

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 6, 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: Deputy Supervisor James Ross
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Supervisor Sue Crane
Also Present: Business Manager Debbie Marks
Budget Officer Rose Rider

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Dutchess County Legislator Tom Mansfield handed out a packet regarding the County budget and cost shifting. The County is proposing to shift certain costs to the Town level. He explained that it is tough because the State is constantly shifting costs down to the County and understandably the County Executive and those in the Legislature do the best they can to try to avoid that. There are two areas being proposed by the County Executive; one is election expenses and the other is share of road patrols. He went to a meeting last week that had close to twenty Mayors and Supervisors and nine County legislators. It was very clear that everyone is unanimous that enough is enough with these attempts of cost shifting. Regarding the election part, they are proposing the local Towns and Villages would pick up 40% of the cost of local elections. Since the Help America Vote Act, the total costs of elections have skyrocketed due to various requirements. The Federal law shifts the cost to the State, which shifts the cost to the County which is attempting to shift down to the local government. The next part is the share of road patrol. The County Sheriff's road patrol is paid for through our County taxes. It is one of the most important services we get from the County. Last year it was put back into the budget, it was bi-partisan, and it was something they all felt strongly about. The problem is that down County, the larger cities and towns have their own police forces so their argument is why they should pay twice, both local and county, if they don't get a lot of coverage. He referred to the packet showing the number of calls. Traditionally it has always been a County function and it's always been a County expense. They will fight very hard and he thinks it will be bi-partisan that they will all try to get it back into the budget. It will be very tough since today it was announced that they are running a \$50 million proposed deficit for next year's budget. It would be important for the Towns to get together and possibly pass a resolution to contact the legislators and the County Executive through the Supervisor's and Mayor's Association and make it very clear that this has traditionally been a County function and should be a County expense. He thinks some of the Mayors will speak at the next County Legislature's meeting during public comment. Once he gets the budget on November 1, he will have a lot more information. They don't have any of the revenue streams yet. As of September the numbers for sales tax was off 8% and that is the County's number one revenue source. It will be a difficult budget year, but he is hoping that this is one thing they will be able to restore to the budget.

Councilman Colgan asked if the cost of elections is only for local elections.

County Legislator Tom Mansfield responded that it is basically any election when there is a local person on the ballot.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if November 1 is the usual date for the County Executive to present the budget.

County Legislator Mansfield responded that is the deadline. The way our County Executive has done it is November 1st, and then we have hearings and vote on it in December. This year he is giving people notice.

Councilman McKeon certainly would support drafting a resolution opposing the shift down to the local property taxpayers.

Deputy Supervisor Ross agreed to a resolution on both of the issues. He would like to be clear about the costs regarding the Sheriff's calls. They are called the County Sheriff because the County is supposed to pay for them too. He thanked County Legislator Mansfield.

Linda Keeling referred to an e-mail she submitted regarding the CDBG. She was unable to attend the Public Hearing. Her suggestion was for the Board to consider making the present Rec. Park handicapped accessible.

Deputy Supervisor Ross responded that they did get the e-mail and will have the Recreation Committee look at that and see how we can work in that direction.

Councilman McKeon told her if she finds a grant that would be ideal for that purpose to pass it along to the Board for consideration.

Kristin Insogna commented that after she finished running the annual Catch-A-Rae road race, she noticed Councilman McKeon and Bill O'Neill in attendance. She couldn't help but wonder if they were at the event for their own self interest. The race is held annually at the beginning of the school year to honor the life of a beautiful, smart and talented young woman, Alexandra Rae Gravino who was taken from us much too soon. It was quite disappointing to realize that both Bill O'Neill and Councilman McKeon may have been there for their own campaigns since they are both candidates for election. She suggested that in the future if they are going to show up for such an event to show up for the right reasons. Come join them and run, volunteer, walk, be a part of it, but please don't be there for your own political gain.

Councilman McKeon responded that he found some of her remarks offensive. He commented that she may not be aware of who he is, but he has been to countless community events prior to being a candidate or Town Board member. He was there to show support for an event he thinks is very important. He was not there to campaign. Unfortunately he cannot run because he has two very bad knees. He was there to show his support then he had another event to go to at Montgomery Place an hour later. He is sorry she thought it was inappropriate, it was a wonderful event and he enjoyed seeing some of his friends perform.

REPORT ON SIDEWALKS FROM LINDEN AVENUE TO RECREATION PARK – DAN WHEELER

Town Engineer Dan Wheeler spoke about the sidewalks and presented three sets of plans. He explained that the sidewalk is going from Park Ave. to the Recreation Park and is about 1400 feet long. It will be a relatively simple issue. The concern that seems to pop up is if the sidewalks should be at grade level or elevated. He, the Highway Superintendent, and Dutchess County Department of Public Works met at the site and went over things. The DPW said they want it flush with the ground. Looking toward the Village, you'll notice that sidewalks approaching this area are also down at grade. Now the debate is up for safety, the counterpoint to that is the concern about drainage. It is not an insurmountable problem, but it is a little more difficult. They wanted to get this in front of the DPW right away and they came up with at grade. Some of the Village Trustees expressed that they would like it raised. At this point they started the process. He presented the package, but in a review sense they've got comments and maybe we've got comments. Dan suggested walking the site and be cognizant of the sidewalks in the Village that are approaching this. The only issue is raising the sidewalks. Should the Board decide to raise the sidewalks he doesn't think the DPW cares. If the Board wants him to call the DPW he will to schedule them to go out to the site again. He suggested the Board talk to the Village Trustees and ask them specifically what they would want. It is still in the review stage.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if the County DPW gave Dan a reason for having the sidewalks at grade level.

Dan Wheeler explained the prior sidewalks were at grade and this would allow the water to fly into the wetlands.

Councilman Colgan asked if there was a safety issue in terms of whether it's raised or not. Which is safer?

Dan Wheeler responded that most people feel that the raised ones are safer. He is not sure that there is a lot of support for that in that if a car whips around the curve the sheer momentum of the car will go over a mountable curb. An example is Route 9. They would never consider putting those sidewalks flush grade. The interesting thing there is also a bicycle path through the new area.

Councilman McKeon is very concerned about having a flush sidewalk. The whole point of trying to address this is to provide a safe way for our children. He would like not only to have it above grade but also some sort of safety barrier there.

Dan Wheeler stated that they could put some sort of fencing, maybe of guardrail quality. We are bumping up against a \$150,000 grant. There are compensating errors in that this one could conceivably be a little less because there are not as many cuts as the sidewalk on Route 9. This is a lot simpler. There is also the cost of the guiderail and/or handrail. One of the real issues becomes what the DPW will allow. This is their road and they are ultimately responsible for the travelling way in this instance. They have the final say.

Councilman McKeon hopes they will take the Town's comments into account and recognize that we are doing this project primarily because of safety.

Dan Wheeler thinks there is a point/counterpoint scenario. He suspects the new DPW man is sensitive to political pressure.

Councilman McKeon asked what the added costs might be.

Dan Wheeler responded that they will prepare engineering estimates.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked what the plans are at the bridge.

Dan responded that the bridge is already concrete and steel. It would have to be torn out and would bust the budget very quickly. It is DPW's bridge and they wouldn't be crazy about that. The top already has a narrow walkway, and then there is a skirt on either side.

Councilman McKeon is open to changing his mind but he doesn't see why we would want anything at grade there.

Deputy Supervisor Ross suggested that the Town Board discuss this with the Village of Red Hook Board and come to a unified conclusion.

Councilman McKeon thinks it is great to discuss it but once it enters the recreation park area it is within the township.

Deputy Supervisor Ross agreed, but it is a cooperating grant so we should cooperate with them.

Dan Wheeler said in talking to the Village Mayor, there was a concern that they want the sidewalks elevated. No one from the Village came to the site but there will be another opportunity.

Deputy Supervisor Ross told Mr. Wheeler that we will work diligently to discuss this with the Village. If we are together maybe they can push the County.

Councilman McKeon wants the public to weigh in.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained it is our job to represent them. We will listen to the public and then we will discuss with the Village.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PEOPLE'S CONVENTION TO SUPPORT NEW YORK ACT

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if the Board read the letter regarding the resolution. He then read a letter from Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro addressed to the Board. It expressed appreciation of the Town's efforts to pass a local resolution in support of the non-partisan legislation, The People's Convention to Reform New York Act. The letter went on to say that now more than ever NY needs a people's convention so its citizens can take back their State government. Their legislation would help achieve this goal and deliver the real reform and positive change New York desperately needs. He continued to read the letter which described the initiative. 36 Assembly members support this initiative.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked the Board members if they read the proposed resolution they received from Brian Kolbe.

Councilwoman Strawinski hasn't read the whole thing.

Councilman McKeon looked at the resolution but he doesn't think they should vote on the resolution about a proposed bill until we have a chance to read the bill in its entirety. He suggested leaving it as homework for next week.

Councilman Colgan is in favor of it, he hears a lot of negative about it but it's the best we have. He is inclined to encourage them to do it.

Deputy Supervisor Ross commented that he is too.

Councilwoman Strawinski would like to see the bill. She hasn't read it all yet.

Deputy Supervisor Ross commented that it is not a bad idea to wait, so he suggested putting it on the top of the agenda for next week's meeting.

RESOLUTION HONORING KEN GIEK

Deputy Supervisor Ross said the Board decided to wait on the resolution until Supervisor Crane returned because it would mean a lot more to have the entire Board honor Ken the way he should be honored.

RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO GO OUT TO BID FOR 2010 MATERIALS

Deputy Supervisor Ross read the resolution dated October 6, 2009.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked what the services are.

Deputy Supervisor Ross gave her examples of services. He read correspondence from Attorney for the Town Christine Chale explaining the reason for opening material bids separate from the Town Board meeting because of the number of bid items involved. It was discussed last year to have the Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy open bids in the afternoon, in public in the Town Hall. A report would be provided to the Board by the Superintendent along with a recommendation for awards at the next meeting following the opening of bids. He said as far as that goes, he doesn't have a problem with that but he would want at least Town Clerk Sue McCann, Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand, and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy there.

Councilman Colgan will also be there.

Councilman McKeon isn't supportive of it. He'd like perhaps to see it at the end of a meeting for the sake of PANDA and the folks at home.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that you legally want to have witnesses there. We'd have the Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent and Purchasing Agent there. That's all they do is open the bids so that legally we know they were opened in a proper manner. It is going to be advertised and the public is more than welcome to come and view that. All of the Board members are going to get a report of what those bids were. With the three of them there we can be assured that it was done properly.

Councilman McKeon thinks the public will have easy access with the camera available.

Councilman Colgan explained that the bids are opened here and we didn't do more than open them and read them. The intent is to open the bids, then create a document for the Board to review at a public meeting that will list each of the bids so the Board can pass judgment on which way to go at probably the following Town Board meeting.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked how soon the notices can go out and what would be a reasonable amount of time for them. Attorney Chale suggested October 27th or November 2nd.

Town Clerk Sue McCann responded that either date would be reasonable.

The Board decided to open the bids on October 27th at 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room.

RESOLUTION 2009 #44

RE: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ICE CONTROL ABRASIVES, A REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT, AND A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS & SERVICES FOR 2010

On a motion of Deputy Supervisor James Ross, seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Dog Control – Councilwoman Strawinski reported that the Dog Warden Cecil Moore turned in his reports. He does do patrolling and she thinks the Board should think about that. There is a substantial use of gas for the van during routine patrols. He is very thorough and has received a good rating from the State.

Police Report – Police Chief Jim Truitt presented police reports dated September 23rd and October 6th 2009. The largest investigation involved recovering approximately \$64,000 of stolen property. That investigation required assistance from the State Police. There is an increase in domestic violence and Red Hook police officers, as well as those from neighboring communities, will attend training from the County at the end of the month in response to that issue.

Linda Keeling asked about the businesses that were burglarized several months ago.

Sgt. Patrick Hildenbrand responded they are still under investigation.

Chief Truitt said there are some issues that have been resolved and hopefully restitution will be made. They are in family court rather than criminal court.

Purchasing Report – Councilman Colgan reviewed the report prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for the period of September 2 to October 5, 2009. During that period 27 PO's were issued in the amount of \$97,106.77; the largest, \$79,912.74 to Callanan Industries for paving Feller-Newmark Road. It was a public bid and a CHIPS project. The Dell server was installed, there are quotes out for upgrading the Justice Court, some proposals are out for Water District Operator, he is working with PANDA to get better quality sound with the filming of our Board meetings, and the north wall of the building was repaired.

Water Department – Water Department Chair Hank VanParys presented the September 2009 monthly report. Their monthly work session is scheduled for October 8th. They've been working on their pump control system. They went out for bid and it was awarded to Pendragon in Poughkeepsie. It is operating well. The "dead end" fall hydrant flushing is scheduled for October 22nd from 1 to 5 p.m. He explained plans for next year. Proposal requests for Water

District Operator were sent out September 14 and responses are required by October 13. The term is for 2010 with potential extension for two additional years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ag. & Open Space Committee – Councilman McKeon reported that they are reviewing the language in the proposed agricultural business district. They've come up with quite a few recommended changes and hope to finish that in the next month or so.

CAC – Councilman McKeon summarized the report prepared by CAC Chair Brenda Cagle. The CAC provided recycling containers for bottles and cans and also water refill stations on Hardscrabble Day. Passersby took a Tap Water Challenge. A sub-committee was formed to investigate and make recommendations about developing a municipal energy conservation/solar project. Bard Biology professor, Catherine O'Reilly offered to perform a water quality testing with her students on the Sawkill before and after sewer installation assuming the proposed sewer project moves forward. Lindsay Chapman, Bard intern has recommended that the Town apply for the NYSERDA Flex-Tech grant to evaluate possible energy savings at the Willowbrook Rd. pump house. She found out through her analysis that the pump house uses more electricity than any other town entity. She spoke with Hank Van Parys who agreed it is worth pursuing. Her ICLEI work will be finished in November and she'd like to give a short presentation to the Town Board of the results of her work.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Chair Bill O'Neill read the 58th report. They are continuing their work with the joint task force on the sewer in the Village of Red Hook. They submitted a modest budget for next year. Discussion has begun on conservation easements in the Town.

Rec. Commission Report – Chair Doug Strawinski reported that things are winding down. This month they repaired the dugout on the north field. The top of the roller hockey rink floor was repaired for safety reasons. A scoreboard holder was rebuilt. Erosion damage on Wetlands Walk was also taken care of. Trees that were becoming dangerous were removed. Ongoing activities include sixth grade field day, flag football, tennis courts are being used for school P.E. On Sunday mornings there is roller derby practice. Regarding the new park lands, they are moving forward. Mark Graminski was kind enough to do free surveys that will be passed on to the engineer hired for the first stage of its development.

Roads and Traffic Safety Committee – Councilman McKeon has a volunteer from the senior residence for the committee.

Senior Services Committee - Chair Andrew Kehr reported the current agenda items. They include a PANDA project, Valentine's Day 2010 Food Drive, and a Senior Read Aloud Program. Call Mill Road principal Donna Gaynor at 758-2241 if interested. There will be a Dial-A-Ride Advisory Board meeting on October 22nd, and the committee will be updating their newsletter.

Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski gave the monthly report for September 2009. The Wetlands Walk plaque is finished and will be mounted on the left side of the bridge. Susan Gilnack contacted Dutchess County Planning about placing the trails map on the county map. Some trails are already on their map and those which cannot be delineated by road centers can be done by the County GPS. They discussed involvement in helping develop St. Margaret's as a destination point for walkers. Their next meeting is November 5th at 7:30 p.m.

Tree Preservation Committee – Chair Nancy Guski presented the report dated October 6th. Their "Treefest" on Hardscrabble Day went well. She specifically thanked Ernie Churchill for his help with the medallions used for the children's craft. Terry's Bakery donated 100 frosted tree cookies and Linda Keeling made and donated a 'zillion tree' cookies. Grandiflora supplied a list of trees that work in this area. They made a tree quilt and she asked it to be hung in Town Hall. Town Clerk Sue McCann told her we'd love to have it. The committee will be receiving 30 new shrubs to replace those that were destroyed. Tentatively they have scheduled October 24 for planting. She thanked Rose Zengen for helping in the area set up for Hardscrabble.

TOWN BOARD 2010 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Deputy Supervisor Ross began by explaining this will be an overall rundown of the budget. Although this is not a public hearing they appreciate comments on the budget. There will be a couple of meetings on the budget prior to the public hearing. He referred to an article he read in

the Poughkeepsie Journal that upset him. It was an article about a 25% tax hike. He was upset with the end of the article where a Councilman was quoted. He feels that the Board members shouldn't discuss or quote things that are not fact until we actually have those facts of the budget before us and we as a council discuss the budget. He read a quote that said "over the last two years we have been drawing on the unappropriated reserve to pay for our expenses and this cannot continue". Deputy Supervisor Ross said that is a bold faced lie, it is not true. He read more of the comment and stated it was not true. He explained that during budget time we keep a fund balance, an unappropriated reserve and we've always had a healthy reserve. That will come out in these reports. Business Manager Deb Marks has reported on that for fifteen to twenty years so that we know where we stand with our unappropriated reserves. To correct the article in the newspaper he stated that the budget has to be approved by November 20, not the 10th. We've always paid for everything as we move along. A big benefit is that we have very little debt. A Town of our size with our assessed value, by State law, can carry a debt of \$79,789,776. We have a total debt of \$2,394,635. \$2, 211,000 of that is for our PDR which was voted on by taxpayers. Approximately \$430,000 is debt for our new recreation park purchase, there is \$183,635 that is part of our Highway plan for replacement vehicles. That way we don't get hit with a big burden. People say "25%", what happened? One reason is that we took more money out of the balance because we chose to take \$217,000 to pay off our assessment debt. \$116,000 was appropriated towards the 2009 budget. In addition, \$25,000,000 of our taxable valuation is gone this year; our assessments went down a little. Mortgage tax revenue went down; therefore the revenue to us went down. Our contribution to retirement has gone up because by State law you have to pay a certain amount into retirement. The State retirement fund lost money on their investments so they are coming back to the Towns to make up for that. Medical insurance has gone up a little bit, but not a lot and the present budget has a modest increase of 2% for employees except for the elected Board and Supervisor. Other mandated expenses are for the Red Hook Public Library, \$145,000, and the Tivoli Free Library is \$125,000. That was voted on by the taxpayers and was an expense that we never had before this year. Regarding the PDR, we have to start paying off that bond and that is \$149,000 and that is something else that was voted on that wasn't there in the past. As we get into the budget we'll talk about things we don't have to spend this year. He has his ideas as he is sure everyone on the Board does. They will try to present the budget tonight, they might have some discussion tonight, and they'd appreciate any input from the public. There will be more meetings before we actually have the official public hearing on the budget.

Councilman McKeon commented that Business Manager Deb Marks does an outstanding job of providing information and details. He referred to the fund balance that declined over the years. He said we've been taking from the unappropriated fund which is why they have dropped dramatically in the last couple years.

Deputy Supervisor Ross told him that is not really true and Debbie is going to get into the meat of the budget now. He explained where a good portion of that was so we didn't increase our debt. If you follow our budget for the last twenty years, by law, you have to appropriate so much because you are only allowed to carry so much in the fund balance. We've always pushed that to the limit. You want a healthy fund balance so you can pay things off.

Councilman McKeon disagrees, and feels we will be out of reserve funds in two years.

Budget Officer Rose Rider prefaced her presentation of the budget by stating that unfortunately, the way this was reported in the newspaper led many citizens to believe that the budget had been put together, that this would be it, and that this is what we would be faced with. Unfortunately, they omitted the last part of the Supervisor's statement to the paper. She read the news release for the benefit of the public. She stressed in that statement that the *submitted tentative budget is a starting point*. The statement urged all members of the Board to thoroughly review it and begin the process of amending and improving upon it. This is a difficult year and this will be a difficult process. Rose explained that the departments and the Supervisor cut in many cases and now it is to the point where it needs to be a Board decision as to further cuts. There will be an effect of these cuts; it is not going to be painless. They do have suggestions for some revenue enhancements which would need Board agreement. She proceeded with the budget presentation beginning with the General A Town Wide Fund. Association of Town's Seminars has been eliminated except for the Justices and their clerks because by law they have to have those credits. Various options were discussed and it was decided to leave that in.

Budget Officer Rose Rider and Business Manager Deb Marks reviewed the budget line by line with the Board and answered any questions the Board had.

Councilman McKeon suggested, at the point of discussion regarding a new Highway Superintendent to replace retiring Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand that the Board send out a letter that we are looking for a replacement. He moved to craft a letter to that effect.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if we've received a letter from Wayne Hildenbrand regarding his retirement.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained that no, we did not. She was contacted by the retirement system and Wayne spoke to her about his plans.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said that the Board should not send anything out until we get an official letter from our present Highway Superintendent with his intent to retire.

The Board continued reviewing the tentative budget in detail.

Councilman McKeon at one point noted an area in the budget that is projected to be over a \$400,000 deficit between what is taken in and what is budgeted at the moment. What you have for the summary of all funds is a drop in revenue of \$143,000. He emphasized that yes, there has been a decline in revenue, but that decline is simply not the majority of the gap in the deficit.

Business Manager Deb Marks interrupted Councilman McKeon and explained that when he keeps saying deficit, and the two of them had this conversation before, what he is talking about is the difference between what you have for appropriation and what you have for budgeted revenues. The difference is what you collect in taxes. That is what Councilman McKeon is referring to as a deficit. The budget the size of Red Hook's is a unique situation. We have a water district, lighting district, fire district, and we have two Villages within our Town. We have a picture of what larger communities have on a larger scale. Our scale is a smaller scale, so a smaller budget. Any change of significance, as an example the loss of revenues, that we experience is going to impact our budget greatly. With the economic situation, it is not realistic for us to assume that we are not going to be seriously impacted. She doesn't like to hear us use words that are alarmist in nature like deficit, but this is what it is. Even though the percentage looks large, when you look at the dollar amount all in all, it puts it into better perspective. Yes, the proposed increase for 2010 dollar wise for the village is \$61.00 for the whole year if your home is a \$300,000 home. In the Town dollar wise the proposed annual increase is \$134.00. When you put it into perspective it makes it a little easier.

Budget Officer Rose Rider explained that these are the numbers today. Hopefully we'll be able to do something to make it a little better.

Councilman McKeon said what he is trying to make clear is at the end we will be balanced because we are making those reserve funds decline and that is alarming to him because it is an unsustainable rate.

Business Manager Deb Marks commented that is another thing he has to take into consideration with the fund balance. She explained the transfers from one fund to another over the last few years and the way they decided to do something differently last year. The transfer was put back in and she explained the shift difference between the funds. They are hoping to see some form of a recovery next year and meanwhile they are not going to burden the fund balances and put fiscal stress on them. That's what the goal is.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that last year we had an estimated unappropriated fund balance in the B fund that was too high. It was prudent for us to use that because it was much higher than it should be. Unfortunately, the winter started early last year and the winter was much harder than anticipated and more was also spent which hit the DB reserve of the unappropriated fund balance.

The Board continued discussion of fund balances over the last few years.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked after covering the A fund, if any of the public had questions or concerns. Next week the budget will be reviewed beginning with the B fund.

Police Chief Jim Truitt asked the Board to look at the current police budget.

Rose Rider explained that the police budget was held at the same amount. They thought they could provide the same service for the same amount. They did say they would like to increase their hours of service and shifts that they do.

Chief Truitt gave the Board some consideration for thought looking at the overall picture for law enforcement services and cost effectiveness.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that we originally started our contract with the DC Sheriffs. We approached the Village when we first started our patrols and used to budget \$10,000 a year. At that time the Village didn't want to do that. The Village since did and we based the number on what the Sheriff charged us per man per shift and so on as to how we spent it. That's how the amount spent increased for the Village and we left the Sheriff pretty much the same.

Chief Truitt explained the cost of having a Deputy Sheriff as opposed to local police services.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that the Board will look at that when we get to the B fund next Tuesday now that we got the input from our local police department.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Deputy Supervisor Ross opened for public comments.

There were public no comments.

Town Clerk Sue McCann asked if the October 21st meeting is still on. There is a meeting on the 13th.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said they will decide next week where we are and then decide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman McKeon made the following announcements.

- Rhinebeck Center for Performing Arts family series begins this Saturday at 11 a.m.
- Kaatsbaan Dance Center – free open rehearsal on Thursday
- The American Symphony Orchestra will be at the Fisher Center this weekend
- Tivoli Free Library programs
- Winnakee Land Trust will have a barn tour beginning at the Bulkeley Farm in Red Hook
- Wii bowling tournament for children – funds raised will go toward the food pantry
- Music Alive at the Fisher Center
- He thanked everyone on the Hardscrabble Committee and the farmers for their time, energy and effort for the animal exhibit

CORRESPONDENCE

Deputy Supervisor Ross announced the following correspondence:

- A letter was received from the Commissioner of the DEC congratulating us on adopting the Climate Smart Community Pledge.
- New York Department of Public Service wants people to know that there are discounts on monthly charges for your telephone service for those who are income eligible. The toll free number is 1-800-342-3377 or call the Supervisor's Office at 758-4622.

On motion of Deputy Supervisor Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk