

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 9, 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 dated May 31, 2009 was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$3,146,898.63; Receipts - \$506,573.85; Disbursed - \$629,966.03; Balance - \$3,023,506.45

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to accept the Supervisor’s report as read.

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

Copy Attached

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The Town Clerk’s report for the period May 1, 2009 to May 31, 2009 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$1,288.68; amount remitted to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$72.32; amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$9.00; amount remitted to NY Department of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$135.00; amount remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$385.75; Total State, County & Local revenues - \$1,890.75

Town Clerk Sue McCann made the following announcements:

- NY State is offering free fishing days on June 27th and June 28th. No licenses are required.
- Hazardous Waste Day is not being held in Red Hook this year. Town Clerk Sue McCann called Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency who said they are going to relocate it to the eastern half of the County this year. She asked them to come back to Red Hook next year because we have a lot of people inquiring about it. For any residents interested in finding the locations of the Household Hazardous Waste days call 463-6020.
- She pointed out the new art work on display in the meeting room. Ann Gabler works at Bard College and through the Arts and Education Program she and her husband took third grade students from Mill Road School to Clermont State Park. They did pastel drawings and donated six of them to Town Hall. Town Clerk Sue McCann will send a thank you letter to the third graders as well as to Ann Gabler and her husband.

NYMIR RECOGNITION OF TOWN AND VILLAGES – KEVIN CRAWFORD, ESQ.

Supervisor Crane introduced former Town Supervisor Jack Gilfeather, NYMIR Board member.

Mr. Gilfeather thanked the Board for allowing him to be here with Kevin Crawford. Mr. Crawford is the Executive Director of NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) which is the only one authorized by the State of New York to insure municipalities. It is made up of Towns, Cities, Villages and Counties of New York State. Mr. Crawford reports to NYMIR Board of Directors. He introduced Kevin Crawford.

Kevin Crawford explained that NYMIR started in 1993 and the Town of Red Hook was one of their first twenty eight charter members. When they started there were many doubts, but he was happy to tell everyone that NYMIR is a great success. They have grown to over 600 from the original 28. He explained NYMIR’s goals and successes. In November the Board looked at its surplus levels which are growing. He thanked the Villages and Town for their participation and

their loyalty. To the Village of Red Hook he presented a check for \$2,705.00. To the Village of Tivoli he presented a check in the amount of \$1,327.00. To the Town of Red Hook he presented a check in the amount of \$1,950.00.

Supervisor Crane thanked him.

Kevin Crawford explained that it was to recognize their loyalty. He thanked everyone for their participation in their program.

Supervisor Crane informed the public that Jack Gilfeather is the Town's representative at NYMIR, as well as the Village's. She thanked Kevin, Jack, Tivoli Mayor Tom Cordier, and Village of Red Hook Mayor Dave Cohen for coming to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Bill Mansfield referred to a letter signed by Councilman McKeon regarding a resolution that was passed at the last Board meeting. He asked if the mailing that was on Town letterhead was sent to a targeted constituent group and was it approved by the Board. He also asked if Town postage was used for the mailing and if so, shouldn't those expenditures be approved. Mr. Mansfield asked if personal postage was used, and if so, it is even more suspect of personal and professional motivation. The Town makes many resolutions and few require follow up mailing. It only touts an action and appears that campaigning is done at the Town's expense. It simply appears unprofessional and calculating.

Councilman Ross asked for a copy of that letter.

Councilman Colgan had not seen the letter either.

Councilman McKeon sent out a mailing after the last meeting. It was in regard to a resolution in support of legislation that would allow emergency volunteers to participate in a program that would provide an income tax benefit of \$1,000 a year. He explained that he assumed all Town officials communicated with their constituents so he notified the individuals on his list that are emergency responders that they passed the resolution and he was keeping them informed on the topic. He gave contact information for their congressional representatives in case they would want to communicate with them. There was no expense to the Town and he paid for the mailing to approximately 100 individuals.

Supervisor Crane has been on the Town Board for 12 years and never saw a letter sent on Town stationery by any Town Councilman without the knowledge of the Town Supervisor and the Town Board. She was particularly affronted and takes exception to a letter like this going out. It has each Town Board member's name on that resolution. To be hit broadside in the community by somebody asking what the resolution was all about, and she didn't even know it was mailed out, was quite embarrassing, very irritating and wishes it never happens again.

Councilman McKeon said we pass resolutions and laws quite often and if one of us takes time to distribute it in the community he doesn't think they should be chastised.

Supervisor Crane has no problem with anyone sending out a letter to constituents as long as they inform the Town Board that it has gone out. Her problem is that it went out without her knowledge and she doesn't think it is courteous or fair to the Town Board.

Councilman Ross commented that what seems strange to him is that it was put out on Town letterhead and mailed with personal postage. If it is something that is warranted to be sent out on Town letterhead it should be a Town expense. He is curious as to why Councilman McKeon chose to put it out on Town stationery but mail it out personally, unless it was something designed to self promote. That would bother Councilman Ross even further if he felt Councilman McKeon was doing something to self promote on Town stationery.

Councilman McKeon said there is no self promotion in communicating with your constituents about resolutions or legislation you passed or that you feel your constituents would be interested in. Using a copy of a letter on letterhead is totally appropriate in these circumstances. He feels that is the job of Town Board members and he doesn't feel he should be chastised for it.

Councilman Ross asked why he didn't feel it was necessary to speak to the Board about it. He asked if anyone else on the Board had knowledge of the letter going out.

Councilwoman Strawinski responded that she did. She agrees with Councilman McKeon, she doesn't see a problem with it.

Supervisor Crane explained that if you are going to communicate, the first place to start is communicating with the Board before communicating with the public just so that they are all on the same page. She doesn't think that is asking too much.

Councilman Ross explained the Board has a chain of command and we knew nothing about this letter.

Councilman McKeon stressed that he does not need permission to communicate with his constituents about laws or resolutions passed in Town Hall. He feels it is his obligation to communicate with folks as best as possible. Reams of stationary go out of this institution on a monthly basis and you have no knowledge of the employees that are using that stationary. It is complete nonsense. He stated that he communicated with his constituents and will continue to do so.

Councilman Ross explained that if it is a legitimate Town expense, it should have been mailed out at Town expense. Why Councilman McKeon chose to mail it personally makes him question the reasoning.

Councilman McKeon responded that this is par for the course. He is not surprised that they are complaining about something that is done in communicating with the public. He doesn't feel he has to justify why he sent something out on Town letterhead.

Supervisor Crane is just asking for courtesy. Courtesy for the Board so that they all know what we are saying to the public so they can respond in kind. Especially since their names were mailed with it.

Robert Latimer said as the provider of approximately 168,000 emergency responses over the last 14 years to this community, he considers himself a reasonable responder to the community's needs. He directed his comment to Councilman McKeon saying that it becomes highly suspect when you sit up there and send mailings on Town letterhead with personal postage. You are questioning if you have the ability to review letters that are being sent out of here. How many letters have been sent out of this Town building that have been eschewed out of here and sent out with personal postage? You tout the fact that you are supporting State and Federal legislation that has been passed to support emergency responders, yet on the other hand you pass ENERGY STAR mandates that cost the very same responders tens of thousands of dollars in mandates for ENERGY STAR. It becomes very suspect of what the purpose of this whole thing is. The letter touts how the Board, specifically how Councilman McKeon brought the legislation and the resolution forward to provide this tax credit to volunteers, while at the same time sitting up there mandating ENERGY STAR which is going to cost conservatively \$4,000 per new residence built. If this isn't politicking and campaigning, what is it?

Lisa Pullaro added that we heard repeatedly Councilman McKeon's comments about the need to communicate with the public, the need to communicate with his constituents, the need to communicate with people who are affected by this legislation, but she hasn't heard about the need to communicate with the rest of his colleagues on the Board and that is disturbing. These colleagues on the Board constitute part of his community as well. Communication should start there. It is a matter of professionalism, courtesy and working with your colleagues to avoid these types of issues. It certainly could have been avoided. Along those same lines she spoke about another piece of communication that she does not disagree with. It was a public service communication. It was something about safety in our community. What disturbed her was that it came from Councilwoman Strawinski's e-mail address that specifically stated on behalf of Robert McKeon, Micki Strawinski and Harry Colgan. She can't believe that Sue Crane and Jim Ross don't think a rabid cat in our community is important.

Councilwoman Strawinski said they didn't call her and ask her to send out an e-mail, the other two did.

Lisa Pullaro asked if she called them. She doesn't have a problem with the contents and wouldn't have a problem with getting a mailing on behalf of the entire Board. It is appearance, perception. It is perception about professionalism and a true desire to work together. She doesn't have a problem with the communication, she thinks it was a great thing to send out, but she was offended that it wasn't sent on behalf of the entire Board.

Glenn Baker changed the subject and said that in the last two years we've had a marked increase of suspicious people coming into our neighborhoods for reasons other than visiting. He has seen several cars come in and out in five minutes. People are making connections with each other. He spoke to Police Officer in Charge, Pat Hildenbrand, and he also asked for more patrols in Tivoli to watch out for these individuals. The Red Hook Village police are stretched to the limit and he wondered if we could get any more funding for more patrols in Tivoli. If the Board could do that he'd appreciate it. Tivoli Mayor Tom Cordier is aware of the situation as well.

Supervisor Crane will meet with Mayor Cordier and Village Police Officer in Charge Pat Hildenbrand about this issue and see how they can work it out.

Rosemarie Zengen has an issue with the State Police. She is not happy with them but said the Sheriff's Office is the best. She is going to start writing letters about the State Troopers and asked if the Board can do anything. She wants the State Troopers to start treating people with more respect and she asked the Board to do something about it. The Sheriffs are compassionate. Another issue, as a Democrat herself, she implored the Democrats on the Board to work with the Republican constituents and the Republicans on the Board. If our Board doesn't work together we have no future. She asked they not vote in a block but vote personally.

Tom Mansfield, Dutchess County Legislator, announced that in less than five months the County budget is going to be presented to the Legislature. Last year one major initiative was to possibly have the Towns and the Villages absorb more expenses for local police patrol and reduce the amount of Sheriff patrols. Luckily that didn't happen. This year the budget is bleaker from last year. He gave some examples of money from contingency and fund balance in the County budget. This year's budget will be more difficult than last year's budget. He hopes we will get the same coverage from the Sheriff's that we get now. Most of the legislators will fight the reduction of police service. He suggested the Town consider that possibility when they begin their budget process. Better news is that a \$65,000 grant was awarded for the sewer project in the Village. It was recently approved by the County Executive and is federal money, HUD money. It will go directly to the Village but will also benefit the Town. He said that Supervisor Crane was involved with the issue and wanted to bring that to the attention of the Board.

Supervisor Crane told the Board that County Executive Steinhaus called her and Village Mayor Cohen on Friday and gave them the good news of the funding. She thanked the County Executive and the Legislature for that support.

Officer in Charge Patrick Hildenbrand addressed the increase in crime. The community is growing and complaint numbers have doubled but the police are keeping on top of it. No patrols after midnight have been a concern. The State Police and Dutchess County Sheriffs cover a lot of large areas and at some points there might be no one within a half hour from here. They are looking into police coverage for the upcoming year to see if they can improve it.

Rosemarie Zengen asked if coverage can be increased by the Village Police and Dutchess County Sheriff's, and take away from the State Police.

Supervisor Crane suggested as a Board, extending an invitation to someone from the State Police to come and explain to us the kind of coverage and amount of coverage. She herself never had experience with the police and thinks it would be good to have a State Police representative to come in to answer any questions.

Rosemarie Zengen thanked her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane provided the Board with information on the bond the Town just closed. There is a Standard & Poor's general obligation document. The interest rate the Town will be paying is 4.42%. There is a document from the State Comptroller's Office for the Board's consideration. An interesting point is that the average full valuation of the Town taxable real estate is \$1,139,724,935.00. That is an average over five years. It gives an idea of how decisions are made about our worth. We received a rating of AA – from Standard & Poor's which was raised to AAA through the means of an insurance policy we had taken out. Sal Pennini, our advisor, told Supervisor Crane that we stand highest in the County and he was very pleased to handle these bond purchases for us. Supervisor Crane thanked Attorney Chale for all she did. She is a wonderful bond counselor and we appreciate all she knows about it.

Supervisor Crane provided precautionary steps in reference to the notice of a rabid cat. Keep your pets vaccinations up to date, don't let your pets run free, don't leave exposed garbage or pet food outside, don't keep wild animals as pets, observe wild animals from a distance, never handle unfamiliar animals. If wild animals act strangely, contact an animal control officer. Because bats are primary carriers residents should "bat proof" their homes. If bitten, don't ignore it, clean the wound thoroughly and contact a physician. If possible, confine the animal and call the authorities. If it is a wild animal and must be killed it is to be done without damaging the head. The head determines whether rabies exists in that animal. Report the bite to the Health Department.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if there is a fee for the DEC to come out.

Supervisor Crane does not think there is a fee.

Red Hook Village Officer In Charge Patrick Hildenbrand reported that a bear was reported in the Village.

Supervisor Crane said it is more important than ever to keep garbage, food and bird feeders away. Contact the police if one is seen.

Officer Hildenbrand said to call the police. The DEC won't come out unless the animal is threatening.

Supervisor Crane thanked the Village of Tivoli for being willing to swap viewing nights with the Town on PANDA. The Town Board meetings will be shown at noon and 8PM on Mondays. The daily schedule can be found on www.pandatv23.org.

Councilman McKeon asked if the Town Board made a request to change the viewing dates. He commented that the Board is one entity, one decision making Board.

Supervisor informed him that this was discussed at the previous meeting.

Councilman McKeon made the following announcements: the flotilla of ships is on the way up the Hudson River, and will be in Kingston in June 11; June 12 - Kaatsbaan mixer from 6 – 9 p.m., St. Paul's Church chicken barbeque; June 13 - Pet Palooza at Poets Walk from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., strawberry dinner at the Methodist Church on Church Street, the US Marine Band performance at the Vanderbilt Mansion 7 p.m.; June 14 - Red Hook Library reading kickoff at the Red Hook Firehouse at 1:00; June 15 - developmental screening for children of the community from 10 a.m. to 1p.m.; June 19 - Tivoli Library 7-8 p.m. illusionist; June 21 - bluegrass concert at Taste Budds at 7 p.m.; June 26 - Red Hot Summer Nights 6 – 9 p.m.; June 27 - Red Hook HS Graduation 11:00 a.m.. The Farmers Market and pick your own is in full swing.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board to consider closing Town Hall from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to allow the employees to take the opportunity to go to the Boat Club where we were invited to attend a viewing of the flotilla leaving Kingston.

Councilman Ross suggested closing for two hours.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to close Town Hall for two hours in order for employees to attend the viewing of the flotilla.

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

Notices will be posted.

HIGHWAY BID OPENING

Supervisor Crane announced that four bids were received for the 2009 tractor with 60 inch flail mower for the purpose of roadside mowing for the Town of Red Hook Highway Department. She read the bid notice.

Town Clerk Sue McCann opened the bids from the following:

Milton Caterpillar
182 Little Lakes Road
Richfield Springs, NY 13439 \$55,447.00

Pine Plains Tractor & Equipment , Inc.
2786 Church Street (Route 199)
Pine Plains, NY 12567 \$34,838.59

Keil Equipment
Route 9
Red Hook, NY 12571 \$61,459.00

The Hudson River Tractor Company
2173 Route 203
Chatham, NY 12037 \$54,657.32

Supervisor Crane explained that typically after opening bids they are referred to the Highway Superintendent, the Purchasing Agent, and one Board member for review. They then come back with a recommendation.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to refer the bids to the Highway Superintendent, Purchasing Agent and a Board member for their review.

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

HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER

Supervisor Crane told the Board that Business Manager Deb Marks brought forth a waiver of health insurance that she feels would be wise for us to adopt for protective purposes in saying that we notified employees that they are entitled to insurance and they in fact have chosen not to accept that insurance. It lays out the insurance availability and talks about the Red Hook Town buyout. Copies were provided for the Board members. It is used by the Town of Hyde Park and Supervisor Crane thinks it would do well for us to have in our records for employees. We do not have one and Business Manager Deb Marks did the background work on it.

Councilman Colgan said it seems to make sense. Councilman Colgan asked if the Board could wait until the next meeting in order for the Board to look at it. It looks good to him.

Councilman McKeon pointed out that it states January 1 to December 31 and doesn't have a year.

Councilwoman Colgan explained it is for any given year. It is designed to be generic. Maybe put the words "in the current year".

Councilman McKeon said a date of commencement is needed.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks adding "in the current year" qualifies.

CLEAN ENERGY PLEDGE

Supervisor Crane received communication from Assemblyman Molinaro regarding the Clean Energy Pledge. He encouraged the Board to review the pledge and consider its adoption. Supervisor Crane, after reading it, realized it involves all those things the Town is doing anyway

and it makes sense to her for the Town to adopt that model pledge. She reviewed the pledge with the Board then read the model pledge resolution.

Supervisor Crane began to move on adopting the pledge but discussion ensued.

Councilman Colgan asked if she wanted to move before the CAC weighed in on it.

CAC Chair Brenda Cagle responded that it sounds like what we are doing anyway.

Councilman McKeon reviewed the pledge a couple of months ago with Brenda Cagle and he feels the Board should wait until the ICLEI work is started.

Supervisor Crane would like to adopt the general pledge

Councilman Ross referred to Number 10 of the pledge, “Commit to and Evolving Process”. It addresses concerns that Councilman McKeon has.

Supervisor Crane read the paragraph he referred to ... “acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving. Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to redirect less-effective actions and amplify positive results”.

Councilman Colgan sees this as nothing more than a starting point.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to adopt the pledge.

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

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor Crane explained that we still have vacancies so they have to continue with the reorganization.

Town Clerk Sue McCann supplied a copy of the most recent appointments.

Supervisor Crane said the Board talked about appointing Patsy Vogel, widow of Craig Vogel, a long time volunteer. Patsy agreed to serve as assistant to the Town Historian. She wanted to make it clear she does not like public speaking but enjoys history, research and loves working with Winthrop Aldrich.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to appoint Patsy Vogel as Assistant to the Town Historian.

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

Agriculture & Open Space Committee - Supervisor Crane referred to a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Ag & Open Space Committee. They are requesting additional time to make a committee recommendation on an appointment to the committee. They interviewed Norman Greig and intend to interview Lindsay Shute before their next meeting. They will provide their recommendation at the first meeting of July.

Ethics Committee – will meet on June 19th.

Recreation Committee – the committee recommends Yvonne Turchetti. Town Clerk Sue McCann did not receive a letter of interest yet so the appointment will wait.

Zoning Review Committee – there are several vacancies. Supervisor Crane asked if anyone heard from additional candidates. Susan Simon said they are waiting for the Ag Committee to recommend a person to represent them. The EDC is on hold.

-On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman McKeon, moved to appoint Brent Kovalchik as the Red Hook Village liaison.

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

Senior Services Committee – last week the committee brought forth the name of Dick Franklin.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to appoint Dick Franklin to the Senior Services Committee.

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

Design/Hamlet Review Committee – Henry Fournier passed away. There are no candidates for the committee at this time. A call will be put out to anyone living in the hamlets.

Attorney Chale explained that there is a requirement that the committee has three residents from the hamlet district, not more than two live in either the hamlets of Barrytown and/or Upper Red Hook. That is a specific provision of the Red Hook Code.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks the committee might need someone from Annandale.

Attorney Chale explained that the code also says that the remaining two members shall reside outside the hamlet district and represent disciplines with specialized expertise.

Supervisor Crane said it seems we are looking for someone with landscape or architect experience. Barrytown and Upper Red Hook are covered.

Councilman McKeon will reach out to Chris Lindner to see if he is interested.

Supervisor Crane asked him and everyone else who might be interested in serving on that committee to submit a resume and letter of interest.

GREENWAY GRANT

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman McKeon to present the report on the Greenway Grant.

Councilman McKeon indicated that he would be willing to shepherd the application for the grant but would need assistance. He had a conversation with Michele Greig who would be willing to assist him with the application. The maximum amount we could receive from the grant is \$10,000.

NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE SMART GROWTH GRANT

Supervisor Crane introduced the grant possibility. With this grant it appears that the Town could apply for funding for consultant fees associated with SEQRA and the Centers and Greenspace plan related to developing and modifying the law. She suggested hiring Linda Keeling to apply for the grant. Attorney Chale has offered to give an estimate of what she thinks would be a fair amount of money for attorney's fees as related to developing and modifying the law as it will come forward. Michele Greig is meeting with Ted Fink to do the same with the planning fees. She wonders if the two grants could be divided into areas of expenditure applying to the Greenway Grant for SEQRA costs, then the remaining costs to develop the actual language of the law and the modifying of that language, apply for that to the Department of State.

Councilman McKeon only intended for the Greenway Grant. He doesn't have a problem with Supervisor Crane's suggestion though. His understanding is that the Village also applied for a Smart Growth Grant.

Supervisor Crane responded that is true and theirs is intended to go towards Village economic infill. It is an entirely different target for that funding.

Councilman McKeon asked if it is related to the Centers and Greenspace Plan.

Supervisor Crane responded she's sure it would be.

Councilman McKeon read information about the grant and commented on doing an intermunicipal application.

Supervisor Crane said that Brent Kovalchik, Village Trustee, asked if the Town would be willing to consider a resolution. She told Brent to forward it to the Board. It would be for their application.

Councilman McKeon said that all we need is a resolution in support for it to be intermunicipal. He explained more of what he read about the application.

Supervisor Crane thinks it is certainly worth trying for the grant. The deadline is a June 30th.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman McKeon, moved to apply for the Greenway Grant for up to \$10,000 and to the NY State Department of State Smart Growth Grant for funding to cover the development of the Centers and Greenspace Law and modifications thereof.

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

INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION TASK FORCE

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan to lead the discussion on this agenda topic.

Councilman Colgan explained that this idea grew out of many lunches with various Trustees and Mayors from both Villages. The big concern is in addressing tax issues and the growing tax burdens for the population in our communities. Recently Tivoli paired with the Town for their Building Department which is a plus for both the Village of Tivoli as well as the Town. The thought was that discussion with a group of people made up of two members of each of these Boards would continue, and they would look for grants – the Comptroller’s Office has a number of grants that are available for cooperative ventures. There is an impetus behind it and in their discussions they felt they should formalize it. They’d like to get financial resources to get professional assistance to do some financial analysis. The Task Force would be an open book, it has no specific function or venture in mind and it would consider every element of business that is part of government operations to be considered.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Stawinski, moved to create the Intermunicipal Cooperation Task Force, members being Tom Cordier and Mike Leedy from Tivoli, Dave Seymour and Brent Kovalchik from the Village of Red Hook and Councilman Harry Colgan and Councilman Robert McKeon from the Town of Red Hook.

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilwoman Strawinski said in the past, there was discussion to try to get some kind of a group together to see where we can find common ground to save taxpayer money and she thinks that it is time to move on that.

Councilman McKeon thinks it is a very important initiative.

Councilman Ross suggested setting a term and it should probably be done in two motions. One to create the Task Force made up of two members from each of the municipalities and the other to set terms.

Supervisor Crane reminded the Board that we have no authority to appoint members from the Villages.

Councilman Colgan said we are embracing them. He realized when he said that. Both of the Mayors suggested the makeup.

Councilman Ross suggested creating the Task Force and put a certain time limit for the Town members and then send a note to the Villages to ask them to recommend to us. He presumes it would be the names Councilman Colgan already brought up.

Councilman Colgan suggested the remainder of the year be the term limit.

Supervisor Cranes asked Councilman Colgan if he would rephrase the motion so that we are clear what it is we are moving.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to set in place an Intermunicipal Cooperation Task Force to be made up of Councilman Harry Colgan, Councilman Robert McKeon, from Town of Red Hook, to include two members of the Boards of Trustees of both Villages as recommended by the Mayor's of those Boards to move forward with whatever cooperative ventures would work to reduce the tax burden of the community terms to expire December 31, 2009.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane received a report from Engineer Dan Wheeler regarding the sidewalk project on South Broadway. He received a letter from the permit inspector discussing some of the issues they ran into. The letter also referred to planned tree planting between the curb and sidewalk. Due to traffic safety concerns such placement of trees is not allowed. Trees may be placed behind the sidewalk. Any plantings on New York State right-of-ways are subject to review and approval by the regional landscape group. She will forward the letter to Nancy Guski and Brenda Cagle so their committees are aware of the requirement of the NY State DOT.

Supervisor Crane read a police report dated June 3, 2009. The report was for the month of May 2009. There were 23 registered complaints, 43 uniform traffic tickets issued, one accident investigated, four arrests made and three EMS assisted calls.

Supervisor Crane shared a copy of a letter she received from Attorney Joel Sachs. It was to Mr. & Mrs. Lippert at the Rokeby Road site regarding the examination of their property for a Phase II study. Supervisor Crane read the letter. She suggested, for the Boards consideration, to authorize her to write to Joel Sachs and thank him for his efforts on the Town's behalf. She would indicate to him that we have our own Town Attorney and that she would like to see this handled in house rather than with the firm Keane & Beane. She asked the Board's reaction to that idea.

Councilman Colgan responded that we have a three year track record with Keane & Beane on this particular issue.

Supervisor Crane realizes that, however, we are in a position now where the Attorney for the Town has agreed to a retainer, and this is Town Board business. She thinks we are signing up for an undue expense that could be easily handled by our Attorney for the Town.

Councilwoman Strawinski commented that this does fall under the retainer for the Town.

Councilman Colgan will talk to Attorney Chale.

Councilman Ross asked how long we will keep pursuing this.

Councilman Colgan told him that the Lippert's gave Joel Sachs verbal ok.

Supervisor Crane said it will require something in writing. We will have to be patient and see what the Lippert's decide.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Keeling asked that in the interest of time if Councilman McKeon's events could be put on PANDA or submitted to local newspapers. She thinks he should just be dealing with Town business.

Councilman McKeon responded that he believes that part of the job is to communicate. These events are important, and in many cases these events are about supporting local businesses. He will look to see if there is another way to do it. He thinks it is important to let folks know.

Rosemarie Zengen asked why there are no women on the Task Force. She hopes that when they talk about saving money the Town does not cut corners regarding the police coverage. It seems that problems are growing. She also said she is happy about the Joel Sachs issue and that the Board decided not to use him but to use the Town Attorney who is on retainer.

Patrick Hildenbrand said there is a meeting tomorrow but was not related to what is going on. The meeting tomorrow is to introduce a part time Chief of Police. The police department is trying to keep things structured.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk