

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

November 10, 2009

MEETING – 7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING – PRELIMINARY BUDGET 8:00 PM

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: Attorney for the Town, Christine Chale
Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand
Budget Officer Rose Rider
Business Manager Deb Marks
Ted Eglit, CPA

Deputy Supervisor Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced that the Public Hearing on the preliminary budget will continue at 8:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Supervisor Ross announced the following:

- Town Hall offices will be closed on Veteran's Day. A traditional Veterans Day service will take place at Veteran's Memorial Park at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.
- Red Hook Central School District will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed construction project will be held at Mill Road School 3-5 cafeteria on Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Richard Gordon read a brief statement regarding his objection to the actions of local Republicans to harass and intimidate legitimate votes of Bard students on November 3rd. He was present at a shuttle stop that day at 5:15 and he said a leading figure from the Republican Party announced that students will be questioned, and required to show their drivers license. When Mr. Gordon approached the man, he argued that his intention was to inform and warn students that the exercise of their constitutional right to vote was going to be a hazardous undertaking. He thought our community was better than this. He is well aware of the remarks made regarding students voting in local elections. Whatever your opinions on this issue the students are fully within their legal rights, according to the election law of the State of New York, to vote. He warned that similar actions will not be tolerated in the future and they intend to counter such actions to the full extent of the law.

Francis Donahue was an election official in Barrytown. There were some challenges. There was a Republican poll watcher who would once in a while challenge an address of a student. Apparently the people at the college do not know what an address is. A building name and a room number is not an address, it must be a street address. Therefore, they had to take those challenges into consideration. A court order came in which was basically for Vassar College having to do with students, location, and voting in the wrong precinct and so forth. They understood it to affect all of Dutchess County. Until about the last half hour of the day, if it was a challenge, they had to have that person vote on an affidavit as they understood it from the court order. Around 8:30 pm, one student stayed and waited because word came in that that would change. The court order was lifted as far as the election officials were concerned so that person voted on the machine. When they are told by court order when a challenge of a residence comes in that you cannot vote on the machine, you must have an affidavit ballot that gives that person the right to vote, only in different methodology. Therefore they had no such instructions to ID people. He would think that when Bard College registers these people they would give them a street address. Tell them a street address is necessary as far as the election is concerned. A building name is not a street address.

Frank Stoppenbach had a court order from Judge Brands that was dated November 3. It is trying to cause confusion. The Judge apparently did not read the law when he issued the court order. The law says that if people are challenged on address, the law allows the person to vote on the machine unless a majority of the polling inspectors say they cannot. The Judge did not put that in the court order and that is what caused a lot of delay and confusion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman McKeon announced several events.

RECREATION FEE PAYMENT LANGUAGE

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked the Board members to look at the information before discussion. The Planning Board asked that the Town Board clarify the language in the Fee Schedule regarding payments in lieu of dedication of recreation land. He read the current and proposed language from Planning Board memo dated October 22, 2009.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to accept the proposed language of the Planning Board

Adopted	Ayes	3	Ross, Strawinski, Colgan
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Crane
	Abstain	1	McKeon (owns farmland)

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT SETTLEMENT OF A CONSENT JUDGEMENT

Attorney for the Town, Christine Chale explained that she did circulate information to the Board regarding the settlement of Article 7 proceeding with TLC Acreage, LLC. She told the Board if they had any questions she would meet with them in Executive Session for discussion.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked Assessor Jeff Churchill if there was anything he wanted to add. He explained the issue and said it was recommended that the Board approve the consent. He proceeded to read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #45

RE: AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF ARTICLE 8 PROCEEDING WITH TLC ACREAGE, LLC

On a motion of Deputy Supervisor James Ross, seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

WATER OPERATOR RESOLUTION

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked Water Department Chairman Hank VanParys to explain the resolution.

Hank VanParys explained that the Water Department used the services of the current operator for ten years. They've renewed his contract three times for three years and they thought it was time to go out for a proposal for Water District operation. Three responses were received and a selection was made. The lowest bidder has operations in Dutchess County and they are very competent.

Councilman McKeon is glad we went out for professional contracts because we can save the taxpayer's money. He thanked Water Department Chairman Hank VanParys who also thanked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for his help.

Deputy Supervisor Ross read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #46

RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR – WATER DISTRICT NO. 1) BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND UNITED WATER AOS, INC.

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

FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AGREEMENT FOR: (1) HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY - \$10,000 (2) EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT GRANT/ ST. MARGARET’S - \$90,000

Deputy Supervisor Ross began with the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant. He asked Councilman McKeon to read the grant resolution.

Councilman McKeon read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #47

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY GRANT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTERS AND GREENSPACE PLAN AND EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

On a motion of Councilman Robert McKeon, seconded by Deputy Supervisor James Ross moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

Councilman McKeon explained that Greenway would like to make a brief presentation. They need a little help with marketing so that New Yorkers understand how important their role is in helping communities like ours actually implement some of the things towns are working on.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if anyone from the St. Margaret’s Committee wanted to say anything about the next proposed resolution.

Linda Keeling told everyone that they’ve been waiting a long time for this and it needs to be done.

Deputy Supervisor Ross read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #48

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION GRANT FOR THE ST. MARGARET’S HOME ROOF STABILIZATION AND EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS IN CONNETION THEREWITH

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

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

Copy Attached

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION – PRELIMINARY 2010 BUDGET

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked Business Manager Deb Marks and Budget Officer Rose Rider to bring people up to speed so there is an understanding of the budget if anyone has any questions.

Business Manager Deb Marks gave a slide presentation. She explained that the first thing she is required to disclose is salaries of elected officials. Some of them are at the same rate of pay as 2008. She explained why the Highway Superintendent's salary is lower. She recapped the budget and summarized all funds.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that if anyone from the public has a specific question, to please raise their hand and if possible, they will be acknowledged.

Deb Marks reviewed the recap of the preliminary budget. A bottom line condensed figure, based on the Town Board's preliminary budget, showed what the tax rates would be. For a house in the Village, total annual Town tax increase for the year would be \$44.00. For a house in the Town, the total annual increase for the year would be \$101.00. It is based on an assessed valuation of a \$300,000.00 home. She explained that this is a little more palatable than looking at the percentage which is a little alarming. She continued her review. She also put together a comparison of the tax rate per thousand from 2002 to 2010. For informational purposes using the same principal and interest payment for PDR's, there would be about a 14% increase in the Village and in the Town 16.8%. She also pointed out the difference without the library. The taxpayer's approval of referendums for the two libraries and the PDR impacts our budget greatly. She explained our consolidation of bonds. Also, the Town underwent a strict, close financial audit. Deb explained that we were given a Moody's rating of AA-. We are the second Town in Dutchess County to get such a high rating.

Budget Officer Rose Rider presented a summary of the preliminary budget. She explained that there will be no raises in 2010; some elected officials are at the same rate of pay as they were in 2008, the Highway Superintendent is a decrease of \$7,056.00, and the bond payment for the PDR increased over the last year by \$59,240.00. She explained that was a significant increase. She continued to review the General A Fund. Overall the appropriations for 2010 are down \$15,355.00 over 2009. She reviewed revenues in the A Fund. Overall revenues are down \$130,671.00, or 19.5%. Even though expenses are down, revenues are down even more. The estimated 2009 tentative unappropriated fund balance is \$462,000.00. The preliminary 2010 budget has no funds appropriated from the unappropriated fund balance resulting in a tax increase of approximately 20.72% at this point. She reviewed the General B Fund expenditures.

Councilman Colgan said the reduced assessments result in 3% of that 20%.

Rose Rider responded that was correct and continued to review the General B Fund expenditures. Overall expenditures in the B Fund are increasing by approximately \$21,000.00 for 2010 as opposed to 2009. The largest revenue for the B Fund is sales tax and is estimated at \$370,000.00 which is down \$10,000.00 from 2009. Interest earnings are also down. The estimated 2009 end of year unappropriated fund balance for the B Fund was \$145,000.00. The preliminary 2010 budget has no funds appropriated from the unappropriated fund balance resulting in a tax increase of approximately \$53,714.00 over 2009. She moved on to the Highway DB Fund. Overall expenditures are expected to increase \$13,000.00, or 1 ½ % over 2009. No raises were considered. Rose continued to explain the Highway DB Fund. End of year fund balance estimated in 2009 is \$21,000.00. Without appropriating any of the fund balance the result is a tax increase of 12.97% for the Highway DB Fund. Rose explained the Red Hook Fire Fund. There was a two year contract signed in 2008. Under Water Works O&M Fund, she explained it is a self funded non-profit operation and maintains a balance to pay for capital improvements. In summary, the overall Town tax rate for properties inside the Villages will be approximately .86 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The tax rate in 2009 was .71 cents. For properties in the Town outside the Villages, Town tax will be \$2.05, a 19.67% increase. For 2010 there is an overall expenditure decrease of \$4,117.00. Revenues however, are going down \$124,412.00.

Deputy Supervisor Ross added that the real telling thing is the summary of all funds. He went through the differences between the 2008 budget and the preliminary 2010 budget. The Board is trying to keep the budget as low as possible.

Resident *Richard Gordon* thanked everyone for the detailed report. He would like communication from the Board collectively to get a bigger picture of what is going on. What is fundamentally the cause of the projected tax increase? He knows line by line it seems to make sense, but what is the big picture? He feels confused about that.

Deb Marks answered him in saying that we are really seeing a significant decrease in revenues. Unfortunately when you lose revenue, the only alternative is to raise taxes. It is really putting a burden on us.

Councilman Colgan explained that in 2005 we had about \$550,000.00 in mortgage tax revenues and this year we are pressed to break \$100,000.00. The sales tax revenue hasn't gone up as it normally has. We've had some changes, one being in 2007, the voter's passed fixed revenue for the libraries for a total of \$270,000.00 per year. Up until that time we gave the libraries \$45,000.00. Right there the loss of revenue and expenditures add up. From 2007 to 2010 like budgets are down \$82,000.00 which is taking money out of the core of the operation of the Town. It troubles him.

Resident *Fran Donahue* commented on paying off the bonds. He asked what they are specifically and asked how paying off building rights bond issues affected the budget.

Rose Rider explained the bond payment for the Purchase of Development Rights increased over last year by \$59,240.00. That was because the bond came due so they had to pay the interest and principal on that bond. Before that there was an interim payment. The bond has been finalized.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that is a combination of the bonds for our PDR and the recreation park.

Fran Donahue wanted the total of the bond.

Deputy Supervisor Ross answered about \$143,000.00.

Resident *Gale Knull* said there is no question the Board has a big job ahead of them. In tough times, you have to make tough decisions. He thinks the Board has to cut even more. If we don't have revenue, we can't spend what we spent before. We cannot accept a tax increase year after year. He doesn't know how to do it, but these are tough times. He would like to see no tax increase, but if you are talking cutting services, the Town just can't do it. We passed referendums in good times, and maybe we have to go back and rethink those things and do what is necessary to make them current.

Councilman Colgan explained that would require a new referendum. That would have to be initiated by the taxpayers.

Gale Knull said between the library and the money for the PDR (purchase of development rights) and the recreation park, in round numbers that is \$400,000.00. If our revenues are going down, then the budget has to go down to meet the revenues. Cutting services is a way.

Councilman McKeon agrees with everything *Gale Knull* said and he thinks the Board can bring in a flat budget without harming the services we deliver. He thinks we are in a situation now, but he disagrees that it is because revenues are down. We have to take a look line by line and see where we can cut without affecting the services.

Gale Knull commented about the \$140,000.00 for the open space and library. He told Councilman McKeon that he pushed that \$140,000.00 for the open space. That was your baby Mr. McKeon. That adds to the problem too.

Councilman McKeon said he totally disagrees. If you look at those 2,000 acres that are protected now, thank goodness it wasn't populated with high school students because there is a bulge in the high school now, not in the lower schools. If we had to find more space for the high school students we would have had to pay big time in the form of taxes. That is a return on your investment. Every study across the nation shows you are saving money because of that initiative. Libraries, you can argue one way or another.

Gale Knull commented that is hypothetical.

Councilwoman Strawinski interjected that the voters decided on the PDR.

Deputy Supervisor Ross takes offense to Councilman McKeon's comments regarding the fund balance. This is his 20th year on the Board and from his first day he was very concerned about keeping our fund balance healthy, but not too generous. You don't bank money today for tomorrow's taxpayers. That is against the law. According to State guidelines they recommend that you keep 10% of your budget as a fund balance. According to the State rules, they would like us to have about \$160,000 in the A Fund balance. Right now, according to Business Manager Deb Mark's projections, we have \$462,000 which is one of the reasons he is going to propose that we draw \$60,000.00 from that because it is more than healthy. Yes, we did withdraw a lot last year because we paid off the reassessment bill we had and didn't have to further indebt our taxpayers. Fiscally he thinks that was a very prudent thing to do. Our Highway Fund balance has gone down. Who could predict the ice storms? Fortunately we had a healthy fund balance and a prudent Highway Superintendent who was able to manage it. For as many years as he's been on the Board they have tried very hard to maintain a reasonable fund balance and a reasonable tax rate. That is what we are all trying to do. He would be in favor of withdrawing \$60,000.00 from our A Fund balance. Just in doing that would put the A Fund at a 13.77% increase which essentially means a 10 or 11 % tax increase.

Councilman McKeon won't support a \$60,000 draw from the reserve fund because there is no rationale behind it. He is supportive of drawing down that fund for temporary dips in revenue. Let's figure out what that temporary dip in revenue is.

Councilman Ross said that is what he is saying. It is the prudent thing to do.

Councilman McKeon wants analysis of what we think is an ongoing level of revenues before he supports any number.

Councilman Colgan wants to hear more from the public.

Resident *Marcy Appell* asked if the Board is going to continue to go over the budget or is this the final budget.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that what the Board is looking at is a preliminary budget. The Board received a tentative budget from the Supervisor, and then they came up with a preliminary budget before the first Public Hearing so they had something to bring to the public. This evening they wanted to educate the public as to how they arrived at the budget they have today. He explained the drop in mortgage tax revenue.

Councilman Colgan said that refinancing is the biggest part of the mortgage tax.

Councilman McKeon explained that they will continue working on the budget. There are staff reductions they will discuss in Executive Session and he thinks they will get a budget that is flat.

Councilman Colgan stated that if we have a flat budget it will certainly have a significant impact on services.

Councilman McKeon disagreed and said it doesn't have to have any impact on services.

Deputy Supervisor Ross agrees that it will, and then asked if there were any other questions from the public. With no questions, he asked the Board what they wanted to do. Adjourn the Public Hearing? Keep in mind the budget schedule.

Councilman McKeon said we must close the Public Hearing unless a meeting is scheduled between now and November 15th.

Councilwoman Strawinski recommended going over the budget line by line this Saturday.

Councilman McKeon suggested changing the meeting from the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

The Board discussed when to hold further meetings.

Deputy Supervisor Ross suggested meeting on the 17th. He explained the fund balance and how everyone has been conservative with their budgets. He thinks they might be able to make more cuts, but he can't see our budget having a 0% increase. He doesn't think we can cut employees and departments any further than they already have. There is no increase in pay for employees in the budget. He again asked if there were any questions from the public before closing the Public Hearing.

Richard Gordon urged the Board to communicate with the public about the big picture.

Councilman Colgan added that there are a number of elements in the budget that are set in stone. When you strip those out, you cut at the heart of what makes the Town operate on a day to day basis. The Board is working on it.

Councilwoman Strawinski directed people to the Town website for information.

Resident *Frank Stoppenbach* asked the Board to allow a few days for written comments.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if there were any more questions regarding the budget.

Councilman McKeon again spoke about drawing from the fund balance.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if there were any more comments from the public.

There were none.

On a motion of Deputy Supervisor Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman McKeon suggested that the motion be amended to allow written comment until November 15th.

On a motion of Deputy Supervisor Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the motion as amended.

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

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if it was agreeable with the Board to meet on November 17th. He asked if the Board wanted to continue that evening.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants the reorganization to be finished and wants to take care of it at the night's meeting.

Deputy Supervisor Ross thinks at this juncture it is more important to work on the budget. When Supervisor Crane is back and when the budget is finalized, which they have to do by the 20th, and then they can continue to work on the reorganization.

Councilwoman Strawinski said there is one committee in particular that is waiting for the Board to give them the go ahead to reconvene and that is the Economic Development Committee.

Deputy Supervisor Ross believes they started to fill that committee and told them they can start. There are a couple of positions to be filled correct?

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, motion not seconded, moved to fill the two positions on the EDC.

Deputy Supervisor Ross is not prepared to do that without the Supervisor here, but he is one of four.

There was no second to the motion to continue with the reorganization.

Councilman Colgan doesn't want to take the time.

Councilwoman Strawinski will contact the committee members to tell them it has been postponed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if there were any comments from the public before the Board continued to discuss the budget.

Deb Marks said the last time changes were made was on Saturday, October 31st. She pointed out some errors that amounted to a \$290 decrease. She needs the Board's permission to carry them. Deb pointed out the errors. She was given the numbers for the MTA tax. She asked for permission to make those changes.

The Board agreed to allow Business Manager Deb Marks to make the changes to the lines she pointed out.

Deb pointed out changes in the DB Fund that amounted to a \$27.00. In the SW Fund there were also some changes needed. She told the Board that she needed their permission to make all of the changes.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked the Board members if they were all in agreement with making the changes Business Manager Deb Marks pointed out. The Board was in agreement.

Deputy Supervisor Ross returned to discussing meeting dates. The Board will reconvene on November 17th and the first item on the agenda will be reorganization for the EDC. They have to keep in mind that the budget discussion comes first.

Councilman McKeon asked if they want to schedule another night.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked about Monday, November 16th. The Board discussed possible meeting dates.

Councilman McKeon thinks another meeting should be scheduled.

Deputy Supervisor Ross suggested Monday, November 16th. If there is not enough room in the conference room for the public, they can return the next night. If they vote on the budget it will be on the 17th. At that meeting they can tell the public what they decided at the meeting the night before.

Councilman McKeon disagrees. Look at the amount of people who showed up at that meeting. There would be no way to accommodate them if the meeting was held in the conference room.

Councilman Colgan said they really don't have many choices, and suggested holding the meetings on the 16th and 17th. If the Planning Board has a light evening, they can switch rooms.

Deputy Supervisor Ross announced that the 16th will be a strictly budget workshop. The meeting on the 17th will be a workshop in a larger public forum. Other items will be on the agenda as well. The meeting on November 16th will be at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room and the meeting on November 17th will be at 7:30 p.m. in the main meeting room.

Councilman McKeon thinks holding a meeting on November 16th in the conference room is an example of not accommodating the public, but accommodating a particular Town Board member. He thinks the public won't have access to the discussion and won't be a part of the process.

Deputy Supervisor Ross doesn't understand how the Board is accommodating a particular Town Board member. It is a workshop for the Board. They always welcome the public. As a matter of fact, at the first Public Hearing there were two or three people from the public. He suspects

most are at tonight's meeting for other reasons. All accommodations will be made for the public. It is a workshop for the Board, the next evening the Board will meet in the larger room. He said there is a tentative meeting for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and suggested it is cancelled.

Councilman Colgan strongly suggested cancelling the meeting the night before Thanksgiving.

Councilman McKeon suggested cancelling that meeting and scheduling it for the following Tuesday which he believed was the last day of the month.

Deputy Supervisor Ross told him that is the first day of December.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Ross, moved to cancel the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving.

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

Deputy Supervisor Ross informed everyone that the November 25th meeting is cancelled and on November 16th they will meet in the conference room at 7:30 p.m. for a Town Board workshop on the budget. On November 17th there will be a regular workshop with a couple of items on the agenda, and they will discuss the budget. That meeting will be in the large meeting room. He asked if the Board wanted to work on some of the budget at that time or would they want to wait until the 16th.

Councilman Colgan wanted to address the Highway budget especially because the Highway Superintendent was present at the meeting.

The Board began to review the budget. They discussed the Highway DB Fund.

Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand explained that there are a couple of ongoing drainage issues that the engineer is needed for. They may or may not extend that. It depends on what happens this winter. He explained the need for an engineer during a State of Emergency and dealing with FEMA, etc. They need something in the budget for an engineer.

Councilman Colgan asked about repairs.

Highway Superintendent Hildenbrand explained that part of the budget and related costs.

Payroll for the Highway Department was discussed.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained that the State wants four areas of the payroll covered. She knows the numbers and splits that between four lines.

Wayne explained materials and repairs and where projects were scheduled as well as machinery and equipment.

Councilman McKeon asked if the overtime budget could be shaved.

Wayne explained to Councilman McKeon that Business Manager Deb Marks has that calculated.

Councilman McKeon thinks that could be one area where numbers can be shaved. He would like to see that number reduced to \$40,000.

The Board continued to review the Highway DB Fund.

Deputy Supervisor Ross asked if the Board was in agreement to reduce the snow removal to \$40,000.

The Board was in agreement.

Councilman McKeon asked about a replacement for retiring Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand. His retirement date is December 9th. He asked if a few weeks would be an appropriate amount of time to train someone.

Wayne told him that the Board might want to have someone in place by the end of the month at the very latest.

Councilman McKeon asked if Deb Marks looked into what the position title would be called.

Deb responded that it is similar to a Working Forman position. She checked with the County and the person would be registered with the County as a temporary position until appointed.

Councilman McKeon said we are four weeks from the day Wayne leaves.

Deputy Supervisor Ross suggested that be an item on the agenda.

Councilman Colgan agrees that it should be on the agenda.

Deputy Supervisor Ross suggested that at next Tuesday's (Nov. 17th) meeting they put on the agenda an Executive Session to discuss the interim Highway Superintendent candidates. He thinks the Board should wait until next Tuesday when our Supervisor is in attendance.

Councilman McKeon asked Councilman Colgan when he proposes to bring that person on.

Councilman Colgan responded immediately.

Deputy Supervisor Ross explained that it has to be discussed in Executive Session.

Councilman McKeon does not feel that it is appropriate to wait. He is ready to appoint someone now.

Councilwoman Strawinski saw two resumes and she would be comfortable taking the Highway Superintendent's recommendation.

Deputy Supervisor Ross would too, but feels the Supervisor should weigh in.

Councilman Colgan would like to wait.

Deputy Supervisor Ross will have it on the agenda for next week's meeting.

Attorney Chale explained the Board can go to Attorney/Client.

Deputy Supervisor Ross said one issue can be decided without Attorney/Client. He asked if the other issue was related to personnel issues or a lawsuit.

Attorney Chale responded maybe.

Councilman McKeon suggested taking care of the issue at the night's meeting.

On a motion of Deputy Supervisor Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to go into a brief Attorney/Client session for privileged communication at 9:38 pm.

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

On a motion of Deputy Supervisor Ross, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the Attorney/Client session at 10:04 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	0	
	Absent	2	Crane, Ross (not in room)

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk