

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 14, 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

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Crane announced that Business Manager Deb Marks who generates the Supervisor's report is away on vacation and asked Supervisor Crane to announce that this month's report will be given next month.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of June 1 through June 30, 2009 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$ 1,130.18; amount remitted to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$89.95; amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$21.00; amount remitted to NYS Department of Health for marriage licenses - \$225.00; amount remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$279.62; Total State, County & Local revenues - \$1,745.75.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Marcy Appell thanked the Board for the sidewalks. She thinks they are wonderful. She was involved with the original sidewalks and she is pleased they are being completed. Besides making it safe for people to walk, it connects the Village and the Town. She hopes that business will be encouraged to put in shrubs and landscaping and it will become a wonderful entrance to the Town.

Supervisor Crane thinks it will be a very nice addition to the southern entrance of the Town.

Councilwoman Strawinski said she has seen them working late on the sidewalk, probably to make up for the time lost to bad weather.

Linda Keeling went to a workshop today from the DOS and the grant submitted had to be withdrawn because it does not fulfill their criteria. She is going to work it out and resubmit it.

Supervisor Crane explained that we have until September 16th and she will have conferences with them and see if any portion of the application can go in. Her understanding is that a municipality may apply for more than one grant. We may wish to tailor that one to what can be applied for and then go in for another, maybe St. Margaret's as a possibility. She thanked Linda Keeling for her work on the grant writing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- She received a letter from "Rebuilding Together". They are looking for homeowners who need repairs on their house they may not be able to afford. There is an application process for 2010 projects. They are hoping the Town will be able to promote this program locally. They typically do restoration of older homes or help with housing stock in general. The rebuilding day is in April 2010. Low income home owners, especially those who are elderly, living with a disability, veterans or parents of young children are encouraged to apply. She gave income guidelines and the telephone numbers for her office as well as the office of the Town Clerk. Applicants must own and reside in the home being repaired.
- The grand opening event of Walkway over the Hudson "Walking on Air" is on Oct. 2nd, 3rd and 4th. There is a puppet raising workshop at the Children's Museum of Poughkeepsie. Supervisor

Crane circulated drawings with the Board. We might want to talk about getting people together to attend.

Councilman McKeon announced events happening from Poughkeepsie to Tivoli over various weekends in July and August.

Councilman Colgan announced the Tivoli wide yard sale on Saturday, July 25th.

BUDGET OFFICER'S REPORT

Supervisor Crane introduced Rose Rider's Budget Officers report. It is a six month report that Rose is working on to try to bring us up to speed as to where we stand in terms of expenditures versus the budget. She, Rose and Business Manger Deb Marks went over it completely.

Rose Rider explained it is the same format as the three month report. She explained the columns that showed the current year budgeted, the current year expenditures, the period budgeted, the period expenditures, and the remaining variance. The last column is the percentage remaining and they looked at those that have less than 50% remaining in their line. At this point in time they assume there should be approximately 50% left of the expense line. The disparities on some of the lines were understandable and those were passed on. Other disparities they made note of, and memos were sent by the Supervisor to those departments to let them know of the apparent shortfall. She reviewed the report line by line with the Board. There was some discussion regarding the Dial-A-Ride line. The average number of riders a month has gone up. The Intermunicipal Task Force line, as well as the sewer study was overspent. Federal and State funds will come to Red Hook if the sewer project goes forward. The budget was the Town's piece of the investment regardless and we may or may not get it reimbursed. Planning for the Centers & Greenspace Plan was overlooked and the line will require a budget adjustment.

Supervisor Crane thanked Rose for the report. The Supervisor's budget will be submitted to the Town Clerk by the end of September.

Councilman Colgan asked about where we stand in revenue.

Supervisor Crane will get that on the next agenda because she would like Business Manager Deb Marks to report on it.

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor Crane spoke to Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy about going out for an RFP for Town Engineers. He feels we should continue with the Town Engineer as we have and go out for an RFP for the year 2010. She asked if there were comments.

Councilwoman Strawinski said the Board asked for this for professional services months ago.

Councilman Ross would like to have the RFP's ready by the end of September.

Supervisor Crane thinks that is what Ted has suggested and she feels it is good advice.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if we have contracts for any of the professional services. She said she asked for them but hadn't heard.

Supervisor Crane will ask Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy.

Councilman McKeon would like the Board to have to approve engineering work if it doesn't have to do with Planning.

Supervisor Crane explained that DF Wheeler is undertaking the plan for sidewalks between the Village of Red Hook and Town's Rec. Park which is through the Community Development Block Grant.

Councilman Colgan thinks that DF Wheeler is also on call for the Highway Garage.

Councilman Ross explained that approval does have to be authorized.

Supervisor Crane doesn't have any knowledge of any projects that would involve Morris Associates in the immediate future. The Board decided to keep DF Wheeler, Morris Associates, Keane & Beane, Computer Associates, Greenplan, Ted Eglit and Pollards Cleaning Service as holdovers.

Planning - Paula Schoonmaker has been appointed Secretary to the Board.

Farmland Protection Committee – Councilman McKeon reported that Mary Ann Johnson discussed the openings with Benjamin Shute and Mark Graminski who are interested in serving on the committee.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to appoint Mark Graminski and Benjamin Shute to the Farmland Protection Committee terms to expire December 31, 2011.

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

Intermunicipal Cooperation Task Force – Councilman Colgan has spoken to some people and they are trying to find a time to meet. The Red Hook Village Trustees are Brent Kovalchik and Dave Seymour and Tivoli Village members will be Tom Cordier and Mike Leedy.

Planning Board Alternate – there is still a vacant alternate slot on the Planning Board. We decided at the last meeting that the way the Committee Chairs are using the alternate ordinance was adequate and satisfactory.

Councilman McKeon thinks it would resolve his concerns if we communicated with the Chairs about their use of the alternates.

Councilman Colgan thinks it would be desirable to have up to seven votes at each meeting.

Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had any nominees. There were none.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked for letters of interest be sent to the Town Clerk's Office.

Councilman McKeon wants to ask Reverend Theilman if he is interested.

Zoning Review Committee – Supervisor Crane directed a question to Susan Simon. Supervisor Crane said that when she spoke to Susan, she said if she were appointed to the Ethics Committee that she would prefer to step down as Chair of the ZRC, but she wished to stay on the committee.

Susan Simon responded that in speaking with the committee there is no desire for her to step down at this time. She requested that we see how things go into the fall. At this point being on the ZRC is very manageable. They are working on review of the Centers & Greenspace Plan and zoning changes.

Councilman McKeon thinks it is important that the ZRC is well versed on the issues.

Supervisor Crane explained that the ZRC is missing an Ag. & Open Space member and also an EDC member. She asked if anyone has knowledge of anyone interested in participating and asked Councilman McKeon to find someone from the Ag. & Open Space Committee. She asked Councilwoman Strawinski if she contacted anyone on the EDC.

EDC - Councilwoman Strawinski has to get phone numbers from the members on hiatus. There was discussion about Co-Chairmanship between Michelle Martin and another member.

Councilman Ross spoke with EDC members Ed Pruit, Brad Mitchell and Kevin Zulch and they are all interested in continuing to serve.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Ross if it is his intention to nominate those people to the EDC.

Councilman Colgan wants to get the Chair in place first before naming the committee. He doesn't want to undermine their agenda. He thinks they even have some people in mind.

Councilman Ross commented that you'd have to have a committee before a Chair. Obviously we'd like Michelle Martin to Chair and if she wishes to share with someone you'd have to have a committee for that to be decided.

Councilman Colgan does not want to undermine the agenda the EDC set in place.

Councilwoman Strawinski stressed that their recommendation was to get a sampling from the business community.

Supervisor Crane said the problem is that all four of those people are from diverse business interests and she doesn't see a conflict in appointing them to get that committee starting to be reconstituted. Michelle is a financial counselor, Ed Pruit is a banker, Brad Mitchell has a large business (Northeast Hardwoods) and Kevin Zulch is an accountant. She thinks that is a wonderful broad spectrum of talent and we shouldn't let it go.

Councilman Colgan isn't suggesting letting them go, he just wants to respect what they want.

Supervisor Crane explained the Task Force suggested that we recruit from a broad spectrum of community representation among the business community and she thinks those four are.

Councilman Colgan commented that they want to be part of it.

Supervisor Crane replied no, they didn't say they wanted to do the appointments. That isn't how she read it.

Councilman Ross explained they don't make the appointments anyway.

Supervisor Crane thinks this Board has to make the decisions. It is fine to consult committees but we are elected officials to make the hard decisions and it is up to us to make them. This is not a hard one for her.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks Michelle feels that Kevin Zulch would be a good member for the committee. She doesn't know her feeling about Brad. She thinks we need to get the EDC reconstituted. Beth Jones would be an additional member she would appoint. We do have at least one vacancy.

Councilman McKeon commented on the need to think this through.

Councilman Ross stated what the Board has to keep in mind is that we never disbanded it. We put them on hiatus. A number of them, Paul Fredricks, Joe Rossi, Teresa Haney, Leo Sieverding and Kevin Zulch, their terms do not even expire until the end of this year. Then there are a few such as Ed Pruit, Brad Mitchell, Ronald Moore and Michele Martin whose terms expired the end of last year and we held off on appointing anyone while we had the Task Force in action.

Supervisor Crane commented that Councilman Ross's point is that these people are still on this committee and we don't just toss them on the curb because we had a Task Force. They are appointed members of the committee.

Councilman Ross suggested doing what we do for other committees; contact those whose terms expired at the end of last year. Michelle is probably more than willing to be on the committee. Ed and Brad are very interested in staying on. He doesn't know Ronald Moore.

Councilwoman Strawinski will contact them,

Supervisor Crane thinks it is important that the Board stands by its word. We appointed these people to the committee, their term expires at the end of 2009 and until then, they are members of the committee. That's what we agreed when we appointed the Task Force.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks it is important to be clear with them about what the Task Force is recommending.

Councilman Ross would trust that the first time they meet that would be thoroughly reviewed.

Supervisor Crane thinks the important thing is to see if Michelle Martin is interested in serving as Chair because that will go a long way in resolving any issues.

RESOLUTION – Greenway Grant

Supervisor Crane added a resolution to the agenda in support of the Greenway Grant application. She asked Councilman McKeon to read the resolution that he prepared. He read the resolution and explained that this would be another application to hopefully get funds for the Town’s Centers and Greenspace review.

RESOLUTION 2009 #31

RE: IN SUPPORT OF THE GREENWAY GRANT APPLICATION

On a motion of Councilman Robert McKeon, seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

CORRESPONDENCE

-Supervisor Crane received a resume from Patrick Kelly who is interested in the Economic Development Task Force. She will put it on file.

- In regard to an issue that came to the Board last week in regard to the Tasciotti’s who asked the Board to consider a zoning change on their property on the corner of Route 9 and Rokeby Road. She spoke to Michelle Greig and Attorney Chale and she also received some information from Planner Ted Fink of Greenplan. Michelle suggested that she, Attorney Chale, Ted and Supervisor Crane meet and talk about a way to address this request that will assure the best audience. There are some concerns they have and because we are in the middle of a SEQRA review it is possible they might work this into the SEQRA public comment period. They will meet in August and keep everyone informed.

Councilman McKeon is concerned about the cost to the taxpayers.

Councilman Ross explained a response sent to the Zoning Board from the County. It essentially said the ZBA does not have that authority to make a zoning change and that they would have to go to the Town Board.

Supervisor Crane addressed Councilman McKeon asking if he is saying he refuses to have them meet with the Planner and the Attorney on this request for a zoning change that is going to require some professional advice. What are we to do without professional advice?

Councilman McKeon responded that he would like to review the issue and he may come to an opinion without spending taxpayer money. He wants an opportunity before now and the next meeting before authorizing this expenditure.

Supervisor Crane explained it is not a problem to hold off because she does not expect to meet until everyone returns from vacation in August.

- Supervisor Crane asked the Board to review a memo from Attorney Chale regarding the affordable housing law. It is an issue she wants to discuss in the future.
- She referred to a copy of a letter that went to the County Executive about opening Phase II of the Dutchess Rail Trail. Patricia Coon of Rhinebeck wrote to the County Executive to petition him to consider opening the Hucklebush Line. She is interested in seeing what we can do jointly.

Councilwoman Strawinski said that Howie Callies might want to be in touch with her. He’s brought that up and has serious mapping.

Supervisor Crane announced the July 22nd meeting is cancelled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rosemarie Zengen has a problem with the Tasciotti's request. They are trying to sell the property for over \$500,000. It is a bad precedence to set that because they are not selling their property for a certain amount in these economic times that they go to the Board for a change in zoning. She doesn't see this as fair. She reminded the Tasciotti's that her property has been grandfathered in regard to putting things out on the front of his property.

Supervisor Crane said the reason they entertained the motion is that it was a referral from the Zoning Board and County Planning Board that the Town Board should hear it and decide what to do.

Linda Keeling commented that in regard to the EDC Task Force, she believes that in their report they mention advertising all businesses. Her concern is that it is going to be in competition with the Chamber of Commerce. When members join the Chamber they get advertising through its website. She doesn't think the Town should be interfering with what the Chamber is doing.

Marcy Appell supported what Rosemarie Zengen said regarding the Tasciotti parcel. It is spot zoning and he has a lovely lot with beautiful trees and a lovely home. If he puts a reasonable price on it she's sure it would sell. If he turned it into a business property those trees would go. Across the road where the driveway goes to Hannaford, that will stay green forever. There will never be anything on either one of those corners. If you change zoning for him, what about the houses behind him? If they can't sell will they want their zoning changed? She thinks he would probably destroy that corner by ripping those trees down and making it a gas station or something. Mostly she is against it because it is spot zoning. Zoning is being looked at now so she thinks we should wait until that is done.

Bill O'Neill asked what the "Save Our Town Committee" is.

Rosemarie Zengen explained the committee is a group of citizens that came together well before the planning of the Hannaford Supermarket. Their main objective was not to have any huge warehouse type stores. She and another woman came up with about 2600 signatures of people opposed to that kind of building. They called about 2500 residents and asked how they thought this should be dealt with. Most felt that there should be a Board. She named people on the Board, they hear what the citizens of the Town have to say and they bring it to the Board. They write letters, write articles, do advertisements, do fundraisers and she was surprised that Mr. O'Neill never heard of them.

Bill O'Neill heard of them but didn't know if they were still active. It's not a committee of the Town; he asked if they are an informal citizen's advocacy group?

Rosemarie Zengen answered yes.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk