

**RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**December 2, 2008**

**PUBLIC HEARING – Veteran’s Cold War Exemption**

A Public Hearing 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  
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski  
Councilman Harry Colgan  
Councilman Robert Latimer  
Town Clerk Sue McCann  
Absent: Councilman James Ross  
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Before opening the Public Hearing, Supervisor Crane announced that the Winterfest Festivities in the Village of Red Hook will take place on December 6 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. There will be pancakes with Santa at the Masonic Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., children’s entertainment at Village Hall at 2:00 p.m., a magic show at the Masonic Hall at 3:00 p.m. and tree lighting at Memorial Park at 4:30 p.m. There will be holiday caroling at the Elmendorf Inn from 1:00 to 5:00 also hayrides through the Village.

**PUBLIC HEARING – VETERAN’S COLD WAR EXEMPTION**

Supervisor Crane read the notice of Public Hearing regarding a proposed Local Law amending Chapter 126 entitled “Taxation” of the Code of Red Hook to add a new Article 4 regarding exemptions from real property taxes for Cold War veterans. She explained that the Board is considering amending the taxation chapter of local law to add a new article regarding veterans who served in the Cold War who served in active duty any time during the period of September 12, 1945 through December 26, 1991. She stressed that this is applicable only to Town tax, not to be confused with other taxes. It is a 15% exemption on Town taxes. If the Board decides to pass this law there will be a form for it that will be available at the Town Assessor’s Office. It will exempt veterans from 15% of the value of their Town taxes only and it is a maximum of \$12,000. She asked if there were any comments from anyone in the audience.

Linda Keeling is in support of the veterans for their service.

Rosemarie Zengen, Save Our Town Committee, agrees and thinks the men and women who served for us deserve the best treatment we can offer.

Supervisor Crane asked if any of the Board members had any comments.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks there was an added benefit for anyone in the service who was somehow disabled during that time.

Supervisor Crane explained that there is an additional exemption available to them if they can verify that they were disabled during their service in the Cold War.

Councilman Colgan said it is important to recognize our veterans this way and give a small acknowledgement for their service.

There were no further comments.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to close the Public Hearing.

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

Supervisor Crane read the resolution regarding the exemption from real property taxes for Cold War veterans.

**RESOLUTION 2008 # 70**

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. 9 (Proposed) OF 2008, TO AMEND 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 accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane explained that there is a deadline for applications and they must be returned to the Assessor's Office by March 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk