

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 11, 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
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilman James Ross
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale (approx. 8:00 p.m.)

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's monthly statement dated June 30, 2009 was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$3,023,506.45; Receipts - \$2,812,729.39; Disbursed - \$3,360,125.26; Balance - \$2,476,110.58. Budget adjustments are as follows: General A Fund –reduce revenues - \$14,403.00; increase revenues – \$20,231.00, reduce appropriations - \$15,189.00; increase appropriations - \$22,965.20; Offset to Fund Balance, appropriate fund Balance - \$1,948.20. General B Fund – no reduction in revenues; increase revenues - \$7,875.00; no reduction in appropriations; increase appropriations - \$3,682.00; appropriated fund balance - \$4,193.00. Highway DB Fund – no reduction in revenues; no increased revenues; no reduction in appropriations; increase appropriations - \$3,010.00; appropriate fund balance - \$3,010.00. Water Works O&M SW Fund – no reduction in revenues; total increase revenues - \$2,142.00; no reduction in appropriations; total increase appropriations - \$2,021.00; reduce appropriated fund balance - \$121.00. Capital Projects Funds – no reduction in revenues; no increase in revenues; no reduction in appropriations; increase appropriations - \$19,978.00.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to accept the Supervisor's Statement with budget adjustments as read.

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

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of July 1, 2009 to July 31, 2009 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$1,241.29; amount remitted to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$58.75; amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$9.00; amount remitted to NYS Department of Health for marriage licenses - \$202.50; amount remitted to NY S Environmental Conservation - \$442.46; Total State, County & Local Revenues - \$1,954.00.

Town Clerk Sue McCann announced that Sporting Licenses go on sale on August 17th. There are price increases and different fishing requirements.

BUDGET OFFICER'S REPORT

Supervisor Crane announced that our Budget Officer, Rose Rider, will present the Revenue's Report which sums up where we are at the end of six months.

Budget Officer Rose Rider explained that the three pages of the summary report could be looked at simultaneously with the Period Comparative – Revenues to Estimated report. The first three pages of the report included the Town of Red Hook Budget to Revenues June 30, 2009, the Expenditures to June 30, 2009 and the Cash Projection to End of Year as of June 30, 2009. She began her presentation by explaining the Budget to Revenues June 30, 2009 report including the lines for budget, collected and balance. She reviewed the budget line by line with the Board. Water works was not included because that is a self contained department. She explained only the budgeted items that we have some control over. Rose went to the expenditure page which included budget, expended and balance lines and reviewed them line by line. She explained the disparity between the revenues and expenditures then referred to the last page of her report, the cash projection to end of year as of June 30, 2009.

Councilman McKeon had some questions and made comments regarding the fund balance as it relates to taxes.

Supervisor Crane asked Business Manager Deb Marks about how the Comptroller's Office looks at a fund balance. The State Comptroller's Office is not fond of seeing municipalities accumulate huge fund balances and continue to raise taxes. They like to see a reasonable fund balance as a cushion, but not a significant amount of money and have Boards continue to raise taxes with all of that sitting there.

Business Manager Deb Marks said we've stayed about 30% fund balance.

Supervisor Crane thinks the Town does a very respectable job keeping that fund balance healthy. She thanked Rose Rider. She, Deb Marks and Supervisor Crane have been meeting with Department Heads working on the budget. All the Department Heads have been cooperative and understanding that this is a tough year. They are helping any way they can.

Business Manager Deb Marks said the Town has always maintained a very conservative and very realistic budget. We have won budget awards. We are not alone in finding our revenues diminishing. We have to use our fund balance wisely. She is very upbeat about the budget in spite of the economic situation because we've maintained a very good and reasonable budget for the Town.

Councilman McKeon said a Shared Service Committee will look into sharing services on a greater scale. At that point they will have to rely on Business Manager Deb Marks and Budget Officer Rose Rider.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling asked about a fall cleanup.

Councilwoman Strawinski responded cleanup will be on September 19th, and the Bard community will help as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- New York State Department of State and Empire State Future Sustainability Conference will take place on October 7th. It is entitled "Revitalizing New York – Building a New Economy Through Sustainable Development". It is in Schenectady and she will be sure to get the information to the Planning Board and Zoning Board members.
- The August 12th ZBA meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th.
- State Board of Real Property Services sent our final State equalization rate which is 100. We are among a few Towns in Dutchess County that enjoy that status.
- There will be a 20th anniversary meeting of Winnakee Land Trust and we are invited to attend. It is on August 21, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The Good Land Award will be given. They will honor the late Craig Vogel, our long time Town volunteer and a long time member of the Winnakee Land Trust. The meeting is at 4671 Route 9 in Hyde Park, about a mile north of the Hyde Park intersection. The speaker will be Dr. Ward Stone.
- Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand explained that the Town Board will accept sealed bids on a new 2009 tractor with 60" flail mower for the purpose of roadside mowing for the Town of Red Hook Highway Department. Detailed specifications may be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Sealed bids will be opened at the Town Board meeting on September 1st at 7:30 p.m. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked bid tractor with 60" flail mower not later than 4:00 p.m. on September 1st.
- Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro and the Dutchess County Sheriff's office have arranged for a child car seat and seatbelt safety check which will be held at the Red Hook Town Hall parking lot on September 3rd, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Councilman McKeon made announcements regarding various events taking place from Kingston to Poughkeepsie.

Supervisor Crane informed the Board that they are scheduled to have a meeting during the week of the Dutchess County Fair and she asked the Town Board if they wanted to cancel the August 26th meeting.

Councilman McKeon would like to play that by ear. There are some grants he would like to explore and the deadlines are the first week of September.

HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER

Supervisor Crane referred to the adoption of a waiver of health insurance in the participation of buyout of the health insurance plan.

Business Manager Deb Marks brought this to the Board because employees who are eligible for medical insurance coverage are eligible for the buyout if they elect not to have coverage. It would be a waiver signed by the employee that they have health insurance coverage elsewhere therefore waive their right to enroll in the Town's insurance plan.

Supervisor Crane explained that she looked back in the minutes and we never voted on it. Wording was changed that was requested by Councilwoman Strawinski. She thinks it is a good resolution to have on hand.

RESOLUTION 2009 #37

RE: WAIVER OF HEALTH INSURANCE/PARTICIPATION IN BUY-OUT PROVISION

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

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane explained that the Board will meet in executive session regarding an employee matter that is related to this subject.

HONORING GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS ANNE FILDES AND EMMA DOWDEN

Supervisor Crane was privileged to announce two Red Hook Girl Scout Gold honorees, Anne Fildes and Emma Dowden. Emma created a mentoring program to spark girls interest in Math and Science, organized a club for Middle School girls, a transition to High School event at the Middle School and for conducting experiments along with children at the Red Hook Recreation Park Summer Program. Anne's project benefitted children in local communities by collecting and distributing Halloween costumes to children of low income families. She also organized three Story Hours at the local public library and nursery school, thus reinforcing reading as a source of entertainment and by making reading fun with Halloween themed stories, crafts, food and goody bags.

Supervisor Crane thanked both girls for demonstrating the leadership and citizenship that are the hallmarks of Scouting and told them that the community is proud of them. She presented them with certificates from the Town and read the resolutions.

RESOLUTION 2009 #38

RE: HONORING EMMA DOWDEN AND ANNE FILDES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

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

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

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane congratulated them for their achievement.

SUPPORT OF HARDSCRABBLE DAY

Supervisor Crane referred to communication she received from Ed Blundell requesting a contribution of \$2,000 for direct reimbursement of celebration expenses. She believes this is already budgeted for.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to authorize an expenditure of up to \$2,000 for direct reimbursement of celebration on Hardscrabble Day.

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

REORGANIZATION

EDC - Supervisor Crane told the Board that they have talked several weeks in a row about the EDC and she deferred to Councilwoman Strawinski to lead the discussion.

Councilwoman Strawinski sent an e-mail to the members of the committee. She thanked Brad Mitchell for attending the meeting. He showed an interest in continuing on that committee. His term was to expire this year and reappointments have not been made yet. There was concern about previous documents and data collected but she thinks the reconfigured committee will see how best to use that information.

Councilman Colgan spoke to former EDC Chair Doug Moat and he has that information.

Councilwoman Strawinski said he also said Councilman Colgan had a conversation with him and Doug not only stepped down as Chair but also resigned from the committee. Michelle Martin does want to continue as well as Ed Pruitt. She did not have an e-mail address for Kevin Zulch and Ronald Moore.

Supervisor Crane knows that Kevin Zulch is interested in continuing. They will continue working on it.

Councilwoman Strawinski said it looks like there are two vacancies.

Councilman McKeon is confused. He thought the idea was that the Task Force was going to make recommendations. They wanted a composition of different interests throughout the community. Looking at the names, it looks like we are so heavily weighted in things like financial services. He thought the Board was waiting to get a Task Force recommendation of composition for the entire committee. They were also going to take a look at who a central Chair would be and we don't have that yet.

Councilwoman Strawinski responded that they didn't get to that point in the conversation yet.

Supervisor Crane said we have not told any of the members whose terms did not expire that the committee has been dissolved. We can't very well appoint when there are no positions to appoint.

Councilwoman Strawinski explained that the first step was to ask, if based on the recommendations and report from the Task Force knowing that this Board felt the report was valid, if the members were still interested in serving on the committee. Teresa Haney may not be interested in continuing. Her term expires at the end of this year. We still have a lot of work to do and there is going to be a reconfiguration of this. It is still a work in progress. If there was anyone from the Task Force interested in being on the committee, we should get it in writing. She thinks Beth Jones previously expressed interest in writing. She hopes to get a well rounded diverse representation of businesses to serve.

Planning Board – Supervisor Crane read a letter of resignation from John Hardeman. On behalf of the Board and community she thanked him for his years of service. We appreciate his long service. She asked if the Board would approve a notice that we are looking for a Planning Board member and Planning Board alternate.

Councilwoman Strawinski received communication that Kris Munn would be interested in being a member of the Planning Board rather than an alternate.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to send out a notice for those interested in serving on the Planning Board.

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

Supervisor Crane asked that letters of interest be received no later than August 26th.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Supervisor Crane wrote a note to Planning Board Chair Christine Kane regarding conservation easement issues on subdivisions before the Planning Board. She asked if the Planning Board is requesting that the Town Board consider developing/holding easements on certain applications. As a practical matter, the Town Board would discuss each conservation easement on an individual basis.

Planning Board Chair Christine Kane responded that discussion of whether the Town is still willing to hold conservation easements did come up at their last meeting and they were unsure of the program's status. They were also wondering whether any progress has been made on upgrading the easement language to be used, especially in the case of permanent conservation easements, so it outlines 1) the resources to be protected on the property and 2) the Town's enforcement rights.

Supervisor Crane referred to e-mail attachments from Attorney Chale. There was a copy of the JAMS easement, a copy of the program easement among other documents. She asked if the Board wanted to review the documents in hand before discussing the issue. She also wanted to make sure they received the signal from the Planning Board that they wanted the Town Board to assess in the first place. Apparently they do have limited questions about it and if the Town Board wanted to discuss it she would think it would be in the context of the questions asked.

Attorney Chale would like to speak with Christine Kane directly to see what her concerns are and what her questions are. That would be most helpful.

Councilman McKeon commented that we have a program and we put it out there in a law that we will in fact accept conservation easements. Granted, we vote on them each and every time but if we have a program and there are issues that need to be added we should go ahead and think about it. We should try to take care of them in a timely manner.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants time to read the document.

Supervisor Crane said this would be held in abeyance until the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane received correspondence from Patricia Barns of NYSERDA, who is her contact, regarding project support for the Highway Garage. She asked the status of the project. Supervisor Crane explained to her that due to budget considerations, the Town has had to postpone the Highway Garage construction until at least 2010 when the Town would be better able to address the need at that time. Patricia Barns' response was to thank Supervisor Crane for the update and recommended cancelling this application and submitting another one when funding is in place. NYSERDA does not want to hold funds for projects that have not moved in three months from the date of application. She asked Supervisor Crane to let her know if she agrees. Supervisor Crane will do so.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Keeling wrote a letter to the Board and asked if she is going to get a response. Also the Town is giving \$2,000 to the Village for Hardscrabble Day. She wants the Town to make sure it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, especially regarding parking. She suggested putting up signs in the Key Bank area for handicapped parking.

Supervisor Crane will convey that concern to the Hardscrabble Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to close the executive session.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Supervisor Crane moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk