

**TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**October 18, 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 9:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisor Sue Crane  
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski  
Councilman Harry Colgan  
Town Clerk Sue McCann  
Absent: Councilman James Ross  
Councilman Robert Latimer  
Also Present: Budget Officer Rose Rider

Supervisor Crane began to review Business Manager Deb Mark's updates regarding the proposed 2009 budget. They began with issues of the two Justice Clerks, and Assessors request for full time staff. It was suggested a \$1.00 an hour increase plus 4%. Councilman Colgan said he felt that is acceptable.

Town Justice Jonah Triebwasser thanked the Board for the increase for the Clerks. He explained that their case load is increasing and he and Judge Martin most likely will be asking that the Board consider additional hours for the Clerks in the next year.

Councilman Colgan explained that there is concern regarding salaries. The hours would put them beyond part time and the medical benefits will cause a rocketing expense. He said he is being fiscally conservative.

Supervisor Crane asked if Judge Triebwasser has had a response to the grant he applied for.

Judge Triebwasser explained that they did acknowledge receipt of it, and their decisions on the grant will be sometime after Election Day.

Supervisor Crane referred to the Assessor's request. She asked the Board's opinion.

Councilman Colgan is concerned about the same issue of increased hours causing increased cost because of benefits.

The Board discussed making the same offer made for the Justice Clerks. They feel the Town just can't afford increasing their hours this year.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if it was discussed with the Assessor to have an additional part time employee to answer phones, take messages, etc.

Supervisor Crane answered that it didn't seem to the Assessor to be a practical solution to the problem. His concern was training someone will take an incredible amount of time. The Board supported a \$1.00 hour increase plus 4%, but no increased hours at this time.

Councilwoman Strawinski discussed waiving the Deputy Supervisor salary additionally would be willing to waive her 4% increase as Councilwoman.

The Board discussed the Dog Control salary. They would like a monthly report from the Dog Control Officer. Supervisor Crane will look for the report form and if she can't find it she'll make one up.

The Board discussed various options of the Dog Control salary line and then decided to leave that line as is.

Town Clerk Sue McCann offered to have a standard form for him to fill out monthly then she could make sure that he got it to her before the committee report meeting.

As requested by the Town Board Town Clerk Sue McCann told the Board that she did some research on the Trailer Park fees. Milan and Clinton have no trailer parks, Hyde Park charges a \$250 yearly fee and Rhinebeck charges \$100 per year per park. If the Board decides to increase

the fees, Town Clerk McCann suggested sending a letter to the owners advising them the fees will be increased before the permits are sent out.

Supervisor Crane is willing to send a letter to the trailer park owners explaining that we investigated trailer parks in the area, the \$15 fee has gone unnoticed for years and should be brought up to the rate typical throughout the County. She will discuss some of the trailer park issues with the Assessor.

The Board continued reviewing the Budget with the General A Fund, and then moved on to the DB Fund. They discussed the Highway reserve fund and transfers.

Supervisor Crane continued with the B Fund. She explained that the Building Inspector's vehicle no longer works. They received costs for pick-up trucks. One was \$15,995 for a used one (2004 Dodge Ram 2500) and a State contract bid for a 2009 Ford 150, the quote was for \$19,382. The Board discussed paying for a vehicle for the Building Inspectors.

Councilman Colgan feels going with the State contract bid for a newer truck makes more sense.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if they really need a bigger truck.

Councilman Colgan said they need a 4X4 vehicle for the times they go to construction sites. A 4X4 car would cost more.

Councilwoman Strawinski would like to know what Councilman Ross and Councilman Latimer have to say regarding this issue.

Supervisor Crane will talk to Business Manager Deb Marks and bring it to the Board at the October 22nd meeting.

Supervisor Crane brought to the Board's attention, the Sheriff /Red Hook police lines. Last year the Red Hook Police came to the Board with a higher budget. The budget reflects an anticipated increase.

The Board continued reviewing the budget.

Supervisor Crane informed the Board that people are dumping garbage at the recycling center during off hours. Last Saturday five yards of garbage were found dumped which cost the Town \$75 to remove. It was suggested to close off the road with a chain to keep cars out of the area. Our insurance agent said chaining it should not cause any problems.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Crane, Strawinski, Colgan
	Nays	0	
	Absent	2	Ross, Latimer

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk

