

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 3, 2009

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: Councilman James Ross, Deputy Supervisor
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale (left at 8:40 p.m.)
Absent: Supervisor Sue Crane

Deputy Supervisor Jim Ross opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Deputy Supervisor Ross opened the meeting for a fifteen minute public comment period.

Dick Franklin - regarding the proposed public contract reform ordinance, contacted the ACLU and they were outraged that Supervisor Crane was not available for both that hearing and this meeting. They find that the proposed legislation is unconstitutional and would immediately be thrown out. The issue of the Town garage is coming up and if you are considering putting it on a superfund site you are in violation of OSHA. He will personally contact OSHA to make the appropriate inspections. He recommended that Councilman McKeon, who owns about 400 acres, donate twenty five of those four hundred acres for community gardening.

Phil Seymour— in regard to the Energy Star proposal it is not a good requirement for affordable housing. People at the lower end have enough trouble making money for closing costs and deposits. He's been building affordable housing in this area for over 47 years. It's the people who can afford larger homes that are automatically using Energy Star. For the lower end, it is just one more step to keep people from getting affordable housing.

Deputy Supervisor Ross told Mr. Seymour that a public hearing regarding Energy Star will be next week and he'd appreciate it if Mr. Seymour would attend.

Lisa Pullaro started by saying it is a pleasure to live in the Town of Red Hook. However, she does have some concerns about some of the comments and assertions made over the last couple of months. We have perceptions about clandestine meetings in back rooms and deals being made. There was a comment made in the last two months about Town employees perhaps using limousines to get around New York City while they were at a conference and that was unfounded. We had a Board member openly name a vendor as perhaps making a contribution and last week there was a comment about personal attacks. We have nameless constituents claiming that Board and committee people have had an unethical conflict of interest. From her perspective the anonymous have been growing by leaps and bounds in our Town. The picture that is painted is very bleak. We seem to have a number of unfounded assertions and comments thrown out to see if anything sticks. She thinks this is an affront to the good people who live and serve this community, many without compensation. We should celebrate the virtues of our small Town and accept that our Board members are our biggest advocates and ambassadors. A comment regarding a discussion regarding a ZBA Chair was made at the last meeting. We need to be realistic. This is a small Town and people know each other. That is a good thing and is what makes us part of a community and as such there will be conflicts that arise. Members of this Board and previous Boards have seen fit to appoint Board chairs and committee members with attachments to organizations such as Winnakee Land Trust, Greenplan and Scenic Hudson. We expect and rely upon them to recuse themselves if there is an issue related in any way to their employer. Why are we setting a different standard for the Chair of the ZBA? Last week a comment was made that constituents indicated that the Chair had a conflict of interest since he is an engineer. Well, we owe it to the people that donate their time and talents to our Town to exercise due diligence in substantiating or refuting comments like that. If you are not willing or able to be objective about an appointment due to a personal issue or prejudice, do the right thing and recuse yourself or be honest about it. Please do not rely on innuendo and anonymous perceptions to justify a decision. That is a disservice to every volunteer in this Town. In

relationship to the first item on the agenda, in her disclosure she wanted to inform the Board that she has submitted a letter to the Ethics Board asking if it is appropriate for a Board member who is an employee at Bard College to participate in discussion and decision making regarding the relocation or the establishment of a polling place at her place of employment as that could be construed as a benefit to the employer and to the students whose tuition directly or indirectly supports salary and benefits for that Board member. She respectfully requested that the Board postpone the discussion about the election polling place pending the discussion of the Ethics Board which is to take place on March 20th.

There were no more public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Strawinski announced a Taste Budds Chocolate tasting fundraiser for the Red Hook PTA, on Friday March 6th. There will also be a Special Education workshop on March 16th at Mill Road School.

Councilman McKeon announced that the Red Church will hold a restoration fundraiser on March 22nd from 3 to 5:00 p.m. at the Village Hall in Tivoli.

ELECTION POLLING PLACE

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that he was taken aback by this. It is the first time he is hearing about it. He asked whoever put the resolution forward to explain it.

Councilman Colgan said that he would explain it.

Lisa Pullaro doesn't know if Councilwoman Strawinski is prepared to recuse herself so she requested that the Board table this agenda item until after the Ethics Board meets on March 20th.

Councilwoman Strawinski responded no.

Councilman Colgan responded that he is not willing to table the agenda item. He thinks the Board should move on with this and he sees no reason to withdraw discussion at this point. He wants to explain the background of this.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked why, since someone raised an ethical question and the Ethics Board hasn't weighed in, the urgent need to discuss this especially in the absence of our Supervisor.

Councilman Colgan explained this has to be done this month or no action can be taken. It must be done in the month of March and there are two meetings left.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked then why not waits until our Supervisor is here.

Councilman Colgan felt very comfortable about explaining the logic behind the concern. The situation at District 5 has gotten worse.

Deputy Supervisor stated that obviously the three of you were aware of this. He wasn't aware of this until he received a fax of the proposed agenda that day. He had no idea that this issue was being researched or talked about.

Councilman Colgan said we established a revised procedure for agenda items. We agreed that any member of the Board can add items to the agenda by Friday of the previous week and the Supervisor would publish it on Monday. These agenda items were in her office on Friday.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said she was on vacation.

Councilman Colgan responded he knew.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that Supervisor Crane's secretary is part time. If this was delivered on Friday, there is no way it could be typed up and made into an agenda on time. It was faxed to him at 1:27 p.m. that afternoon. He said that obviously this was discussed among themselves and he had no idea. It was briefly brought up over a year ago and until this afternoon

he had no idea that they've been researching this. He doesn't know if the Supervisor was aware of this.

Councilman Colgan is not sure.

Councilwoman Strawinski said this has been discussed and even at the debate at Bard College the Supervisor agreed that if the numbers were indicative of it that we should move forward with relocating the polling station in District 5.

Deputy Supervisor Ross told her that none of us will speak for the Supervisor tonight. She can speak for herself. A legitimate ethical question has been raised by the public. No one can deny that is not a legitimate question. Out of respect for our Supervisor when asking to authorize the County to relocate a polling place, it only makes sense that we should have a complete Board to discuss this in a reasonable manner, then weigh in on this resolution that whichever one of you put it up.

Councilman McKeon said this issue has been raised several times. Not conducting some kind of business because one of us is not in attendance makes a limited opportunity for us. We can't stop because one of us can't be here.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said that something as important as this, just out of common courtesy to your fellow Board members should be brought up ahead of time and discussed. If one of us can't be there, fine, but it would be nice to know that something that weighs in as heavy as this is to be proposed in resolution form.

Councilman McKeon said we need to continue to conduct business and would like Councilman Colgan to explain.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said the problem is the ethical question being raised by the public. If the Board of Ethics feels there is an ethical question then Councilwoman Strawinski should not even be in on the discussion.

Councilman McKeon responded that is understandable but there is a time constraint. We cannot stop business.

Councilman Colgan said business of the Board can be conducted by five members of the Board without the intrusion of the public. The Board is run by majority. The Supervisor's roll is no different than anyone else's with the exception of running the meeting. To take instruction from the public, the ethical question was brought up by the public, not by us. We have no official notification.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained to Councilman Colgan that we had no official notification that this was going to be on the agenda. So Friday afternoon you decided to put this on the agenda. You and Councilwoman Strawinski didn't talk about this in the last few weeks? If you did you didn't feel it necessary to bring it to the rest of the Board? This is a very important ethical question.

Councilman McKeon said he doesn't see why the Board can't proceed and he isn't going to stop.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that if this is an ethical question, Councilwoman Strawinski should recuse herself from the discussion.

Councilman McKeon responded that if she believes that is an issue she can go ahead and do that. Councilwoman Strawinski stated that she doesn't feel the need to recuse herself for Councilman Colgan to just read the resolution.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked Town Clerk Sue McCann to enter into the minutes that Councilwoman Strawinski, and Councilmen Colgan and McKeon don't think there is an ethical question and they are more than comfortable to proceed with Councilwoman Strawinski present.

Councilman Colgan explained there is a problem at polling station number 5. It is based on the number of people and within that district there are some 1500 people. More than double many of

the other districts. It is a very small location and the desirable thing to do would be redistrict and make that district smaller with an equal number of voters to the other districts. Unfortunately, according to the rules of the State Board of Elections, that can't be done until 2012. The only other alternative is to move the polling place where it can be easily accessed by a large number of people. There will be more equipment in the upcoming Fall election than there is today and for that reason he proposed to move it to a much larger venue that provides easy access for all voters involved in that district. The only other place they can find is at Bard College. Many people are upset and that is not unusual. It is a public place, it is a public venue and it would serve all of the people of that district appropriately. That is why he believes we should ask the board of Elections to change the polling place from St. Johns Church to the multi-purpose room at Bard College.

Councilman McKeon looked into this and Councilman Colgan is right about the law. We don't want our voters to wait to get into a polling station. New York State is under court order to proceed with new machines. They will require voting privacy booths that he understands will need more room. The polling site in Barrytown is tiny and can't accommodate anything further. This probably should have been dealt with in the past. He wants to make sure we have a convenient, safe place for all of our residents. Now that we have a senior housing development in our community he would like to see a convenient opportunity for them to vote.

Councilman Colgan added that we don't have the power to change this. All we have is the power to ask the Board of Elections in Poughkeepsie to look into and to use their best judgment in making a change such as this.

Councilwoman Strawinski has no comments.

Deputy Supervisor Ross commented that the District 5 polling station has always been at St. John's and has always been more than convenient for the seniors of which there are a number in that district. The only people it seems to inconvenience at this point are the students that live on the Bard campus and they have to be bussed there. He doesn't feel we should inconvenience the taxpaying citizens that live in that district to convenience a transient population in our township. He feels very strongly that it should stay. The district has grown in leaps and bounds just by the numbers of students that have bussed to the polling place because of their right to vote. He doesn't feel that we should rearrange or change our polling place to accommodate those and confuse a lot of the seniors who vote. He is strongly against the resolution and is strongly against discussing this in the absence of our Supervisor as well. He will not read the resolution because he is strongly opposed to it so he asked the member who proposed it, Councilman Colgan, to read it.

Councilman Colgan read the proposed resolution.

Councilman McKeon added be it further resolved that the Town Clerk and the Supervisor shall be authorized and directed to immediately communicate this change to the Dutchess County Board of Elections.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman McKeon, moved to accept the resolution with Councilman McKeon's modifications to move district #5 from St. John's in Barrytown to the Bard campus.

Failed	Ayes	2	Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	1	Ross
	Abstain	1	Strawinski
	Absent	1	Crane

Deputy Supervisor Ross stated the motion did not carry.

Councilwoman Strawinski stated that it does carry. It's the majority vote of members present.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained it's a majority of the entire Board. You need three.

Councilman McKeon asked Councilman Colgan if he wanted to make another motion.

Deputy Supervisor Ross called for the next order of business.

HIGHWAY GARAGE

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if anyone had any information.

Councilman Colgan explained that he and Supervisor Crane met with Morris Associates. He shared a letter he received from Ray Jurkowski from Morris Associates about the reduced scope Highway Garage option. One of the possibilities they discussed with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand was the possibility of building a much smaller highway facility on the current site. It would only provide for crew quarters and the repair and maintenance of trucks with a couple of bays. The remainder of the trucks would mostly be stored in the current old building. The idea was to build something that would create a better working environment, create a first class maintenance facility and at the same time do it as some reasonable cost. They asked Morris to do a rendering of that and they estimated the cost at \$950,000. It would be on the current site and would be an incomplete solution to the problem. It was an attempt to address the money. He wants the public to be aware of it. About a week ago Councilman Colgan spent some time with a Chief Engineer of New York State and discussed the possibility of working cooperatively with them and he's had discussion with both Villages who want a cooperative highway operation for economic reasons. The highway facilities the Villages have are very expensive. We have four highway facilities in this Town including the States. The State said they are willing to cooperate with us and he hopes to be able to put a small task force to address these issues and come up with a strategy to save everybody money. It is an issue that we have to address.

Deputy Supervisor Ross likes the layout with the design for future expansion. It makes a lot of sense. It would be best to schedule a presentation when the Supervisor is available.

Councilman McKeon feels they are jumping ahead of the process. He asked who authorized the redesign of the facility.

Deputy Supervisor Ross responded that the Board members authorized the Supervisor, Councilman Colgan and Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand to meet with the engineer and discuss things. This is apparently what came of that. It is the first he's seen it as well.

Councilman McKeon knows he didn't authorize any more expenditure on a highway garage design. He wouldn't authorize any more. We've spent tens of thousands of dollars on engineers to go forward with a plan that doesn't have a prayer of passing with the community. He will not support building a highway garage just for the Town Highway Department. He will only consider supporting an effort that combines shared services with either one or both of the Villages. He again stated that he has not authorized any expenditures.

Deputy Supervisor Ross again explained that the Board authorized Supervisor Crane, Councilman Colgan, and Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand to meet with the engineer to discuss the layout.

Councilwoman Strawinski agreed that they should meet but if there were to be additional expenditures it should be approved by the majority of the Board.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said that apparently they met and came up with sketches. That is what Councilman Colgan presented us with.

Councilman Colgan explained that the first objective is to have the most streamlined structure with our highway facility. To do that we need to pursue everything possible including looking at a variety of designs including the daily operations of the highway and to pull it all together with some final approach to this thing. This is just one relatively minor step in that direction.

The Board continued discussion regarding this topic.

Councilman McKeon will not authorize any more expenditures.

Deputy Supervisor Ross will ask the Supervisor to put this item on the top of the agenda next time we meet. We'll have a full Board and we can discuss where we want to go with this letter that was generated from their meeting.

REORGANIZATION

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if the Board wanted to discuss more of the reorganization.

Councilwoman Strawinski received information from Town Clerk Sue McCann that she requested adding various committee and board members original appointment dates. She hasn't had a chance to look at all the numbers and absorb what it means. She thought we were going to wait for that discussion until the Supervisor was here.

Deputy Supervisor Ross thought so too, and was surprised to see it on the agenda.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. NY State law says the ZBA should be made up of three to five members. Why do we have seven?

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that our ZBA was always seven members, it started at seven as did our Planning Board. If you read our Town Law, a local law was passed to keep it at seven. The State used to be five or seven depending on the size of the Town and we always had seven. When the State said to be five they said we could keep it at seven, it was the Town's choice. Seven is a very manageable Board and you get differing opinions. It serves the public much better and at the time every member of the Board felt that way.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the alternates to the ZBA and Planning Board. There is a question about the attendance. We didn't include that requirement in our Local Law but the State law says, regarding the alternate members, the same things that apply to the regular members with regard to attendance and all the training does apply.

Attorney Chale stressed that the training applies.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that when we created the alternates we didn't require attendance. We hoped they would attend and be up to speed should they be asked to fill a quorum.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks we should revisit the issue of alternates for both Boards.

Attorney Chale asked what she meant by revisiting so she can understand the legal issues.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants to add the provisions that apply to the regular Board members.

Attorney Chale is asking if she is indicating that the alternate law to be revised so that a member can no longer be an alternate if they don't attend every single Board meeting.

Deputy Supervisor Ross suggested it just being a policy. It is something we should discuss, we should not amend our Local Law.

Councilman McKeon wants to revisit the whole alternate situation to begin with because it is not functioning very well. The alternates are becoming less interested because they don't have voting privileges.

Deputy Supervisor Ross stressed that it is the policy that we asked them to sit in and participate but could not vote unless they were needed to fill a quorum. If this Board wants to change that policy he doesn't have a problem with it but we should discuss it and send our recommendation to those Boards.

Councilman McKeon feels an attendance policy should be in place.

Deputy Supervisor Ross responded that we do have a policy in place and explained that it is up to the respective Chairs to let the Board know about their memberships and what they recommend.

Councilman McKeon disagrees, he thinks it is the Town Board's job to ensure the Boards are functioning the way they are designed to be functioning.

Deputy Supervisor Ross just received a copy of an e-mail forwarded to him by Town Clerk Sue McCann. Rob Tourtelot, Planning Board alternate, resigned so we'll need another alternate for the Planning Board.

Councilwoman Strawinski suggested going out for RFP's for professional services that do business with the Town. We received from for Attorneys, maybe get bids from Engineers, Software Consulting Companies and Planners such as Greenplan.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that historically we have done that with our Planners in the past. We've already done that with our attorney, we have Attorney Chale on hold this year because we haven't made a decision yet.

Councilwoman Strawinski requested copies of signed contracts from Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy that we have with these people we've been talking about. Do we have contracts with Morris Associates or Dan Wheeler?

Deputy Supervisor Ross knows we've had in the past as far as hourly agreements. Business Manager Deb Marks probably has copies of those agreements.

Councilman Colgan doesn't think we should appoint a Town Engineer but have a list of engineers willing to work for us with their rates, resumes, skill levels and specialties and select them on an as needed basis for the various projects that come up.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained we have done that in the past unless there is a conflict. We have an agreed hourly wage. If Councilman Colgan thinks that is more efficient, we can always look at that.

Councilman Colgan said he asked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy about it and he thinks it could be workable from his point of view.

Deputy Supervisor Ross thinks the Town Board should decide.

Councilman Colgan agrees. He would be inclined to use different people for different projects and thinks it is good business.

Councilman McKeon thinks we should follow through with RFP's frequently, not necessarily every year. He would support an effort to go out to bid right now.

Deputy Supervisor Ross answered that we've done that for our attorney and we are still in limbo. Do you want to do the same thing right now for the Planners and the Engineers?

Councilman McKeon thinks we should consider it. He would like to go out for an RFP on an Engineer.

Councilman Colgan doesn't want to make it formal tonight.

Deputy Supervisor Ross will ask that the Supervisor put on the agenda the idea of a new RFP for our Engineering and Planning for the Board to discuss.

PLANNING BOARD SOFTWARE

Deputy Supervisor Ross referred to a letter from Software Consulting Associates, Inc.

Councilman McKeon told the Board that Planning Board Chair Christine Kane planned on coming to the night's meeting around 9:00 p.m. She wanted to explain the benefits to the Planning Board for having the software and asked if we could do committee reports. He asked if the Board wanted to consider that.

Mr. Jay Greenblatt of Software Consulting was present at the meeting.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if Mr. Greenblatt would explain his letter and when Christine Kane shows up she can bring the Board up to speed with their perspective.

Mr. Greenblatt explained that the Town has the main portion of the software for the Building/Code Enforcement and as an add on it meshes in with the building software to make it unified for the Planning Board and the ZBA. The idea was because it is our Town and we've been in this for 26 years, that we would waive the purchase price and give the Town the software so they would have the complete sweep. The labor, which is installation, training and the service would have to be paid. It is roughly an \$8,000 piece of software that local Towns have purchased. They feel it is a way to give back to the Town. It would allow the Planning Board and ZBA to track in very great detail all the steps they go through as they deliberate on an application before them. It would give the Town a history so precedent can be looked at. The Town would pay only for the installation and training. An estimate of cost is \$2,700 for installation and training, next September they would add approximately \$1700 a year to what the Town pays for maintenance which included the normal increase on the Building Dept. software then and additional for the Planning and Zoning. A data base can be built. The total for maintenance is roughly \$2500.

Councilman Colgan wanted to clarify that the installation and training is a onetime fee of \$2,700. The maintenance is annual and that is \$1,200; in addition to the Planning and Zoning.

Jay Greenblatt said the predecessor to what the Town has now was purchased about 13 years ago. About 4 years ago it was upgraded to the Muncity program which is their latest version of the Building Department. The Building Department has been using it for several years. He explained how the software ties the departments together.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked Mr. Greenblatt if he could stay until the Planning Board Chair got to the meeting in order for him to answer any of her questions.

REPORTS

Senior Services Committee – Deputy Supervisor Ross read the report submitted by Andrew Kehr. They are in the beginning of the development of a mission statement for the Senior Services Committee to be posted on the committee's link on the Town's website. The 1st Annual Senior Citizens Snowflake Tea at the Mill Road Primary School Cafeteria on Feb. 11, 2009 was a big success. Over 100 senior citizens attended the event. The Read Aloud Program at the Mill Road Primary School has received several senior citizen volunteers from the community. This project is still a work in progress in conjunction with Mrs. Donna Gaynor, Mill Road K-2 principal. Attempts will be made to post the Read Aloud Program information on the link for the Senior Services Committee on the Town's website. Plans are in the incipient stages for a food drive sponsored by the Senior Services Committee to benefit a local food pantry.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan read the report by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. There were 48 PO's issued in the amount of \$124,124.36. The largest, \$26,932.06 to International Salt Company for road salt. We are paying \$67.66 per ton under State Contract. We are evaluating the 11 RFP's received for design work for the Recreation Park Extension. John Kuhn, Doug Strawinski and Ted Kudzy are doing the preliminary reviews. He is obtaining estimates for various security measures for the Court room. Ted attended the Association of Towns conference and attended "The Legalities of Purchasing", a "Purchasing Workshop" and "Preventing Theft and Fraud" workshops among others.

CAC – Councilman McKeon read the report submitted by Chair Brenda Cagle dated 3/3/09. L.A. Middle School – water studies. Mary Pat Budd, Science teacher at the middle school has been doing water testing at five sites along the Sawkill for about 10 years. She and two of her students presented their findings at the last CAC meeting. The CAC will follow up on their findings. They commended Mary Pat and her classes for their stewardship of the Sawkill. CLEAN SWEEPNY is a DEC sponsored hazardous waste collection program for farmers, schools, professional applicators, marinas, etc. – not for the general public. Collection will be held in Hudson on April 6th. Pesticides from farmers are collected free of charge. Visit www.cleansweepny.org for more information. The CAC will send it to Dick Wambach for the website. Earth Day plans are ongoing for a celebration on April 25th and activities will be coordinated with the Town and Village Tree Committees. Some members will join the Tree Committee to meet with a representative from the Hudson River Estuary Program to look at

areas along the Sawkill that can benefit most from the riparian buffer tree planting program, “Trees for Tribes”. They continue to do outreach for the new proposed Energy Star law and thanked the Board for their support and also for their vote to renew their ICLEI membership. The next CAC meeting is on March 11th, at 7 p.m.

Deputy Supervisor Ross thought that they should look in the archives regarding the water testing they are doing. That was done for a number of years during the 70’s and would be interesting to compare. It was done in about 10 or 11 different spots along the Sawkill.

Greenway and Trails Committee – Chair Howie Callies reported that they had some communication with several members of the Milan community in regard to establishing connecting trails between the two towns. They will continue to investigate that possibility. On February 12th they met with Bard groups as well as two DEC officials regarding developing the Tivoli Bays Trail to encourage more bicycle riding between Tivoli and Bard College. It was a very informational meeting. They will proceed with more cleanup as the snow clears. Their next meeting is on March 5th at 7:30 p.m.

Building Department – Deputy Supervisor Ross read the building permit report from the Code Enforcement Officer. For the month of February there were six building permits issued. Two for alterations, one deck/porch, one miscellaneous, and two sheds.

Dog Control – Councilwoman Strawinski reported the Dog Control officer responded to three calls in the month of February. He was out at least five days patrolling. She thanked him because he responded to a call within an hour when a friend of hers had an altercation with a dog. He does respond quickly.

Councilwoman Strawinski reported that the Red Hook Schools will be closed for Spring Recess April 6 through April 13th.

Recreation Commission – Chair Doug Strawinski said they went over job descriptions for those who work at the park. They like to update them every two or three years and they’ll make sure the Board gets that information. Back in mid February they received 11 responses to the RFP for the master plan for the new park. They are still reviewing them. When they are finished with the review they will come back to the Board with their recommendation. They are ready for spring and plan on having the electric for the scoreboard for the first game which is in mid-April.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Deputy Supervisor Ross reported that the March meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be held April 8th.

Planning Board – Deputy Supervisor Ross reported that last night’s meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Councilman Colgan summarized a working group report. There is a scoping meeting on March 10th for the Centers and Greenspace Plan. They received a favorable response from an informal review from County Planning by Noela Hooper who thought favorably about the Centers and Greenspace zoning and made a few constructive suggestions that the committee is working with. The scenic roads issue is currently on the agenda of the group and there has been lengthy discussion about the sewer project. The County is fully involved with that along with the Environmental Facilities Corp. The State and the Department of Agriculture are working with all those involved to try to put together a program to finance this and make it work.

Budget Officer’s Report - Rose Rider reported that she attended the Association of Towns Training School. She found the classes extremely helpful and informative. The hand outs she received were very well done and will be useful. She reported on the financial toolboxes that are available. There were other very interesting and informative sessions that she attended.

Councilwoman Strawinski read Bard College press releases. Summerscape 2009 season information has been released. The Bard Music Festival will take place August 14th to 16th and the 21st to 23rd. There will be a bicentennial conference on Lincoln on March 13th. Bard students raised funds to develop humanitarian projects at home and abroad. All events are listed on the Bard College home page.

Deputy Supervisor Ross announced that the High School Girls Softball team is holding a fundraising steak dinner at the firehouse on Saturday, March 28 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. It is open to everyone.

The Board waited for Planning Board Chair Christine Kane to arrive at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if there were any comments while they were waiting for Christine Kane.

There were none.

The Board discussed the software program with Jay Greenblatt while waiting. It ties the Building Department, Planning and the ZBA. Easements and bonds can be tracked.

Charlie Laing from the Planning Board explained the key benefits are the efficiency and the ability to track. It will be more clear for the general public. As zoning becomes more complicated this program will be able to keep track. The Planning Board feels this is a good idea.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks this sounds like it will benefit both Boards.

Deputy Supervisor Ross thinks this is a good idea and is not opposed at all to spending the money. He would like to wait for our Supervisor so she is aware of it and ask Business Manager Deb Marks to transfer funds to pay for this. In addition we would have to increase our annual fee for service due in September.

Planning Board member Will LaBossier said there are approximately three days of training for the administrative staff.

Councilman McKeon thinks the software will be helpful and thinks the minor amount of money and the fact that they are a local business is important as well. He is comfortable moving forward with this.

Deputy Supervisor Ross thinks Supervisor Crane should be aware of this and if we are going to do this we should check the budget. He is a firm believer in putting the money in the budget before we spend it. He asked Town Clerk Sue McCann if she would see to having that put on the agenda.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman McKeon, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk