written by Kathy Stewart regarding Farmland Protection Exemption and another from Doug Moat, Chair of the Economic Development Committee in response to the blog. She felt it was important for the Board to see the communications. Doug Moat is trying to bring closure to the kind of rhetoric that takes place. She asked the Board to take time to read the communications and said that Mr. Moat is willing to serve in any capacity to try to bring the community together in this regard.

- Regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program, on August 19, 2008 at 10:00 am there will be a public hearing to review the application process. Supervisor Crane will try to attend.

- An invitation went out for an evening conference called "Sustainable Living Communities – Think Green for Golden Communities". It takes place on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Cornell Cooperative Extension through the Dutchess County Farm and Home Center in Millbrook. There will be featured speakers from AARP, Dutchess County Planning, a light buffet dinner and registration forms will be provided. It is sponsored by the County Executive and the Commissioner of Planning.

- The Dutchess County Association of Senior Citizens is sponsoring a celebration at the Holiday Inn in Fishkill on Friday, September 26, 2008 from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. with guest speaker New York Yankee Outfielder Johnny Blanchard. Tickets are \$175, which includes an open bar, gourmet buffet and an autograph from Johnny Blanchard.

- The Hardscrabble Community Association announced this year's Hardscrabble Day's festivities will be on September 20th. The day includes a Harvest Parade which will start at 4:00 p.m. Lineup starts at 3:00 p.m. at the Linden Avenue School. This year's focus is on Red Hook's agricultural history, the Dave Mason Band will perform at 5:30 p.m. and a High School Football game and fireworks will follow.

- The air quality study at the Highway Garage will begin at 6:00 a.m. on August 20, 2008.

- Supervisor Crane referred to communication between Jonathan Becker, Bard College and the Dutchess County Election Commissioners requesting an additional voting machine at District 5. He received responses from Commissioners Fran Knapp and David Gamache. Supervisor Crane provided the communications for the Board's information.

Councilman Colgan heard that District 5 has the highest population of voters in the County in any single district. He is concerned about the upcoming election and would like the Town to communicate with the Election Commissioners to encourage them to add a second voting machine.

Supervisor Crane read a section of a response from Election Commissioner Gamache explaining that the number of machines for each election district in the County will be reviewed and determined at a date close to the November general election. Please be assured that every election district in the County will have an adequate number of voting machines to serve the voting public. After review if it is determined that Red Hook Election District #5 needs an additional voting machine please be assured that he will recommend that an additional voting machine be provided.

Councilwoman Strawinski said she heard that the lever machines could only accommodate up to 999 votes. She asked what happens after that.

Councilman Colgan wants to go on record to ask that the Board of Elections add another voting machine.

Supervisor Crane will get more information from both Election Commissioners regarding the actual numbers before sending anything to them.

- Supervisor Crane referred to a letter from James Napoli to Keith Lore regarding Anderson Commons. She will provide copies of the letter for the Board.

- There is one more farm in Red Hook included in the Agricultural District. That is the 46 acre Sieverding Farm.

- Supervisor Crane referred to a copy of the Town Law of the State of New York of the Red Hook Preservation Fund as it appears in its entirety. The Community Preservation Fund Committee met last Thursday night and this is one of the things they are wrestling with. They are putting together a plan to recommend to the Board how to use the funds the Town is collecting. To date we have collected \$242,120.00 which does not include July.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Keeling reported that Nancy Guski was very impressed with the Cornell Workshop she attended.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to adjourn to Attorney/Client Session at 9:02 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman Latimer, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to close Attorney/Client Session.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk