

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

November 10, 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.

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

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

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

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor Crane explained that the Supervisors report will be presented at the November 18th meeting. She told the Board that she wanted to review the budget adjustments as they relate to the 2008 budget. The adjustments were read as follows: Increase in revenues - \$9,000 as a result of Justice Court Forfeit Bail; Reduce appropriations: Summer recreation program -\$2,500 Increase of appropriations: Justice Court General - \$3,000; Retirement Fund - \$3,586; Recreation Park - \$2,500; Total increase in appropriations - \$9, 086. Offset to the Fund Balance – debits of \$11,500 and credits of \$11,500. In the General B Fund: Increase in appropriations: Retirement Fund -\$364 and the offset is to the appropriated fund balance. In the Highway DB Fund: Increase in revenue - \$10,000 trans-services from other governments (money we received from other governments for our shared services, Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli). Reduce appropriations: Retirement Fund- \$2,850; Increase appropriations - \$5,000 for diesel and \$2,000 for gasoline. Increase in reduction of the Fund Balance - \$12,850.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to approve the adjustments.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Red Hook will be observing Veterans Day remembrance tomorrow night, November 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Park in the Village of Red Hook. All are welcome to attend to honor our veterans.

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009 BUDGET

Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had any concerns, additions, corrections, or comments on the budget.

Councilman Colgan referred to a letter received from the County regarding their intent to transfer quite a substantial cost to the Town. He finds it quite upsetting that here we are almost finished with the budget and an unknown rather substantial figure transferring the cost of Dutchess County police coverage and the cost of running elections might be charged to us. The letter says it is a savings to the County but he feels it is an irresponsible strategy.

Supervisor Crane said unfortunately, as far as she can tell, it is out of our hands. The County Legislature will be dealing with this. They have to approve any budget and her sense is, from everyone she talked to, that the budget adjustments will not be forwarded to the local communities, but anything can happen. She agrees with Councilman Colgan that we are not prepared for those costs. We need to move ahead with the budget as it exists and trust that the legislature will deal with those suggestions as appropriate.

Councilwoman Strawinski had a question regarding an increase in the General B Fund of \$20,000.

Supervisor Crane responded that was for a truck for the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officers.

Supervisor Crane asked if the Board wanted to leave the Public Hearing open until the November 18th meeting. She prefers to accept the budget as proposed and move forward.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the Workman's Compensation line in the SF Fire Fund.

Supervisor Crane explained that was an estimate, we haven't negotiated the fire contract yet. She asked if Councilman Colgan had any news from Tivoli regarding the fire contract.

Councilman Latimer said he was at the Fire House and they still haven't gotten back to him about approving it.

Councilman Colgan spoke to Tivoli Mayor Tom Cordier and he might have an answer in terms of detail tomorrow.

The Board agreed there was no reason to leave the Public Hearing open.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to close the Public Hearing on the 2009 budget.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to adopt the 2009 budget as presented.

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

Supervisor Crane asked the Board to consider the following items for future budgets: New hires paying 10% of the health insurance premiums and the \$15.00 per park trailer park permit fee. Some Towns charge up to \$150. She said this is revenue the Town should consider and asked the Board to think about raising this fee in some fair way. She referred to a memo from CAC Chair Brenda Cagle who asked the Board to consider a \$5,000 commitment to a biodiversity study that would be engaged concurrently with the Town of Milan so that all of Northern Dutchess would be involved in habitat mapping. Supervisor Crane spoke with Milan's Town Supervisor who indicated they did not have the funding available for this year. The CAC has some money in their budget and would be willing to contribute some of the funds from their line if the Town is interested in doing this. Decisions do not have to be made tonight, but she brought it to the Boards attention for their consideration.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BID OPENING

Town Clerk Sue McCann opened the bids for 2009 Materials & Services, 2009 Hot Mix Asphalt and 2009 Washed 1/4" Gravel. Supervisor Crane read each bid publicly. Bid information is available at the Town Clerk's Office.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to refer the 2009 bids to Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for them to evaluate and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

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

SIDEWALK BID OPENING

Supervisor Crane explained that we received a Community Develop Block Grant for 2008 for sidewalks to extend from Old Farm Road to Rokeby Road. Town Clerk Sue McCann opened the bids which were read by Supervisor Crane. The bids will be referred to the Town Engineer and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to be evaluated. The following bids were announced:

AW Coon and Sons, Inc. - \$104, 300
B & K Excavation, Pleasant Valley - \$96,100
J. Mullen & Sons, Saugerties - \$130, 069
Arold Construction, Kingston - \$101,000

Blacktop Maintenance Corporation, Poughkeepsie – \$185,861
DiCorcia Masons Contractors Inc., Hyde Park - \$119,995
Marquise Construction & Development Corp., Thornwood, NY - \$111,900
Sun Up Enterprises, Inc., Wappingers Falls - \$155,600

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to forward the bids to Town Engineer Dan Wheeler & Associates and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for their review and recommendation.

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

PROPOSAL FOR ROAD NAMING

Supervisor Crane referred to information regarding a road that has been developed by Frank and Catherine Vosburgh requesting that it be named Madison Lane.

RESOLUTION 2008 # 64

RE: NAMING A NEW ROAD THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY FRANK AND CATHERINE VOSBURGH WHO REQUESTED IT BE NAMED MADISON LANE

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

Copy Attached

ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Crane explained that Jeff Ackerly's term expired in September 2008. He was appointed last year to fill an unexpired term of an Assessment Review Board member who passed away, and he is willing to continue to serve a five year term.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Jeff Ackerly as a member of the Board of Assessment term to expire September 30, 2013.

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

SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A LOCAL LAW REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR COLD WAR VETERANS

Supervisor Crane referred to a packet regarding the Local Law to amend Chapter 126 entitled – "Taxation" to add a new Article IV regarding exemption from real property taxes for Cold War veterans.

RESOLUTION 2008 # 65

RE: ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NO. 9 (PROPOSED) OF 2008, AMENDING CHAPTER 126 ENTITLED "TAXATION" TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE IV REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR COLD WAR VETERANS.

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to establish December 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. for the Public Hearing.

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

Copy Attached

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES LOCAL LAW

Supervisor Crane explained that the Board left the Public Hearing open regarding the Accessory Structures Local Law to solicit comments in particular from the Zoning Review Committee. We did receive a comment from them that a revision to Section 2 should say "... and 11 feet in height measured from peak to final grade".

Councilman Ross asked Robert McKeon, ZRC member, why the ZRC chose peak rather than mid-gable. In our zoning for homes it always says mid-gable.

Robert McKeon responded that he wasn't part of that specific discussion.

John Douglas, ZRC member, explained that Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole went to Bay Horse in Milan and measured sheds. That was the average height so that's what the ZRC chose.

Councilman Ross feels it is a good idea to have a height restriction. He would rather see it say mid-gable to be consistent with the rest of our zoning.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board if they can agree to "mid-gable" instead of "peak". The Board agreed to change the wording in the ZRC's recommendation.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the accessory structures local law.

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

RESOLUTION 2008 # 66

RE: AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION – TOWN OF RED HOOK ZONING AMENDMENTS FOR ACCESSORY STRUCTURE SETBACKS

On a motion of Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, seconded by Councilman James Ross, moved to authorize the filing of Negative Declaration.

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

Copy Attached

RESOLUTION 2008 # 67

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 8 (PROPOSED) OF 2008, AMENDING CHAPTER 143, ENTITLED "ZONING" REGARDING SETBACKS FOR ACCESSORY STRUCTURES.

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

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

Copy Attached

WINTERFEST

Supervisor Crane introduced the representatives of Winterfest.

Melissa Ottman and Kim Gomez are part of a committee of five who have been running the Winterfest for three years. Last year the Town sponsored children's events for the day and they are asking for the Town's help again.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to provide \$1,000 for Winterfest.

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

Supervisor Crane thanked them for coming and for their work on the festival for the children.

HIGHWAY GARAGE

Supervisor Crane referred to a Full Environmental Assessment Form regarding the Highway Garage.

Attorney Chale presented packets that include the full EAF prepared by Mr. Ray Jurkowski of Morris Associates. He's prepared Part 1 that identifies the project and reviews details. Because

this is a project where we are both undertaking the project and reviewing the project, he prepared a draft Part 2 for the Board's review in an attempt to address issues that are raised. Mr. Jurkowski also prepared, at our request, a draft Part 3 to address some of the issues that review raised. That EAF identifies this as an unlisted action and identifies the Town Board as the lead agency.

RESOLUTION 2008 #68

RE: ESTABLISHING INTENT TO ACT AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE TOWN OF RED HOOK HIGHWAY GARAGE.

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman James Ross, moved to declare the Town of Red Hook the lead agency for the Highway Garage project.

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane suggested having Ray Jurkowski of Morris Associates come to the November 18, 2008 meeting.

Attorney Chale explained that if the Board wants to go further with the process, there is another resolution asking to establish a Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION 2008 #69

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE PROJECT.

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilman Robert Latimer, moved to hold a Public Hearing on December 2, 2008 at 7:45 p.m.

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

Copy Attached

Councilwoman Strawinski asked that in the event we did some shared services with the State or the Village if that affects the lead agency status at all.

Attorney Chale explained that it would not.

Supervisor Crane told the Board that Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand wrote to Mr. Mike Temple, Resident Engineer of the NYS DOT Region 8, describing the need for sand and salt storage and so on, soliciting interest for shared services. As soon as Supervisor Crane receives a response, she will make sure the Board gets it. A copy of the letter was provided to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Department – Chairman Doug Strawinski reported that the baseball field was repaired. They had a load of infield mix brought in to get ready for Spring. The skate rink was painted by two young fellows who were caught spraying graffiti on it. We have a new scoreboard which they started the wiring for. Williams Lumber has been giving them good deals on materials. All County Electrical Inspection services did the inspection. They are in the final cleanup stages and the restrooms will be closed this week. The new recreation land has been brush hogged and he invited everyone to go out and take a look at the property. Their plan is to go out for an RFP so they can get the property designed and apply for a grant.

Supervisor Crane thanked Doug Strawinski and asked him to convey the Board's thanks to the committee. The Recreation Park looks great.

Senior Services Committee – Chairman Andrew Kehr reported the committee has been very busy over the last couple of months. In regard to the joint Red Hook/Rhinebeck Senior Expo, there were about 29 vendors who represented different facets of information regarding seniors.

Panel discussions and speakers addressed topics such as home care strategies, Alzheimer's disease and reverse mortgages which were well received. The joint collaboration proved to have many benefits. The First publication of the Red Hook Senior News was distributed at the Senior Expo. Since the initial distribution follow up modifications have been made to the newsletter which will be in the Winter 2008- 2009 issue. The Winter issue will be available on the Town's website, and in strategic locations in the community. Any new information impacting seniors can be added. He thanked all of the committee members for their collaborative work and wonderful outcomes in their recent projects.

Ag & Open Space Committee – Chairman Robert McKeon reported that they are in the process of finalizing the Winter Farm Market which will be the second Saturday of the month and will be located at the Elmendorph. They are continuing their work on the West Kerley Corners Farmland Preservation project and are looking for private funding to help protect the Bulkeley Farm.

St. Margaret's – Supervisor Crane referred to a letter that was drafted to Martin Foods regarding St. Margaret's. We hoped to get a \$450,000 grant for restoration of St Margaret's and that grant hinged upon the value of our contribution, most of which we counted on the appraised value of St. Margaret's equaling that amount. When the actual appraisals came in from the individual appraisers they were significantly lower than that \$450,000 which puts that amount of money in jeopardy. Part of the reason the appraisals were as low as they were was because the house has a restrictive covenant on it which prevents it from being used for a number of purposes. It was clear at the time that Martins Foods was concerned about competing retail enterprise being set up there. Paula Schoonmaker crafted a letter explaining to Martin Foods how this restrictive covenant has hampered the Town's ability to raise the funds to restore the property and asked them to consider an amendment to the restrictive covenant. We are hoping they will agree to lift that restriction and narrow it to strictly retail and thereby change the appraised value of that property to be closer in line for the appraised value of the house being somewhere close to the \$450,000. We are waiting for Martin Foods response.

Supervisor Crane thanked Attorney Chale for her work on the amendment to the restricted covenant and Paula Schoonmaker for her efforts regarding St. Margaret's Home and the letter to Martin Foods.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane received a letter from the Supervisor of the Town of Milan about the possibility of an inter-municipal agreement for shared services. She is not quite sure how it would work and is waiting to hear from Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand. She asked Attorney Chale to look at this and the Board to think about whether this is something the Town would want to enter into. Supervisor Crane said the letter also went to the Supervisors of Rhinebeck and Pine Plains. Hopefully they too will forward it to their Highway Superintendents to see if it makes sense.

Councilman Colgan would like to establish a better working relationship with the Villages.

Supervisor Crane received a letter from Bryan Cranna, Deputy Mayor of the Village of Red Hook who talked about a Public Forum that was held on October 28 regarding drug awareness. He was disappointed and surprised with a reaction regarding the forum by a question of this being the kind of image we want to portray in Tivoli. Mr. Cranna said we would be doing a disservice to the residents and families of Tivoli if they did not address this issue.

Councilman Colgan explained that it was he who made that comment because he feels strongly that this is a police concern and that it is not in the best interest of the community to expect the citizens to be involved. Tivoli is a great place and has no more than a minimal problem with things such as drugs.

Councilman Latimer said that Councilman Colgan might find himself in the minority if he thinks that the citizens are not going to take a stand on educating their youth on the prevention and dangers associated with drug use.

Councilman Colgan said educating youth can be done in the high school.

Councilman Latimer doesn't think the responsibility stops with the schools. He respectfully disagrees that drug use in Red Hook and Tivoli is nominal. He thinks we all need to be aware and take responsibility for education. It can't just rest with law enforcement.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board if they think we are doing too little, too much or just right in this regard. If left to the schools it was short circuiting the parents need to know. That is an issue a public forum can serve as an opportunity to reach parents. She's asked her own grandchildren about drug use in their school systems and they answered there were "tons" of drug use.

Councilwoman Strawinski suggested asking the Student Assistance Counselors at the High School and Middle Schools what they are doing and if perhaps we can do something with them collaboratively.

WATER DISTRICT REPORT

Councilman Ross read the Water District Report prepared by Water Department Chairman Hank VanParys. In October we pumped more gallons than normal because there was a problem with the control switch that they are presently working on. They are switching the pump control to low pressure sensing at the pump house. The wells are at the same levels, the tests performed excellently, and the filters are working fine. The trees and vines have been cut around the pump house. They did some hydrant flushing last Friday.

Councilman Ross brought up the contractual obligations with Community Energy. He feels the Board should opt out of it because he doesn't think it is saving us money.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Keeling asked if the Town can add a proviso to the \$1,000 for the Winterfest to have an ADA Coordinator making sure there are things like parking signs, large print, Braille, sign language interpreters, etc.

Robert McKeon expressed his condolences to the Hardeman family. He spoke about the Farm to Food Program for local food pantries. This week they are raising funds to provide 40 turkeys by the 23rd of the month to one of the food pantries. The program is "Harvest To Home" and they would appreciate any contributions.

John Douglas questioned the \$15.00 trailer park licensing fee.

Supervisor Crane said it was instituted long ago and she thinks it is a nominal fee for fire coverage and police coverage. She doesn't know what else it would cover.

John Douglas thinks the Board should consider rescinding the fee.

Supervisor Crane appreciates his recommendations. It is a different way of looking at it.

Councilman Ross said it is a good point because they also pay a Health Department annual fee as well.

John Douglas thinks the proposal of new employees contributing 10% is a good way of tackling a long term problem.

Supervisor Crane said the other way to offset some of those costs are to look at the variety of plans that are available. Our own MVP has a variety of plans. On December 2, 2008 we are having a presentation by an MVP representative to talk about the options available.

John Douglas said the Cairo School District agreed to have all employees pay 10%. Another issue is the drug issue. Years ago the Sheriff's Department was approached by the School District to bring dogs to do a drug search. For two weeks straight over the PA system, it was announced they would be doing a drug search. Also several years ago at Bard College they had over 56 ambulance calls in one weekend and had to take the kids to hospitals out of the area. He thinks Councilman Colgan needs to reevaluate his position on drugs.

Councilman Colgan would be very upset with drug sniffing dogs walking through the public schools.

Andrew Kehr explained that substance abuse transcends all age levels, not just the High School and Middle School levels. He asked the Board to expand their spectrum of views to all levels.

Councilwoman Strawinski explained that it is just that the High School and Middle Schools have Student Assistance Counselors.

Andrew Kehr suggested she speak to the principals or other officials in the schools. Substance abuse doesn't recognize age. He doesn't think anyplace is immune to these types of issues.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Latimer, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk