

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 12, 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: Supervisor Sue Crane
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
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.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

The Supervisor’s report for the month of April was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$3,151,115.25; Receipts - \$445,575.99; Disbursed - \$449,792.61; Balance - \$3,146,898.63. There were the following budget adjustments: General A Fund – increase in appropriations of \$3,000 and offset to the fund balance of \$3,000. In the General B Fund – increase in revenue of \$12,000; reduce appropriations - \$20,500; increase in appropriations - \$5,100; Highway DB Fund – increase in appropriations \$475.00.

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to accept the Supervisor’s Report with budget adjustments as read.

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

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TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The Town Clerk’s report for the period of April 1, 2009 to April 30, 2009 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$2,964.22; Amount remitted to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$69.32; Amount remitted to NY Ag. & Markets - \$12.00; Amount remitted to NY Dept. of Health for marriage licenses - \$67.50; Amount remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$739.71; Total State, County and Local revenue - \$3,852.75.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD

Supervisor Crane recognized Stacey Behan with a Resolution for her bravery for approaching a flaming vehicle, unbuckling the driver and pulling him to safety. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #19

**RE: TOWN OF RED HOOK 2009 CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARD
HONORING AND COMMENDING STACEY BEHAN FOR EXTRAORDINARY
COURAGE AND SELFLESS HEROISM**

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

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CLEANUP VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Councilman McKeon thanked some of the Towns youngest volunteers who participated in the first Town Cleanup Days on April 19th and 26th. They did an outstanding job. During the course of the two days they cleaned more than 70 miles of roads. He recognized the individuals with a certificate of appreciation from the Town as well as a gift certificate to Holy Cow. They were:

Kiersten and Aaron Barkstrom Christopher Boone
Hayden Cannan Campolong Lauren Crane
Caitlin and Hanlon Crane Danielle Deschaine

Maddy Freedman	Suma Hussien
Ethan Husted	Naomi Iwamoto
Jacob Keesing Ostfeld	Jaime Elena Kent
Ally McCrudden	Kate & Natalie McKeon
Aidan McLaughlin	Sophia Meritt
Aidan, Patrick & Helena O'Shea	Caity & Liam Schmitz
Casey Shea	Devin & Frida Balloqui Smith
Jeremy Taylor	Silas & Calvin Walker

Councilman McKeon thanked the Highway Department, the adult volunteers, and sponsors for their donations. He also thanked Councilwoman Strawinski for documenting who helped out.

Supervisor Crane thanked Councilman McKeon for his leadership in this regard and hopes it will become an annual event. To get the enthusiasm of young volunteers is not to be missed and we appreciate that.

Supervisor Crane addressed the children before they left the meeting. She told them that a special day, Memorial Day is coming up and it is an honor that Red Hook is privileged to take part in. On Monday, May 23rd, there will be a parade ending at the Memorial Park where there will be a short ceremony. She hopes all of them will be able to be part of the ceremony, a tribute to those who served our country. Lineup for the parade is at the High School at 9:30 a.m. and the parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

WATER DISTRICT REPORT

Water Department Chair Hank VanParys presented the annual report of "Town Water District No. 1" 2008 Operations. He explained the organization, highlights of 2008, goals for 2009, capital improvements to the water district, water quality, comparative financial overview of 2004 to 2008, and comparative operations summary for 2004 to 2008. Members of the Water Board are Nick Annas, Larry Carr, Gregory Fildes, Dick Franklin, Jerry Gilnack, Mike Leedy, John Wintenburg, Henry VanParys, and Secretary, Carole Little. Operations personnel are Richard Cain, Inc.- Systems Operation, Carole Little and Hank VanParys – Administration, Carole Little – Billing Operations, Cynthia Fildes, John Wintenburg and Elizabeth Wilms – Meter Readers and Sue McCann – Revenue Collection. Highlights of 2008 included the filter system which they are very satisfied with, takes minimal maintenance and no sediment from the wells get into the distribution system. Periodic maintenance of the 5-micron cartridges includes being rinsed monthly and changed when they are no longer able to be rinsed or are damaged. Five cartridges were replaced after 7 months due to deterioration of retainer bands. There were no further instances of that problem. Regarding hydrant/valve replacement, there were none replaced in 2008. He explained the operations and also that the annual water quality report was distributed to customers. The roof was replaced on the original part of the pump control building, and the roof and skylights on the utility/storage building were replaced. The Bristol-Babcock pump control failed again so the Water Board and Rich Cain agreed that a simpler solution would be better. They decided to use water pressure at the pump house to determine storage tank level for pump turn on and to use a timer for pump shut down. It has never been satisfactory. An RFQ is in the process for replacement. Responses will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Town Board. Goals for 2009 include an annual sanitary inspection. It was performed December 29, 2008 by the Dutchess County Dept. of Health who found that the facilities are generally maintained in good operating condition. He noted several items to be addressed: well caps for both wells need repair, pipes in the filter room are beginning to rust and need to be painted, the pump control is not operating in accordance with approved design and an on-site generator was recommended. The first three items are being addressed and a RPQ for a replacement pump control system has been prepared. The chlorine injector pump was moved because it was being damaged by pump pressure. The Water Board does not agree that an on-site generator is required. They continue to supply high quality water and service to district customers and to perform appropriate maintenance. Additional flushing in the College Park area will be done. They will remain in conformance with the required Health Department and EPA testing and reporting and will monitor the cartridge filter system at the pump house to ensure proper operation. Completion of a Dutchess County data base system will allow them to store

GIS data for mapping purposes but it is not high priority. Plans are in the works to connect to the new recreation park area. Upgrade to the pump control system is a capital improvement. Future considerations include installing a water main to replace existing plastic pipe as well as a tank inspection. It has been in operation for twenty years. Regarding water quality, daily tests are performed. There are twice monthly microbiological tests with no detections. There are also twice monthly well tests for e.coli. Periodic tests done for nitrates, disinfection by-products; haloacetic acids, and trihalomethanes are OK as well as for lead and copper. He explained that the annual water quality report presents a summary of quality data for users and health departments.

Councilman Colgan asked if the Health Department is interested in testing for residue of drugs in the water.

Hank VanParys responded no. They don't know how to test at this point. That would be more of a problem if we took water from streams. It is not a problem yet.

Mr. VanParys gave a comparative financial overview for the period of 2004 to 2008. He highlighted an area for 2008 that included extra usage by Bard College. System operation expense totals about \$30,000. In 2006 they transferred \$50,000 to the Reconstruction Reserve and \$70,000 to the Transmission Reserve. In 2007 they did no transfers. In 2008 \$20,000 was transferred to the Reconstruction Reserve and \$20,000 to the Transmission Reserve. The amounts for 2009 have not been determined. The money in the reserve is for painting and maintenance of the water tower. He ended his report with a comparative operations summary for 2004 to 2008.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the hydrants that are not operating properly.

Mr. VanParys responded that one is not operational but Jerry Gilnack put a plastic bag over it and notified the fire department. The operator will repair that hydrant, it might just be stuck. Another is not working well.

Councilman McKeon asked about the water rates and how they changed this year versus last year.

Mr. VanParys responded that the water rates haven't been changed since the beginning in the 80's. There is no justification for an increase.

Councilman McKeon asked if Bard College is still using our water.

Mr. VanParys responded that they are using it off and on. They had to replace a storage tank that gives them pressure enough to operate. They had a number of things to repair.

Supervisor Crane thanked Water Board Chair Hank VanParys for his report and for all the work the Water Board does.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened the meeting to comments.

Robert Latimer announced that on the morning of June 11 as part of the celebration in the Hudson River Valley, the Tall Ships will be moving from Kingston to Catskill. The Red Hook Boat Club will be open to the public to view the movement of those ships. It is an excellent vantage point.

Mr. Latimer also announced that Assemblyman Marc Molinaro and his wife Christy and daughter Abigail welcomed their son, Jack Henry just before 6 p.m. tonight.

Supervisor Crane asked about the capacity of the Boat Club.

Mr. Latimer responded that it holds about 1000 people.

Supervisor Crane thanked him for the announcements.

Councilman Colgan asked about the Tall Ships.

Mr. Latimer responded that the gates will open for the ships around 9:00 a.m. and they will move around noon time.

Lisa Pullaro asked about the contract reform ordinance which we haven't heard much about lately. On February 3rd when it was brought up Councilman McKeon said he spoke to Jim Cole of the Association of Towns regarding the proposed ordinance and Supervisor Crane asked for those comments in writing. She asked if those comments were ever received from Jim Cole to be shared with the public.

Councilman McKeon responded that Jim Cole felt uncomfortable putting his thoughts on paper. In the 90's there were opinions from the Attorney General's Office related to this subject matter. He thinks that some of the opinions on that subject matter changed. He was glad that Mrs. Pullaro brought the subject up because he did mention that he'd like to revisit it.

Lisa Pullaro hopes some of her questions regarding the contract reform ordinance will be answered. On February 10th they mentioned that there were outstanding concerns regarding oversight, management enforcement and the lack of documentation. However at that time Councilman McKeon wanted to move ahead with the Public Hearing scheduled for February 25th. He commented at that meeting that he believed very strongly in hearing from the public. According to the minutes there were 17 people at that Public Hearing to speak in opposition, five spoke in support, and in addition, there were five letters read in opposition and three in support. Following the comments and letters, Councilman McKeon indicated that the resident's opinions were paramount to his decision making. However, she is concerned that since that Public Hearing was about three months ago, that we haven't revisited this. She is watching to see if his actions do in fact, align with his comments about taking into account the resident's concerns. As a side note, he said on several occasions that he believes strongly in hearing from the public that the resident's opinions are paramount yet we've seen some decisions and resolutions passed by this Board that don't support that such as the resolution to relocate the polling station in District 5. We asked if the Board could explore creative measures for the Energy Star rather than mandating and now we have the contract reform with some of the key appointments still not done. She asked exactly how much excess money has been spent on legal, engineering, and planning fees for the period of January 1st to the present since we've not been able to operate on a retainer basis but in fact we are still operating under the previous arrangement. She'd like to see these classified because they are real dollars. We talk about being fiscally responsible to the point that we don't send committee members to professional development and training sessions. We cut the salary of the Deputy Supervisor, and these are real dollars. She would appreciate it if Councilman McKeon or anyone else on the Board would give us the exact figure that we have overspent on these contracts because they've been held up with this contract reform. She asked that the Public Hearing regarding the contract reform ordinance be closed and that the Board make the necessary appointments. Save the taxpayer's money.

Councilman McKeon appreciates Mrs. Pullaro's comments and questions. He was going to bring the subject up at the night's meeting as well. He wants to revisit this issue in the near future. He said that there is a State Assembly member who is going to introduce a bill that is an ordinance that would prohibit firms that do business with the State from making campaign contributions. He would like to see how they are working on this venue. He heard talk from some County Legislature members that perhaps they may propose something on their level as well. He hopes to bring this forward and look at it then. As for additional costs, he hopes there are none associated with a delay in the appointments. He made his feelings clear about this subject. He hopes there will be no additional costs. He thinks that there is no additional cost with delays of these appointments and he will follow up with Mrs. Pullaro and the public that that is in fact the case.

Lisa Pullaro is surprised that hasn't been done. She is particularly concerned about the legal fees that could be under a retainer versus paying hourly.

Councilman McKeon explained that she will find the answer to that question at either the night's meeting or the next meeting and will find that there is no additional cost associated with the legal fees.

Supervisor Crane informed everyone that she had a conversation with the Attorney for the Town whose appointment is a holdover. She is willing to negotiate with the Town. If she was not we would have seen a significant difference in charges for not being under the umbrella of a retainer fee. The Board will discuss it. Mrs. Pullaro is quite right that it is something they need to correct.

Linda Keeling thanked Rob Latimer for offering the Boat Club to the public. If it is over a thousand people would you need a permit? Would they take into consideration people with handicaps and have port-a-potties?

There were no more comments.

BUDGET OFFICER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

Budget Officer Rose Rider distributed the budget report of expenses as of March 31, 2009. This report is called a Period Comparative – Expenditures to Budget. She explained that she, Supervisor Crane and Business Manager Deb Marks have been having budget meetings with Department Heads in order to review the reports to look at any overages and also look for any areas where there may be cost savings to be had. She reviewed the entire report with the Board. Some highlights include: a line for \$16,349.33 for the Intermunicipal Task Force. This is an unbudgeted expenditure, as the information in the Fall was that the planning stages had been completed; no expense for photocopy machines this year because of a machine that was purchased therefore no longer having no lease expense; they met with the Building and Zoning Department and in reviewing the new contract with Tivoli, noted that there will be two \$6,000 payments coming this year which are unbudgeted; under revenue, the sales tax revenue is very close to last year's amount for the first quarter; the mortgage tax is not so positive. The income for the 6 months ending March of 2009 produced \$84,983 as opposed to the period ending in March 2008 where \$158,349 was realized.

Councilman McKeon said, regarding the Intermunicipal Task Force, it was presented to the Board that there was a very lengthy environmental review process. We are definitely going to have to budget some money for that unless we're planning on just dropping the whole thing. He asked if there was conversation with consultants to get some idea of what kind of figure we should budget.

Supervisor Crane explained that they are going to meet with Intermunicipal Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill, Michelle Greig from Greenplan and Attorney Chale in that regard.

Councilman Colgan said the Board is now carrying the ball rather than the IMTF in terms of the zoning changes. That money should probably be in an account for the Board rather than the Task Force.

Councilman McKeon stated that Councilman Colgan made a good point. The Task Force handed it over to the Town Board so it should probably go under comprehensive planning or planning or whatever they deem to be appropriate. He asked Bill O'Neill if they plan on spending all that money.

Supervisor Crane asked Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill if Michelle Greig of Greenplan continues to meet with the Task Force every Friday

Bill O'Neill responded yes.

Supervisor Crane asked when they will conclude the meetings with her.

Mr. O'Neill responded that as long as the Task Force is operating.

Supervisor Crane remembers that around November of last year he said they pretty much concluded the amount of work the Task Force had to do on Centers and Greenspace. He was handing it off to the Board. What she is confused about is how it is that they are still meeting on a weekly basis and we are still paying planning fees on a weekly basis. Why is it that we can't call a conclusion to that expenditure?

Councilman Colgan commented that some of the things the Board requested have actually come back to the Task Force for discussion. Plus there were a couple of other issues the Task Force had such as the gateway, scenic roads and the estate district.

Supervisor Crane stated that the gateway and scenic roads subjects came up to the Town Board but the Board never approved that that would be undertaken by the Intermunicipal Task Force. The Board never made that approval. It has not been handed out to the IMTF.

Councilman McKeon thinks it raises the issue of what we should be spending money on, what is the appropriate budgeting? Bill said that Michelle has been there every week. We have to make sure we use those services only when we need them. The same is true of any other consultant. We have to figure out how much money we want to appropriate for ongoing things like planning.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked how this has been budgeted in the past.

Supervisor Crane explained that there was a figure identified early on that would be utilized for IMTF work. There was a specific discreet amount of money and they pretty much stayed within that. This has gone on for longer than expected. She referred to planning fees specifically.

Councilman McKeon thinks if the money is related to Centers & Greenspace and legal requirement to do things like environmental assessment forms, etc., then we need to go ahead and do that.

Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill told the Board that if they studied the monthly reports, he puts down everything they do and what they will be doing. They've never been told to stop. Once the zoning language spun off so that the Attorney for the Town had to weigh in to see if it was legal, there was a stage back and forth between the Planner and Attorney. When they started looking into the zoning that is where that expense came from. Task Force assumed they would continue meeting. They still have issues about the Centers and Greenspace Plan they address time to time. The other projects, the historic estates district, the gateway and the sewer project are also addressed. He thinks Greenplan charges for about no more than 1 ½ hours per morning.

Supervisor Crane looked at the bills for simply the gateway issue and there were fees that amounted to days and a half on a weekly basis for the work Michele did behind the scenes as well as with the Task Force. It was a significant amount of money and it surprised her. She did not know the Task Force was going to undertake the gateway issue. There is clearly a misunderstanding that we have to get resolved.

Bill O'Neill suggested that the Task Force ask about the projected cost from the Planners before work they do. Maybe gateway is one of them because the scenic roads zoning change came up at the same time. That was proposed through the Supervisor's office and the CAC to look at scenic roads. Scenic roads are very close to the gateway issue. They have a draft of the scenic roads overlay district.

Supervisor Crane thought we were almost there without any more work, which is why she is surprised by the additional significant expense.

Bill O'Neill said the waterfront district needs to be addressed. It is not in the Centers and Greenspace Plan.

Supervisor Crane said that is what she is trying to get at. It is her understanding that at the end of last year they were ready to hand off Centers and Greenspace and pretty much Michele's work would be complete. The creative end of it would be complete. This year comes additional elements that are not part of the Centers and Greenspace Plan that you have just taken on. It was a surprise to her. She doesn't think it was authorized by this Board or intended to be authorized by this Board. That is her concern.

Councilman Colgan commented that going back to the original land use task force, which was intermunicipal the primary role is the municipal aspect of it. In terms of the gateways, what has to be done has to be done in Town to solve those problems for the Villages. It is an

intermunicipal activity and there is no other form for that. He thinks it is worthy to have a discussion about it.

Councilman Ross explained that the point is that we are spending money without a charge. Originally the Task Force was created to deal with the boundaries of the Villages and the Town. That original task has grown far beyond that. What's happening is that it is continuing to grow and that is Supervisor Crane's whole point. We don't have a handle on it. As far as scenic roads, Ruth Oja and the CAC had that done a couple of years ago. It boggles his mind that there has been over \$2,000 in planning expenses. The point is if that has to be done, we should be aware of the cost and approve that expense whether it comes out of their budget or our budget.

Councilman Colgan suggested going into it with eyes wide open and with our agreement of whatever should be done.

Councilman McKeon responded that we should definitely watch our expenses. Relatively speaking about those charges, in comparison to other communities, we are doing quite well.

Supervisor Crane told the Board that in meeting with the Department Heads, every single one has looked at the budget with an eye to cut wherever there is a possibility. She expects that when they meet with individuals it will be the same. We simply have to do it.

Budget Office Rose Rider explained the sales and mortgage revenue at this point.

Supervisor Crane thanked Rose for all her help. She and Business Manager Deb Marks are very grateful.

REORGANIZATION

Attorney for the Town - Supervisor Crane turned attention to the reorganization and brought back the reappointment for the Attorney for the Town, Rapport, Meyers, Rodenhausen and Shaw. Attorney Chale has presented the Board with an updated contract and based on that proposal wants to appoint her as Attorney to the Town.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to appoint Christine Chale Attorney for the Town for the year 2009.

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

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman McKeon hadn't had the chance to read the revised proposal but he thinks it addresses some of his concerns from earlier.

Supervisor Crane said it is important to note that the firm indicated that upon their receipt of a fully executed copy of the agreement, they will prepare a one-time adjustment to the next invoice reconciling the monthly retainer amount for 2009.

Ethics Committee – Supervisor Crane brought up the Ethics Committee as a consideration. She spoke to Town Employee John Kuhn who agreed to fill the vacancy on the Ethics Board.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, motion not seconded, moved to appoint John Kuhn to fill that vacancy.

Councilman Colgan doesn't object to that but the committee asked that they have the opportunity to look at the list of interested people in advance so they could make suggestions. He did tell them that it is the Town Boards call but he asked to extend them that courtesy.

Supervisor Crane withdrew the motion. She asked that Councilman Colgan take the recommendation to the Ethics Board.

Councilman Ross reminded them that they have to consider party affiliation. It is part of the Ethics Law.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked who the third interested person was. She knows John Kuhn, Michael Pollack but not the third.

Councilman McKeon told them Susan Simon was interested.

Neither Town Clerk Sue McCann nor anyone on the Board received a letter of interest from her at the time of the meeting.

Supervisor Crane is reluctant to encourage people, especially chairs of committees, to serve on other committees. She would be reticent to recommend her on that basis alone. John Kuhn is an employee and Director of the Recreation Department.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the EDC Task Force and where we were with that. Councilman Colgan told her that the Chair was out of Town.

Councilwoman Strawinski spoke to Jay Levine and made him aware of other vacancies and he will submit a letter of interest for those vacancies to the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Crane doesn't know that the Board adequately stated that there is an opening on the Rec. Commission. She stated that if anyone is interested in serving on the Rec. Commission to get a letter of interest to Town Clerk Sue McCann.

Recreation Commission Chair Doug Strawinski told the Board that they put the word out too.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilwoman Strawinski to contact the EDC Task Force about reporting to the Board.

CELL TOWER - PILOT

Supervisor Crane informed the Board and public that there is, as part of our cell tower contract with the tenants, an agreement that the tenants pay a PILOT that is equal to whatever tax would have been levied on that cell tower if it were not part of the Town. The Town took over ownership in 2007. She looked into what the amount of taxable improvements there is with that cell tower installation. If that were to be taxed to an entity, the taxable amount of money would have been \$4,836.00 annually. That is the taxable amount; the assessed value is \$263,300.00. The tax amount is the total tax on the assessed improvement on the tower itself without the land. She is going to instruct Business Manager Deb Marks to send a bill prorated to each of the applicants of that tower for the year 2008 to distribute over the four tenants and collect the PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes). They pay rent as well and have been paying rent all along. This is an effort to collect the PILOT on an annual basis. In September when it is school tax time the PILOT will be levied to various tenants on that tower. She will talk to Town Clerk Sue McCann about the best way to do that.

Councilman Colgan asked if anyone has had a conversation with them.

Supervisor Crane explained it is part of the contract. We own the tower as of 2007.

Councilman McKeon said he is confused about owning the tower. Somehow without a transaction we own a tower and yet we are charging a PILOT agreement.

Supervisor Crane explained again that it is part of the contract. The tenants are subject to a PILOT which is equal to the assessed value of the improvements of the tower only.

Councilman Ross told the Board that is the original agreement. The reason it was done that way is because if that was on a private piece of property they would have to pay taxes on it. If we are going to own it it is to their benefit because they use the tower they should pay the taxes as if it were privately owned. PILOT was part of the original contract and they never balked at it.

Councilman McKeon said it is 2009 why are we trying to collect taxes now.

Supervisor Crane responded that she just uncovered the lapse and it needs to be addressed.

DOG CONTROL

Supervisor Crane asked Councilwoman Strawinski to walk the Board through the Dog Control Officer memo she sent and tell them what it is she wants them to do.

Councilwoman Strawinski said going over the budget she notice there was no job description of Dog Control Officer and if the salary commensurate with the job description. She went online and took some of the job descriptions from nearby Towns and put in our information. She worked with Town Clerk McCann on some of the things that pertained to her office as far as licensing and how things were collected. She felt a job description should be put in place as well as frequently asked questions and be put on the Town's website for the general public.

Supervisor Crane explained that we do have a Dog Control Officer job title that has been provided by Dutchess County and we can't change the scope of that position or it becomes a different job. Town Clerk Sue McCann obtained a copy of the county's job description from Business Manager Deb Marks. She said to make sure it stays within the description otherwise it changes the job.

Councilwoman Strawinski will take the draft she has and compare it with the information given to her by Town Clerk McCann in order to come up with a job description. One thing that concerns her is that a lot of time is spent patrolling rather than responding to calls and complaints. She wants to sit with the Dog Control Officer to go over the job description. Councilwoman Strawinski will compare our description with that of other Towns similar in size to see if they have Animal Control Officers rather than Dog Control Officers and compare salaries. Perhaps she can also check with the SPCA.

Supervisor Crane informed Councilwoman Strawinski that, she believes the Town of Rhinebeck looked into the SPCA as a possible means of controlling dogs and found it was very expensive so they chose not to do that. She checked into it five years ago and it was more expensive than the Town wanted to pay. It would be a good idea for Councilwoman Strawinski to compare the salary with other Towns.

Attorney Chale asked if Dog Control Officer Cecil Moore is currently handling wild animals.

Town Clerk Sue McCann responded no wild animals. That would have to be deleted from Councilwoman Strawinski's draft. He just handles dogs.

PROPOSED RED HOOK SEWER PROJECT

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter to Dutchess County Executive William Steinhaus from Village of Red Hook Mayor David Cohen regarding the sewer project and asking the County to undertake engineering services necessary and they are asking the County for \$334,000 for engineering services for that project.

Councilman Colgan explained that is reimbursable from the funding they are working towards getting from the Federal Government. In order to get that funding they have to get the engineering work done first.

Supervisor Crane thinks the USDA Rural Development agreed to a loan to Dutchess County Water and Wastewater. The project was reexamined and it looks like the eligibility is there and the loan grant will be given. There has been an application submitted to George Popp of USDA Rural Development.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane read a letter from Harry Baldwin, Chairman of the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board of Dutchess County regarding the proposed Red Hook Agricultural Business Zoning District. In the letter Mr. Baldwin explained that the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board of Dutchess County has been contacted by members of the farming community in Red Hook about the Town's proposed new zoning regulations. It is not part of their Board's purview to provide detailed legal review of zoning regulations. In his letter he focused on the following principles against which their Board strongly encourages the Town to evaluate the proposed changes: 1) Preserving farmland and preserving farming are not the same thing. Preserving farmland as protected open space is a key goal that is strongly recommended by their Board. Preserving farmland will not ensure that farming will remain an attractive option for

farmers in the Town. Farming will only be pursued as a livelihood if the conditions remain in place for farmers to be successful. While some conditions such as the state of the economy are global in nature, the support of the local government and community are also critical. 2) He advised listening carefully to the voice of the farming community and paying careful attention to any concerns or misgivings they may have. The proposed zoning has many ideas that have a strong appeal to professional planners and advocates. Their Board very strongly supports ideas that can in principal protect farmland. He reminds us that good ideas often have unintended consequences. Listening carefully and patiently at a broad range of the voice of the farming community is the best step the Town can take to ensure that “good ideas” do not prove the downfall of farming in the Town. 3) The rights and procedures should be clear and easy to understand. A main observation of his Board is that in a number of areas the proposed zoning appears very complicated. He encouraged the Town to carefully review the proposed code against the criteria and to the extent possible simplify the language and definitions to ensure they are clearly and easily understood. The multiple definitions of agriculture used in the draft document are one example of the complexity. Language should be crafted that can be reasonably understood by laypeople. 4) In all respects, the Zoning should comply with the NYS Agricultural District Law. While they think it is Red Hook’s intention, it is not always evident in reading the proposed ordinance. For that reason they encourage Red Hook to add an explicit statement that the AB District regulations are not intended to override the existing protections provided to all landowners enrolled in the Agricultural District whether or not their property is included in the proposed AB District. His Board greatly appreciates Red Hook’s commitment and leadership in preserving farming and farmland.

Supervisor Crane explained that Harry Baldwin would be willing to come and make a presentation if the Town Board wishes. He wanted to put his thoughts in writing before the Town Board reached the point where they would discuss the Centers and Greenspace Plan. She asked the Town Board to consider his comments.

Councilman McKeon thinks Mr. Baldwin made very good suggestions and comments. Michele Greig of Greenplan has made changes to provide greater clarity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- The Town Board is invited to attend a building and grounds tour of the Tibetan/Buddhist Center on Route 9G on Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m.
- A Public Hearing was set for June 8th at 7: 15 p.m. regarding the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Wil-Hi Farm in the Town of Red Hook. The Public Hearing will be at the County Office Building.
- The Dutchess County Sheriff Butch Anderson invites the Town Board to join the DC Sheriff Office staff on May 21, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. for a brief remembrance ceremony and tribute to the Sheriff’s officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.
- She contacted a friend with a PhD in Anthropology who is willing to take a look at the copy sent by Jeff Golden to verify that the Mohican history it is something we can put on the Town’s website. She also contacted Wint Aldrich to review it and get his comments.

Councilwoman Strawinski read a letter from Michael Rohatyn and Lisa Scobi who had a fire at their home. They asked her to read a letter they wrote to Red Hook Fire Chief, Pete Coon. In summary the letter expresses their gratitude to the men and women of the Red Hook Fire Department. They made a donation to the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Strawinski read an e-mail she received from Brenda Cagle, Chair of the CAC. Brenda informed her that the effective date of the Energy Star law is October 22nd; the law was filed with NYS on April 22nd. There is a webinar from 2 p.m.to 3 p.m. addressing the Energy Star program on June 3rd. Councilwoman Strawinski will forward the information to Town Clerk McCann who will post the information on the Town website. There was a request for Denise Barton and Lindsey Chapman, Bard student intern for ICLEI, to attend the ICLEI training. The registration fee would be \$150 per person and the CAC asked for approval for the money to attend the conference coming up this Friday.

Councilman McKeon explained the Bard intern is working on developing a climate action plan and that we have the intern for 30 hours a week free of charge. He is inclined to approve the expenditure.

Supervisor Crane believes the Town approved the membership in ICLEI for \$600 earlier in the year. Her understanding that was the outlay and that training was included. She didn't think we'd agree on any additional money.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if they had money in their own budget.

Councilman McKeon responded apparently not if they are asking for approval. If it is coming up this week he thinks they need an answer this week. He doesn't want to spend any more money but he likes the idea of having a free worker for 30 hours for many months.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the CAC has brought this back to the entire community and reported on it.

Councilman Colgan asked if we know if they have their own budget.

Supervisor Crane would vote for it if they had the money in their own budget.

Councilman McKeon doesn't think they would be asking for it if they had it in their budget. If it is a conference and it costs \$300 and will help them prepare for this very long project he will agree to it. It is an important project that will help the community address climate change. For \$300 he doesn't want to hamper their start. The CAC has a very tiny budget and they are very dedicated individuals.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, motion not seconded, moved to approve the \$300 for the ICLEI training.

The Board had the following discussion before the move seconding the motion:

Councilman Colgan would agree to the training if the CAC has money in their budget to pay for it. He is hard pressed to approve it at this late date before we have a chance to discuss it.

Councilman McKeon explained that they have a Bard intern for the program for many, many months to put together a climate action plan to address a challenge.

Councilwoman Strawinski would like to see them both go; it is an important piece of what they will be working on.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon if he wished to leave his motion as it stands.

Councilman McKeon responded absolutely he wishes to leave the motion.

With no one seconding Councilman McKeon's motion, Supervisor Crane asked if anyone else wished to make a motion.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to approve the expenditure if it is within the budget of the CAC.

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

Councilman McKeon, after his vote, stated that he didn't think the CAC would be asking if it was in the budget. It is a non-motion, motion. It is a terrible message we just sent.

Supervisor Crane responded that there have been a number of terrible messages this Board has sent.

Councilman McKeon announced a trade show, business fair at noon this Thursday at Gold's Gym in LaGrange hosted by the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce. He also announced that the Red Hook Alumni Association is holding its 30th annual dinner dance on July 25th at Cappuccino's.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Keeling asked if there was an update on the recent burglaries.

Supervisor Crane has not received any news but will check and e-mail Mrs. Keeling if she gets an answer.

Councilman McKeon said he spoke to the Officer in Charge and there are some unanswered questions. Certainly it has died down to some extent.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to move to Attorney/Client session at 9:50 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman McKeon, moved to adjourn the Attorney/Client Session.

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

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk