

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 7, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Crane opened for comments.

There were no comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- The Bulkeley family donated an easement on their historic farm and homestead. It is 114 acres and the easement was donated to Winnakee Land Trust. The historic house is part of that donation. This easement completely protects the farm for continued agriculture in the future and allows for a special conservation buffer of 100 feet on either side of the stream that runs through. It does allow for an additional principle residence which will retain the historic homestead which was built in 1739. We are very grateful to the Bulkeley family for their very generous donation.
- Fred Testa from NY State Environmental Facilities Corporation sent a message that the DC Water and Wastewater Authority will be eligible for the CWSR hardship financing. This means the possibility of zero percent financing for 30 years is available to DC Wastewater Authority. It will qualify them to be on a list called "Category D" of the next intended plan which will not have a funding line. It pretty much guarantees that we will be competitive with those projects that are on that funding stream. That money will be available for two years for the sewer system should the sewer system be voted on in referendum by those residents and businesses that will be served by that sewer system. This will make it a more affordable project.
- The County Executive announced that the Town and Village of Red Hook qualified for additional sidewalks in a joint application to Dutchess County Community Development Block Grant Program for a total amount of \$260,000 to connect the sidewalks from Park Avenue down to and including the Recreation Park on Linden Avenue.
- Morris Associates made a donation to Family's First Inc. in lieu of a client party this year because of the economic climate. Supervisor Crane thinks it is a wonderful gesture on their part.

Councilwoman Strawinski received a letter from Paul Marienthal, Associate Dean of Student Affairs & Director of the Leader Scholar Program at Bard College. He would like to work with the Town on a cleanup day just prior to Hardscrabble Day. They proposed Saturday, September 19, 2009, the Saturday before Hardscrabble Day. It would help the Town get ready for an important event and they are looking for assistance from the Town as far as communication and perhaps a police escort. It may involve up to 250 Bard students, faculty and staff that will be walking from Bard to various areas in the Town and Village to work on that cleanup. She is looking forward to working with them.

Councilman McKeon announced that the Red Hook Library will hold Story Hour on Thursdays at 10 a.m. Bard Summerscape also takes place on Thursdays. He announced the 50th anniversary of the Aerodrome, a program at Olana, a show at the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck. The Hudson Valley Hot Air Balloon launch will take place at the Red Hook Golf Course. There will be a watershed event in Rhinebeck and the Red Hot Summer Nights will take place on July 24th and that same weekend as the Fire Department Block Party. The Red Hook Alumni will have a dinner dance and a book sale will take place at the Tivoli Free Library.

RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Crane referred to resolutions she prepared for the Board’s consideration.

RESOLUTION 2009 #26

RE: AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR SUE CRANE TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION FROM NY STATE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FOR APPROVAL TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR \$2,645 FOR A DELIQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

RESOLUTION 2009 #27

RE: AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR SUE CRANE TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION FROM NY STATE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FOR APPROVAL TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR \$2,946 FOR TOWN RECREATION PROGRAMS

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

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane read a resolution regarding the Purchase of Development Rights of Wil-Hi Farm.

RESOLUTION 2009 #28

RE: CONSENTING TO DUTCHESS COUNTY AS LEAD AGENCY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OF WIL-HI FARM

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane received a proclamation of watershed awareness month from CAC Chair Brenda Cagle. It resolves to proclaim the month of July “Watershed Awareness Month”. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #29

RE: PROCLAIMING JULY 2009 “WATERSHED AWARENESS MONTH”

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

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane referred to an issue regarding the sidewalk project awarded to B&K Excavation of Pleasant Valley. She explained that there were adjustments made by virtue of permits that had to be obtained from the New York State DOT largely in regard to formation of the curb. The original bid did not anticipate the removal and replacement of the curbing along that sidewalk. In changing the direction in some of the sidewalk to avoid taking down trees and shrubbery, it brought the sidewalk quite close to the road. Therefore the DOT said the curbing had to be replaced. She provided the Board with correspondence explaining the increase in cost

due to change order. There is enough money in the grant to cover the cost of the change. Supervisor Crane read the resolution approving the revisions.

RESOLUTION 2009 #30

RE: APPROVING THE REVISIONS IN SIDEWALKS REQUIRED BY NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$116,410

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman James Ross moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilwoman Strawinski asked why this wasn't picked up by the engineer when the plans were drawn up. They should be aware of what the regulations are. Especially with these low bid contracts and we are adding \$20,000

Supervisor Crane doesn't disagree. She thinks it had to do with the sidewalk moving closer to Route 9. They are trying to retain as much foliage as they can.

Councilman Colgan wanted to give a "heads up" to the engineer because this is the second time the DOT objected to something in the plan after the fact. It wasn't in the Town; it was when trees were planted by the bank.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked what happens to the balance of the unused grant money.

Supervisor Crane explained it returns to the Dutchess County Community Development Block Grant program. That pot of returned money is where the funds came from for the sewer project that the County Executive recently announced. We are getting some of it back and we've done very well with Community Development Block Grant funding.

REZONING REQUEST – PHILIP & NENITA TASCIOTTI – ROUTE 9 & ROKEBY ROAD

Supervisor Crane introduced a request from a family that the Board consider rezoning their property from residential to commercial. The property is located on the opposite side of Conway's Lawn Equipment and across the street from Hannaford. She asked the Tasciotti's if they'd like to speak.

Mr. Tasciotti explained that they have had problems for several years trying to sell that property. He had spoken briefly to the previous Supervisor, Marirose Blum Bump, who was supposed to get back to him. She said there was a proposal underway. He sent a letter to her on May 18, 2007, followed up on September 15, 2007 and never heard back from her. He understands now that there is a proposal again, and he asked that the Town consider their request.

Supervisor Crane explained this is the first time most of this Board heard about his request and they will want to consult with the Town's Planner to see how the Town can affect this change in Zoning. The Planner was not in attendance at the meeting but Supervisor Crane said they will be doing that. She asked if the Board wanted to ask Mr. Tasciotti any questions.

Councilman Ross commented that the Tasciotti's came before the ZBA a number of years ago for an antiques store and they were given limited use variance for that reason. They are back now for a broader use variance and he believes that is why he thinks it was suggested that they come for an actual zoning change. The ZBA does not have the authority to change the zoning, they have the authority to provide specific use variances if the person meets all tests required by law. He knows they've been trying to sell the property for some period of time. Based on real estate values and the value of what it is assessed at by the Town they have not been able to achieve that. He believes that why they are here.

Supervisor Crane thinks it is important for the Board to understand that while being cognizant of their inability to sell the property and it is a hardship for them, in order to do a zoning change or revision, it is important the Town Board find a reason that would be beneficial to the entire community. She isn't saying that isn't going to happen, we need more commercial space and that is hand in hand with commercial space around it. She thinks an argument can be made that it would add commercial space to a much needed Town plan. The Board will have to work on it with our Town Planner.

Councilman Colgan said there are many issues in terms of being consistent with our Town wide zoning. We do have new zoning in mid stream, a substantial rezoning in that general area. We have to be consistent with what we do; it has to play into the complete package. There are many legal constraints that we have to adhere to with zoning. It is not a simple process.

Mr. Tasciotti stated that if he is not mistaken, that is the only residence on Route 9 in the Town of Red Hook. It is kind of unique in that respect. Anyone who looks at the property gets the idea that it should be commercial. They want to use it for commercial, but they can't use it for that. He has not had a written proposal on the purchase of that property since they advertised it years ago. He left a letter with the Board that he received from the last real estate broker as well as copies of the letters he wrote to the previous Town Supervisor.

Councilman McKeon asked him to describe the property and how big the parcel is.

Mr. Tasciotti responded that is two separate parcels. There is a one acre parcel which includes the red barn/garage type structure on it. Then the house and little cottage he converted to a two car garage is 2/3 acre. The antique shop was on the smaller parcel. He explained the layout of his former business.

Councilman McKeon asked if he is asking the Town to consider both of those parcels.

Mr. Tasciotti responded yes. They are two separate deeds now and he would consider joining them as one if it were to benefit their request.

Supervisor Crane said she will forward this to the Planner and invite her to advise the Board. She will keep the Tasciotti's abreast of what is going on as it unfolds.

UPDATE LIPPERT PROPERTY, ROKEBY ROAD – ATTORNEY CHRISTINE CHALE
Supervisor Crane asked Attorney Chale to discuss with the Board where we are.

Attorney Chale explained that very simply the Town has a proposed access agreement we are prepared to provide to the Lippert's and we have an agreement drafted up for Chazen to do the work. We are prepared to move forward working with the Lippert's on the site access agreement. We have an agreement with Chazen worked out for them to do the limited Phase II scope that we previously discussed. We are ready to move forward.

Councilman Colgan asked what else Attorney Chale needs from the Board now.

Attorney Chale needs nothing at the moment. As soon as she gets a response from the Lippert's she will advise the Board.

Councilman McKeon commented that the objective is to try to share services. The Governor announced grants that were awarded for government efficiency. He thought it interesting to see the projects being considered by other municipalities. He gave examples of what some Towns are doing.

Al Trezza asked someone to explain what we are doing at the Lippert property.

Supervisor Crane explained a letter has been drafted and approved by the Town Board to be sent to the Lippert's for their permission for us to conduct a Phase II environmental study with the oversight being on the part of Chazen & Company.

Al Trezza asked if anything is found are the Lippert's asking for any type of hold promise agreement.

Attorney Chale explained that this agreement is in draft form and it will be brought back to the Board once they have discussed the draft with the Lippert's. It is not in front of the Board at this time.

Al Trezza has no objection as long it is coming back to the Town in final form so that we have an opportunity to see what the Town is getting involved in. He has questions about that property. It has long been known to be polluted. Just how polluted is a good question. Of course, the studies will show it. What happens to the owners if it is polluted? He doesn't want the Town to become burdened with any cleanup problems.

Supervisor Crane assured him that the Town doesn't either.

PLANNING BOARD ALTERNATE POLICY

Supervisor Crane directed her comment to Councilman McKeon who asked that the issue of alternates to the Planning Board and Zoning Board be discussed. She asked for his input.

Councilman McKeon explained that it is very simply that the process of alternates empowered them to have voting privileges only when they were the fourth member of those seven member Boards. When they constituted the quorum they were empowered to vote and it was a rare occasion. He thinks what transpired that we had situations where alternates were no longer attending because there was a disincentive to show up because they could not participate. If they were the fifth member to attend they did not get to have a vote. Most communities who have alternates empower them to sit on the Board and vote if there was a vacancy on the Board that evening. He would like to reconsider having alternates. He thinks the Town Board should look at who the members are on the Boards and set attendance requirements or standards. He doesn't think the current system has worked as well as the Board hoped.

Councilman Colgan commented that he's heard the same thing and he doesn't see a solution one way or another.

Supervisor Crane provided the Board a copy of the law that was passed regarding the alternates. She read the law and as she understands it doesn't say specifically that that person may only be designated a voting member in the event of a lack of quorum.

Councilman Colgan understands it as that person would be expected to vote as well.

Supervisor Crane explained if there are five out of seven those two alternates may be seated by the Chair and participate in the regular course of events of the meeting, including voting. What happened on a rare occasion is an alternate participated in conversation at a meeting when there was a full Board which made it an eight or nine member Board. That wasn't supposed to happen.

Councilwoman Strawinski understood that they could participate in the conversation and discussion but if there is a quorum the alternates would not vote.

Supervisor Crane said it doesn't say it in the law.

Councilman Ross stated that they created alternates to avoid not having a quorum because problems did arise. We as a Town Board recommended how this policy would be carried out at the level of the ZBA and Planning Board. That was to encourage the alternates to attend the meetings but they would not be asked to participate and vote unless they were needed to provide that quorum. If we want to change that policy and recommend something different, he doesn't see any reason not to.

Councilman Colgan asked if the Chairs are actually following this rule before meeting starts.

Councilman Ross said they recommended after a member is missing 15 minutes then the Chair should appoint.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board what they wanted to do about this. Bring it back or continue as we are with the understanding that the alternate votes only when there is an absence of a quorum?

Councilman McKeon suggested leaving the law as is and leave it up to the Chairs.

Attorney Chale thinks the Town Board needs to clarify their request of the Chairs rather than leaving it unsaid one way or another. When asked how to decide which alternate to use in a meeting she stated that is up to the Chair. It is a discretionary decision for the Chair.

Councilman McKeon wouldn't mind taking a week to think about it.

Supervisor Crane agreed to think about it and move on.

REORGANIZATON

Supervisor Crane explained that last week they added the Highway Department to the annual appointment list with liaisons and said they should also include the Town Clerk. She suggested that office also have a liaison and she offered to be one. Councilman Ross offered to be the other one.

Ag & Open Space Advisory Committee – Councilman McKeon explained there are two vacancies and two interested members. They are Norman Greig and Lindsey Shute. He knows both of them and supports them for the committee.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to appoint Norman Greig and Lindsay Shute to the Ag. & Open Space Committee.

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

EDC Task Force – Supervisor Crane asked Councilwoman Strawinski and Councilman Ross, liaisons, what they propose to do. She asked if they would come up with names for the vacancies on the Economic Development Committee.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks a big part of the EDC Task Force recommendation is that we should reach out to a number of different business entities in the community which may include some of the members of the EDC that were put on hiatus. We should ask the Task Force to reach into the community to fill these slots.

Supervisor Crane didn't hear them recommend that we replace any of the members on the Economic Development Committee.

Councilwoman Strawinski said we should make sure we have a broad variety of businesses represented. That may mean that some of the people who are up for reappointment may not fit into one of the categories.

Councilman Ross spoke to Ed Pruitt and Brad Mitchell and they are both interested in continuing to serve. Michelle Martin was Chair of the Task Force and he presumes she would be interested in continuing to serve.

Councilman Colgan said they suggested appointing the Chair first and let the Chair go on a recruiting effort to try to get a cross section of the various elements of the economic area. That would include going to past members and to others who have not been involved as of yet. He would like to follow their advice and get a Chair first.

Councilman Ross suggested appointing a Chair, reconstitute the committee and if they want to make recommendations to the Board as to who they would like to see fill those vacancies, fine.

Councilman Colgan said they did give a very specific recommendation of how to do this. He realizes it is a change of procedure.

Supervisor Crane explained that what they will do is come to the Town Board with proposed names.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to ask Michele Martin if she would be willing to Chair the EDC.

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

Ethics Board – Supervisor Crane explained that there is a vacancy on the Ethics Board and there are several nominees. She also explained that there is a piece of correspondence from a member of the Ethics Board that she shared with the Ethics Board itself. It is difficult for Supervisor Crane to comment on it because the Ethics Board is charged with very difficult decisions. Some of the information, in her opinion, is of a personal nature. We want to go on record as having said we received from Linda Keeling, a lengthy complaint about the Ethics Board. It will be part of the record. She has not heard back from any of the Ethics Board members regarding the complaint.

Rosemarie Zengen asked what the complaints were.

Supervisor Crane responded that in her opinion it is largely about members and their stance in voting. It was personal in nature in some cases and it criticized standards of conduct, confidential information, recusal and disclosure, it mentioned appearance of impropriety, altering the content of transcribed minutes.

Rosemarie Zengen asked what the Town Board was going to do with this complaint.

Supervisor Crane responded that she is not going to read it into the record at the meeting because it is lengthy.

Rosemarie Zengen asked if the Town Board was going to take any action on it.

Councilwoman Strawinski interjected that this is not a public comment period.

Supervisor Crane can't recommend that. She accepts it as Supervisor, she accepts the document, but she can't recommend taking action on it. She asked if any of the other Board members felt.

Councilman Colgan agrees with what Supervisor Crane said. So much of it is personal perception and personal feelings. It is so personal that he is unwilling to.

Councilman Ross would like the Town Board to appoint another member and the first thing they should ask the Ethics Board to do is to sit down and review this entire complaint. He is sure that Linda Keeling would be happy to sit with the rest of her Board and go over what she thinks is improper. Then the entire Ethics Board could send us a letter about what corrective action could be taken, or what they feel the problem was or was not. Then we can go from there.

Supervisor Crane said they had four candidates for the vacancy on the Ethics Board. She asked Councilman Colgan to share the names of those candidates.

Councilman Colgan named John Kuhn, Michael Pollack, Susan Simon and Rev. Tom Theilman.

Councilman McKeon doesn't have anything new to add. He thinks all four are good candidates. We had the consensus from the Ethics Committee who they would like. He personally would appoint Michael Pollack because having an attorney with mandated ethics training would be a good addition to the Ethics Committee. He's also known Rev. Theilman for a couple of years and thinks he is an outstanding individual. Susan Simon is an outstanding community involved citizen and we all know John Kuhn from decades of community involvement.

Councilman Colgan said the Ethics Committee requested the Town Board appoint Susan Simon. He personally supports that. All of the people are strong candidates. The committee does have access to a lawyer so putting a lawyer on is questionable in his mind. We already have a man of the cloth so he doesn't think we need another.

Councilwoman Strawinski also knows all four of the candidates. It would be tough for her to choose one over the other so she would go with the recommendation of the Ethics Board. She

would be happy to have Susan Simon serve. She indicated that she would be willing to give up her position as Chair of the ZRC to take on the task.

Councilman Ross has no problem with any of the candidates. However, he always thought strongly that at least one member of the Ethics Board should be an employee of the Town and here in the building. John Kuhn is the only one in that situation. When it comes to something like the Ethics Board, although he knows Susan Simon and likes her a lot, he doesn't think that the Town Board who makes the decision of who to put on that Board should pick someone who the people on that committee want; particularly when one member of the Ethics Board has some strong ethical questions that we're going to ask that committee to review. If they are going to be on the Ethics Board they are going to have to sit down and get along. He doesn't think the Town Board should pick someone who is a cohort of the people already on it when it comes to something such as this. It doesn't make sense to him.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked him what he meant by cohort.

Councilman Ross explained that he meant someone who the committee recommended or apparently they may know her closely. It may be a very good decision but the Town Board makes the final decision. When it comes to the Ethics Board, it should solely be the decision of the Town Board.

Councilwoman Strawinski's concern about an employee is that there could be the possibility of a fellow employee coming before that Board.

Councilman Ross explained that primarily that is what our Ethics Board is for, where there is an ethical complaint against a committee member or Town employee.

Councilman Colgan believes that Linda Keeling is an employee.

Supervisor Crane was very happy to continue the tradition of having a Town Employee for obvious reasons. They have complete knowledge of what goes on in Town Hall and can represent us on the Ethics Board. If the fact that John Kuhn is an employee is concerning it is also concerning that Fred Cartier is a sub-contractor to PANDA where Susan Simon serves as the Treasurer of that organization. That is a very close relationship though she doesn't suppose it is a blatant conflict of interest; she does think it is a conflict to some extent. She wants to appoint John Kuhn because he is a good man, a good thinker, an independent thinker, and she thinks he would be a lot of sensible thinking to the Board. He could sort through some of the fire crackers that have been going on in that Board.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to appoint John Kuhn to the Ethics Board.

Failed	Ayes	2	Crane, Ross
	Nays	3	Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to appoint Susan Simon to the Ethics Board.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to set the term to expire in 2013.

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

Design Review/Hamlet Committee – Councilman McKeon left a message with Chris Lidner but hasn't heard back.

Intermunicipal Cooperation Task Force – Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan if he had further information about the Task Force.

Councilman Colgan responded that people are on vacation so it's been difficult. There is a meeting on July 14th in Kingston given by the Department of State in preparation for Shared Services Grants that he will attend.

Supervisor Crane said that Linda Keeling has offered to attend as well. She thanked her for that.

Planning Board Alternates – Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had nominations for the alternate. Councilwoman Strawinski contacted two people from old letters of interest and hasn't heard back.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Budget Officer – Rose Rider reported that she has been meeting with the Supervisor and Business Manager reviewing the six month budget reports. They have been identifying lines with overages in their budgets and are in the process of sending out notices to those departments and committees. She will have a report at next week's meeting.

Grant Application – Linda Keeling reported the application was prepared on June 26th and mailed on June 29th by overnight delivery. She understands that they are now extending the deadline to September. Supervisor Crane thanked her for getting the application in under pressure.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan reported on the purchasing activity for the period June 3 to July 7, 2009 that was prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. In summary, there were 34 purchase orders totaling \$36,916.60 the largest to Callanan Industries for \$10,379.50 for top mix. He issued a P.O. of \$8600 to Pendragon Technology of Poughkeepsie, NY to upgrade the pump control system for the water district. Quotes were requested from three vendors. A new server was ordered from Dell for the Town's IT system. The cost was \$3800. Our capacity and performance were being over stressed on the old system. Materials for the Summer Recreation programs were ordered and received. The Recreation Park Extension contract is being reviewed by Weston & Sampson and Attorney Christine Chale.

Dog Control – no report. Councilwoman Strawinski will contact the Dog Warden to go over his job description with him.

Recycling – Councilwoman Strawinski reported that the Recycle Center was closed for the July 4th holiday. The operation seems to be much improved. The employees and volunteers are very valuable in keeping everything organized.

Water Report – Water Department Chair Hank VanParys reported on some special issues regarding the water department. \$8600 for pump control was one issue. There were two proposals and the PO went to Pendragon. The work should start shortly. They received the certificate of insurance so they are set to go. A Ross Valve needs to be repaired. We did have a leak in 1998 and it was fixed. He recalls problems with it and it was taken out of service. The function of the valve is to minimize water surges because there is a lot of pressure in the line. It was agreed to look at the valve and put it back in service. Pressure surges are one of the things that trigger loosening of rust deposits in the pipes and cause dirty water. He hopes to minimize that. A person from the Ross Valve Company in Troy is coming down and is hoping he can repair it, or put in a rebuilt kit if necessary. They are going to see if they can get that done, and it should improve the operation. Another issue is from the annual sanitary inspection. A sanitary cap on top of our well housing is not fitting correctly. It's been that way for years and the previous Department of Health Inspector never complained about it. This one did and Hank said it really should be fixed. They had a well person there two or three times and access isn't good. It is rather difficult to repair it. He came up with a proposal for an investigation and he will possibly be able to fix it the same day. The proposal was for a little over \$900. It is the third repair but there shouldn't be a budget problem they have about \$20,000 in the system maintenance budget line. He explained an issue triggered by Councilman Strawinski. There was a claim from a customer because of a water meter that burst causing a lot of water damage. Much of it was covered by insurance but the homeowner thought that the Town should cover the \$500 deductible and the cost of the rug which was not covered by insurance. The Water Department agreed and prepared a voucher. Councilwoman Strawinski questioned it at a meeting about a month ago as to whether our Town insurance would cover it. Hank talked with

Gerry Haight and he requested documentation. It was sent to him and we will see what happens. It is a matter of about \$1200.

BOARD REPORTS

Ethics Board – no report

Planning – no report

Zoning Board of Appeals – Councilman Ross reported that the ZBA will meet tomorrow evening.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture & Open Space Committee – Councilman McKeon reported that the committee did not have a quorum at their last meeting. At the previous meeting they took up the subject of the new zoning and Centers and Greenspace Plan, they are also talking about marketing efforts and new committee members.

Supervisor Crane said she sent a memo to the Co-Chairs of that committee. In the minutes of March 30th they start out with discussion items. The first sentence refers to a discussion continued from previous month. She asked Councilman McKeon to follow up and get the minutes from the February meeting.

CAC – Chair Brenda Cagle reported the Town received a grant from Hudsonia to be used to offset expenses incurred as they take the habitat assessment training. This is Watershed Awareness Month and she thanked the Town for acknowledging it. There will be a county wide event and ours is at Thomson/Mazzarella Park on July 19th from 9 to 3. It is free and open to the public. Five members attended a conference about bringing sustainable energy infrastructures to the Hudson Valley. At their last meeting they discussed the helipad project before the Planning Board. They had concerns because the property is located in several historic districts. They were pleased with the Planning Board's decision. They did some research and found out that helicopters can land at both the Kingston Airport and Columbia County Airport and that was an option proposed by the Planning Board. They also agree with the Planning Board environmental assessment form. They were also concerned with the effect on habitat. NYSERDA contacted them with plans to help with workshops for Energy Star Building. The Centers & Greenspace Task Force threw back to the CAC, the review of the Scenic Road issue. There is a draft proposal they have to look at and they will ask the Planning Board to help out. It was suggested by Greenplan to try to categorize the roads. Their next meeting is tomorrow night. All are welcome.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill made his 55th report. It refers to projects and includes the Centers and Greenspace Plan. The joint Town and Village sewer project is ongoing. The Hudson River Estate District is another issue they are working on. They requested that Greenplan continue to meet with them every other week to continue with projects.

Supervisor Crane referred to a memo regarding a request that the Task Force continue to have the planner at two meetings a month. Budget Officer Rose Rider attended an Intermunicipal Task Force meeting where she took notes. She shared Roses notes with the Board. She is not sure why the Town needs a Planner because she thought we received the document as it goes forward. Bill suggested that more revision is going on.

Bill O'Neill said that they still have to look at some of their definitions and how to implement the intending zoning. It is still being revised and thought through. It is not a totally finished product. As Greenplan is doing the draft generic environmental impact statement they are coming up with other questions the Task Force wants them to address. Those are things they still have to talk about. It is only about an hour and a half every couple of weeks.

Supervisor Crane asked if these revisions will require another scoping.

Attorney Chale explained that we will have to look at it and see what the revisions are.

Councilman Colgan asked the same thing. This is really putting information together to address the scoping that already happened.

Councilman McKeon commented that if we invite public input then we need to be prepared to make the necessary changes that reflect the public input. Having the Planner available to review the changes is necessary. At some point the previous Town Board put together a draft proposal for affordable housing and he asked what the status is of that.

Councilman Colgan said there is an initial document close to complete. We worked with a Dutchess County affordable housing group and he thinks it was left to decisions of the Board that they haven't made yet. He thinks it is something to be addressed; there is a lot of zoning on the table right now. It is a matter of priorities.

Councilman McKeon asked Attorney Chale if she could take a look at the affordable housing and give an update on what still has to be done.

Supervisor Crane suggested in as much as the work regarding the Village and Hamlet that could be put on hold. The gateways depend on the Centers & Greenspace plan going forward and all of it depends on the sewer project going forward. We are in a position where an awful lot is hanging on that sewer district. The Estates District also indicates there might be a cost in 2010, but not until then. She is suggesting that the Town authorize the Planner to meet with the Task Force for one meeting a month, not two.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to authorize Greenplan to meet with the Intermunicipal Task Force once a month.

Vote not taken.

Councilman Colgan has strong feelings about the Task Force. In terms of the Planner it seems what is more appropriate is that the Task Force has a budget. The amount is more the issue than the number of hours the Planner is available. The Task Force is a great source of community wide action. It is the only forum where there are regular meetings of both Villages and Town. He thinks we need to support and strengthen the Task Force and give them adequate financial support. Most of the expenditure earmarked for the Task Force went to what should be the Town Board's expenditure reviewing the Centers and Greenspace Zoning. He thinks we should be careful as to how much we limit the Task Force financially.

Supervisor Crane stated in response to that the Town Board in formulating the budget did not adequately fund the Task Force. She believes they had a \$5,000 budget line and that the current expenses are about \$25,000 to date in consulting fees. We are going to have to go to the reserve fund in order to pay that \$25,000 owed. She doesn't think denying money curtails the work of the Task Force. She's asked every department to find ways to save money and this is her request of the Task Force.

Councilman McKeon thinks it is important for everyone to know that the Task Force was constituted to work on long term planning issues. They have been meeting and have been using several thousand dollars a year in consulting fees for those meetings. He stressed that the Centers and Greenspace Plan, which has been handed over to the Town Board by law, has to undergo a review process. It is the Town Board causing those expenses by advancing the plan. It's not fair to say it's coming out of the Task Force. Every Town allocates a modest amount of money for planning and long term planning in particular. It is that Task Force entity that makes recommendations that we may or may not take action on.

Councilman Colgan added that the budget is a high point at this time of year. He is inclined to do a comprehensive review of the budget over the next very few weeks then address these issues.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks given the multitudes of the undertaking, \$3700 until the end of the year is a minimum amount to request to continue moving this forward. Let's see what Budget Officer Rose Rider brings and see where we are.

Councilman Ross said the Task Force has been meeting for months. A Planner is very valuable but he doesn't understand why a Planner has to sit at every single meeting. After meeting that many times with the Planner the Intermunicipal Task Force should have a lot of good ideas and know a lot about planning themselves. The idea of having the professional Planner at one meeting a month and going over the list of what was previously discussed is a good idea. To just

have dialog two or more meetings a month, he does not see as necessary. Having a Planner is a good expense but he thinks it is being overused and we can accomplish as much with only one time a month as Supervisor Crane has proposed.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan to take that recommendation back and get their reaction. They will wait for Rose Rider's report next week and see where they are.

Supervisor Crane pulled the motion. She wants to hear what the Task Force has to say and if they can manage with the Planner at their meetings once a month. She referred to the last three parts of the Task Force recommendation. The Village Hamlet Planning Initiative, the Greenbelt Gateways and the Hudson River Estates District are all contingent on the passing of the Centers and Greenspace Plan. She is inclined to think those three should be part of 2010, not 2009 efforts. She asked the Boards reaction.

Councilman McKeon disagrees. He feels some of the estate properties along the river are experiencing financial difficulties. It is very important to provide some guidance to interested purchasers of those properties about what type of development we would like to see there. Some of those properties have been flagships of our community for decades.

Councilman Colgan is not inclined to constrain the Task Force in these discussions. Often one thing is intertwined with another. He doesn't think it has a financial impact to constrain the discussions of that Task Force.

Supervisor Crane thinks the Board needs to reconsider what the Intermunicipal Task Force is to do. If it is to be an ongoing committee we should stop calling it a Task Force. A task force has a beginning, middle and end. The end was to come forward with the presentation of the Centers and Greenspace Plan to the Town Board. She is not clear if they are going to start new initiatives.

Bill O'Neill explained it is clear to the Task Force. The principle is that you are supposed to concentrate development in and adjacent to the Villages. The Centers and Greenspace Plan only addresses the Village of Red Hook.

Councilman McKeon explained the Intermunicipal Task Force was constituted based upon the working group recommendations. Those recommendations are many of those things spoken about. The Task Force was charged to come up with recommendations and to implement those recommendations of the working group.

Supervisor Crane said as of the end of last year her understanding was the Centers and Greenspace Plan, the Task Force's largest endeavor was to come to a conclusion. The zoning initiatives and revisions that came out of that plan would be finished and we'd have a new revision not only to the zoning but to the comprehensive plan.

Councilman Ross explained that in essence the Task Force was essentially created to coordinate the zoning in the Town where it borders the Villages and in the Villages where it borders the Town. That was the charge of the Intermunicipal Task Force. It has become much greater than that. It's the whole budgetary thing. It seems like we created a giant dragon that becomes hungrier.

Councilman Colgan said right now the Centers and Greenspace Plan is Town oriented and complemented by the Villages. They are both doing complementary zoning changes to what's been done in the Town. That is the only forum in which the three municipalities can communicate in that context. It is a very important forum so that we don't have three entities going off in three different directions. It is absolutely critical that we have a forum in which we can talk on a regular basis.

Councilman Ross said this is yet to be seen. Communication is always a good thing but it brings it back to the same budgetary issue. Do both sides need to pay a planner every time they sit and converse? No.

Councilman McKeon said you are talking about \$3700 that they are asking for half a year. You're suggesting that the Planning budget be cut.

Supervisor Crane stated that we are well beyond that. Councilman Colgan is going to go back to the Task Force for their reaction. We are talking now about additional initiatives that we know will cost additional money. Are we in the position now knowing the budget overruns, to take these on this year? That is the question. Can they wait until 2010? The Villages must be developing a budget for this she would think.

Councilman Colgan said this is a conversation that has to be carried out among us for a while. It might take a while before we come to a good understanding.

Councilman McKeon feels the Board should develop a budget for the Task Force.

Councilwoman Strawinski agrees.

Recreation Commission – Chair Doug Strawinski thanked John Kuhn and Jeff Tremper for the quick response to removing the graffiti. Most of it has been cleaned off. The only thing lacking are the two doors on the maintenance shed that will be repainted. Sergeant Pat Hildenbrand is moving forward with the investigation of the graffiti damage. He asked the Rec. Commission to put together a cost for repairs that they will forward to him. They are mowing the lawn at the park about every other day. The Summer Rec. program is in full swing. On Saturday, July 11th, there will be a youth pool party from 7 – 10 pm. It is for ages 8 through 12. Parents are invited as well. On July 18th there will be a teen pool part for ages 13 through 19. He thanked everyone who took such great concern over the troubles at the Rec. Park and he hopes things there have died down.

St. Margaret's Committee – Paula Schoonmaker reported that there are two outstanding grants. They are redrafting their scope of work for one of the grants. The Rec. Commission has been removing invasive trees from the property. There are two more left to go that are threatening. They will put together a web site that will be a link from the Town's web page giving information about what is going on at St. Margaret's and what they hope to accomplish. They are also trying to come up with other ways to fund the restoration of the building.

Senior Services Committee – no report

Greenway & Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski reported that the school district is not able to contribute to the Safe Routes to Schools program due to regulations and statutes. Meanwhile, Congress is preparing to rewrite the Federal Surface Transportation Act, which will affect funding for walking and biking trails as well as public transit. The Trails Committee will continue to monitor the situation. They discussed ways to develop activities for young people within the focus of the committee. Any activities could also be used for community service. Susan Gilnak presented the newly acquired Town of Red Hook map which will be used for their more expanded and detailed trails map. Development of sidewalks along Route 9 South is encouraging. The CDBG for a sidewalk from Park Ave to the Recreation Park was also discussed. Paths and grounds for community activities are continuing to be developed. Their next meeting is August 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Tree Committee – no report.

Zoning Review Committee – ZRC Chair Susan Simon reported that they will meet Thursday. At their last meeting they did answer the EDC Task Force's question, it was a great exercise for the committee to get together and really have their say in what is going on. They will be reviewing the Centers & Greenspace Plan so that they are well versed on it. The committee will start to take on many topics so reports will be made. They won't be meeting in August.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments and she asked Engineer Dan Wheeler if he had anything to report. She told him that the Board did authorize the increase in expenditures from the CDBG. The Board had concerns about how the change orders occurred and asked if he could clarify.

Town Engineer Dan Wheeler, of DF Wheeler Engineering explained the situation. The biggest problem was that the contractor went to get the permits. It was rectified which was no small

task. It was interesting because they were working with several levels of the DOT. He sat down with a DOT Administrator, and then got approval. Part of the DOT approval included curbing where there was none. Originally, the idea was just putting in sidewalks, not changing anything. No drainage, curb cuts, nothing like that. The only mitigating issue was the ADA requirements. Because of curbing issues, they traded space for time, but the good news is it is covered by the grant. There is no out of pocket cost and they are moving along. He provided an item by item analysis description and map showing where they added curbing.

Supervisor Crane saw people already walking on the sidewalks. She thanked Dan. He will pick up the resolution tomorrow.

Supervisor Crane asked if there were any more public comments.

Al Trezza, regarding the Ethics complaint realizes that it is personal opinion but he heard something about altering transcribed minutes and he doesn't think that is proper. He asked to see that portion of the complaint if it is made a part of the records.

Supervisor Crane explained that it is a lengthy complaint and will be a part of the Town's records.

Al Trezza referred to the Intermunicipal Task Force. He agrees with Councilman Colgan. The Task Force is important. He also agrees with the issue of money. He doesn't care how often the Planner attends; the issue is the budget that we can afford. We are in tough times and no one wants to see their taxes go up. He is sure we are losing money from the mortgage tax, and from the State in other ways. The Town will have to take a hard look at the budget and he doesn't think the Intermunicipal Task Force should quit. They should continue to meet but the real issue is money. Can we afford to spend money here, on the Recreation Park, on the Highway Garage you have to come up with an extremely tight budget and it may impact on the Task Force. It is going to impact everyone. It's not like we don't want the plan. He does agree that the Task Force performs an important function, but he agrees with Supervisor Crane that it shouldn't be a Task Force; it should be a Committee because there is no end to it.

Councilman McKeon explained that most townships have a Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Task Force is our equivalent of that.

Al Trezza doesn't disagree.

Councilman McKeon agrees with Al's comment about the budget. Cutting it in half is a good start and he thinks we should come up with a number and cut it even more.

Linda Keeling stated that St. Margaret's needs a budget.

Supervisor Crane said they will take a look at it.

Rosemarie Zengen spoke about a comment that we need affordable housing in Red Hook. She said look down the street and in the newspapers. There are apartments for rent so whoever says we need it is incorrect. She directed a comment to Councilman McKeon. She thought he would stick to his choice for the Ethics Committee but he voted in a block again. She loves the Democratic Party, but with everything happening when she sees him vote in a block, it reminds her of what is going on in Albany and it makes her sick. She thinks he should have his own opinions and not vote in a block.

Councilman McKeon stated that he felt the need to respond. She said on several occasion that he voted in a block. He said that if she looked at his voting history it is not the case. He told her that she conveniently left out the fact that our Supervisor also voted the same.

Rosemarie agreed that the Supervisor voted the same, but at least she doesn't always vote in a block. She doesn't just vote with Republicans, she votes with the Democrats as well.

Tom Mansfield, Dutchess County Legislator, informed the Board that the PDR for Wil-Hi Farm is on the agenda. They will be voting on that on Thursday in committee and then on Monday at the monthly meeting. Hopefully that will get approved. The CDBG money for the sidewalks to

the Rec. Park will be voted on again on Thursday in Committee then on Monday in the monthly meeting.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk