

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

December 1, 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 pm.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- She congratulated Bill O'Neill for winning the election.
- Richard Schloemer will serve as acting Highway Superintendent in his capacity as Deputy pending appointment by the Town Board of a new Highway Superintendent.
- On Friday, December 4, the Village of Red Hook will celebrate Winterfest. The tree lighting will be at 7:30, there will be Santa, carriage rides, entertainment and food.
- Supervisor Crane acknowledged the loss of Terry Lane's mother and the loss of Ruth Oja's husband Frank Oja. Our condolences go out to those families.
- There will be a benefit roast beef dinner for food pantries in Red Hook and Germantown at Monumental Lodge, 7 North Road, Tivoli on December 11 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Intermunicipal Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill presented the Board with a plaque he received in October. Pace University Land Use Law Center has a program, Land Use Leadership Alliance training program that many people from Red Hook attended. It is an annual award called the Groundbreakers Award which is given for the exemplary service to the sustainable development of the Hudson Valley Region. This year the Intermunicipal Task Force was the recipient. Individual plaques were also presented to some Task Force members.

Supervisor Crane thanked Bill O'Neill for his work on the Task Force. She congratulated him for all of his successes. She knows it is a very prestigious award for the Town. We are grateful for all of those who serve on the committee.

Linda Keeling turned attention to the paper quilt made by children on Hardscrabble Day. She thanked Nancy Guski who made the cutouts and arrangement and Ernie Churchill who made the frame for free. She thanked Town Clerk Sue McCann for hanging the artwork. Supervisor Crane thanked the Tree Committee for their energy. The artwork is testimony of what children are capable of. She too thanked Ernie Churchill who framed the paper quilt for his generous gift and Sue McCann for hanging the artwork.

RESOLUTION: SEPARATELY STATED LIBRARY TAX

Supervisor Crane explained that the resolution is for a separately stated library tax on tax bills. People have asked what the library tax is and how it affects the tax bill. We've been asked where it is and how much it is so we did some investigation. She asked Business Manager Deb Marks to explain what it is the Board is attempting to show taxpayers.

Deb Marks explained that this came about after a conversation with the Town Board. She and Councilman Colgan investigated with Dutchess County Real Property. It is an extension or memo of the tax bill. The Red Hook Library and Tivoli Library will each have a line on tax bills.

Councilman Colgan added that the libraries are aware of this and support the idea.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan to read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2009 #49

RE: REQUESTING THE PREPARATION OF ITEMIZED TAX BILLS

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan, 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

HIGHWAY MATERIALS BIDS – 2010

Supervisor Crane explained that the Town typically goes out for materials bids. Bids were opened on October 27th. Without reading all the quotes she identified the authorized purchase of road services and materials pursuant to Town procurement policy. She read the resolution. The Town Clerk has the list on file of vendors who bid.

RESOLUTION 2009 # 50

RE: AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ROAD SERVICES AND MATERIALS PURSUANT TO TOWN PROCUREMENT POLICY

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

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

Copy Attached

Councilwoman Strawinski read the resolution regarding the purchase of hot mix asphalt.

RESOLUTION 2009 #51

RE: AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF HOT MIX ASPHALT FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURPOSES

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

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

Copy Attached

Councilman McKeon read the resolution regarding the purchase of ice control abrasives.

RESOLUTION 2009 #52

RE: AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ICE CONTROL ABRASIVES FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURPOSES

On a motion of Councilman Robert McKeon, 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

MONTGOMERY PLACE

Supervisor Crane read a letter from Town Historian Winthrop Aldrich regarding Montgomery Place. He was relating to an effort on the part of many people to get to the bottom of how to save and preserve Montgomery Place. In his letter he said that Assemblyman Molinaro has been positively heroic in his effective efforts on behalf of Montgomery Place and therefore on behalf

of the people and prosperity of Red Hook. The Board of Historic Hudson Valley was to meet to deliberate on this issue. They are guardedly optimistic that they are going to form a community coalition for Montgomery Place this month, an ad hoc unincorporated pressure group the Town may want to join by resolution. He also said that he is delighted and relieved that the Senator Saland grant for restoration of St. Margaret's roof that came through. Supervisor Crane thanked Mr. Aldrich for his interest, concern and ongoing efforts about historic preservation. Letters from Assemblyman Molinaro were also referred to.

The Board will read the letters before commenting.

Councilman McKeon said this is confirmation of their consideration of possibly portioning off the estate for purposes other than for public enjoyment.

Councilman Colgan thinks we should be as proactive as possible.

PANDA – PRESENTATION BY KATHY HAMMER, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Hammer told the Board that one of the things they are doing with each of their five municipal partners this month is to visit and talk to them about where the organization is and how far it's come in the last two and a half years. She introduced Susan Simon, Treasurer and Town of Red Hook representative, Mark Durand, Village of Red Hook representative, and Kathy O'Conner, Tivoli representative. She asked Susan Simon to speak to the Board.

Susan Simon explained that 2009 has been a time of technological growth at PANDA. She explained the changes and upgrades as well as a variety of subjects on air. Finances have been revamped and they are in compliance with municipal reporting, financial institutions and the IRS. They continue to strive to keep pace with technology.

Mark Durand represents the Village of Red Hook and oversees programming at the station. The program is based on volunteers and contributions. He explained what volunteers do and how they contribute to PANDA. He explained a digital programming machine that they just received. Their website has also been upgraded.

Kathy O'Connor represents the Village of Tivoli. She urged everyone to watch PANDA, because it is the feedback from viewers that generate programs.

Kathy Hammer thanked the Board for their support. The equipment has been made possible through grants through Senator Saland and Assemblyman Molinaro. They welcome suggestions.

Councilman McKeon thanked them for volunteering. It is such an important service. It helps keep residents aware of what is going on.

Councilman Colgan thanked them for the great job they are doing. He asked how we can get coverage for all three of the Town's meetings. We have coverage for one meeting but need coverage for two more every month.

Susan Simon responded that according to the municipal agreement they are providing a videographer for one meeting a month. Red Hook is unique because they have three meetings a month. She urged the Town to find another volunteer or provide funding to pay someone a nominal fee to tape.

Kathy Hammer said there is a general need for more video support for PANDA. They get a lot of requests for taping and are in the process of looking for people right now. PANDA pays \$60 a meeting for the first two hours and \$10 an hour thereafter.

Councilman Colgan asked her to keep us up to date.

Councilman McKeon commented that it comes to about \$1,400 a year and he thinks it is well worth the cost to keep the public informed.

Supervisor Crane asked who she would contact.

Kathy Hammer responded that she would be the contact.

Supervisor Crane asked about training volunteers.

Kathy Hammer explained that Kathy O'Connor has been doing the training. Chris Garza would be another person to contact for training.

Supervisor Crane thanked the PANDA representatives for their presentation.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Building Inspector – Supervisor Crane summarized the permit report, certificate report and inspection report prepared by Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole.

Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole told the Board that the report does not cover zoning complaints and miscellaneous complaints they cover daily. Complaints come in about vehicles in yards, debris in yards among other things.

Highway Department – Attorney Chale asked Supervisor Crane if the Board considered the sand and salt arrangement with the school district.

Supervisor Crane explained that it is a shared services agreement for sand and salt with the Red Hook Central School District.

Attorney Chale explained that it is a proposed continuation of an arrangement with the school district. There is a slight modification from prior years. The proposal is that we would provide the product and they would pay for a pro rata portion. She summarized the resolution. She explained that this will be a billing process rather than an in kind process.

RESOLUTION 2009 #53

RE: APPROVING A SAND AND SALT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND THE RED HOOK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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

Copy Attached

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ag. & Open Space Committee – Councilman McKeon reported that they met last night and discussed a survey they hope to send to landowners in the Ag. Business District. They also discussed getting a replacement for their clerk.

CAC – Member Denis Collet read a prepared statement. They've been working toward determining if Red Hook should join a municipal loan program that help homeowners and businesses save money and decrease their dependency on foreign oil and utilities. The programs are voluntary in nature. He explained the program. NY State legislature signed a piece of legislation that would enable and encourage municipalities to assist in these efforts creating a funding program. Department of Energy announced a stimulus grant that would provide successful applicants a minimum of one million dollars to help establish this type of program leveraging other Federal and State initiatives along with a municipal loan total of six million dollars. The deadline for the grant is December 14th. A group from the CAC and other volunteers has been working on the 74 page grant application. He asked for the Boards support to continue the process.

Councilman McKeon said the legislature passed the bill on November 17. It enables New York to join several other states in being eligible for this type of financing. The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan fund is a unique opportunity to couple with what is already in place on the State level.

Supervisor Crane asked how the CAC plans on moving on this.

Denis Collet explained that Intern Lindsay Chapman is coordinating the project. She has a thesis deadline she is trying to meet as well as volunteering on this particular effort. There are seven volunteers working on different aspects. They have a plan as to how to execute the grant if they should receive it.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilman McKeon moved to hear from the CAC after the 8:30 presentation from Lindsay Chapman next week.

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

Councilman McKeon asked if the Board wants to consider scheduling a brief meeting on Saturday morning in case they need to do anything related to the actual grant.

Supervisor Crane asked if he was asking to have a Town Board meeting.

Councilman McKeon suggested setting a meeting for the 12th and if we find out on the 8th that we don't need it we can cancel it.

Supervisor Crane said three are entitled to meet. She doesn't know if she is available or if the Deputy Supervisor is available. She has to get her calendar.

Town Clerk Sue McCann informed the Board that if they decide on December 8th to hold a meeting on the 12th there is time to put it in a news brief.

Brenda Cagle, CAC Chair gave their report. She explained the PACE program. Lindsay Chapman gave a presentation on the greenhouse gas inventory and will present to the Town Board on December 8th. As a follow up to the possible energy audit of the Willowbrook pump house, a representative from NYSERDA spoke to Water Dept. Chair Hank VanParys and it was determined that the cost benefit ration of replacing a pump now does not warrant purchase of a new pump. She thanked Lindsay Chapman for facilitating the effort. Composting booklets are available at the Town Clerks window and information is posted on the CAC bulletin board. The county budget for 2010 proposes a 100% reduction in funding of the CCE Environment Program. The CAC will be writing and speaking up in support of the program. Some members attended various workshops. Lindsay Chapman's internship will be up and she suggested if the CAC wanted another Bard Intern to write up some suggestions for projects. She asked if the Board would discuss a stipend for the Interns.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Task Force Chair Bill O'Neill gave the sixtieth report dated November 2009. The Task Force reviewed updates on the Red Hook joint sewer project and the effort to roll over into the capital costs of the project. The Task Force also discussed how to fund the costs of the environmental review of the Centers and Greenspaces Plan and the time table for completion of the Plan. They will be working with the Ag & Open Space Committee regarding a survey of local farmers for their input into the Ag. Business District. At a special meeting it was resolved that the DC Water & Wastewater Authority will be introducing the resolution to the DC Legislature in January 2010 to create the joint sewer district in Red Hook. A public informational meeting on the project will be scheduled by the Task Force for mid January 2010 at the Red Hook Firehouse.

Supervisor Crane asked Bill O'Neill to thank Village Trustee Brent Kovalchik for keeping us abreast of the sewer meetings between the Village and Town.

Recreation Park Committee – Chair Doug Strawinski reported that it is the end of the season. The restrooms have been closed and winterized, but the park itself is still open to the public. He thanked John Kuhn, Jeff Tremper and Don Whipple for keeping the park in good shape.

Supervisor Crane thanked the volunteers.

St. Margaret's Committee – Member Paula Schoonmaker reported that the site has been cleaned up. It is in preparation for spreading dirt and planting grass in the spring. The Empire State

Development Corporation grant contract has been reviewed, signed and returned. The work will be done as soon as possible in the spring. Regarding the New York State Historic Preservation grant, they are on track for getting that going as soon as possible. The committee will meet tomorrow and the new Director of Hudson River Heritage will be there.

Supervisor Crane also thanked the St. Margaret's Committee volunteers. The change at the building is remarkable. She mentioned the collaboration between the Highway Department, Recreation Department and the committee and thanked all those involved.

Senior Services Committee – Chair Andrew Kehr gave the report dated December 1, 2009. The committee has been working on a PANDA project, and an Emergency Preparedness information sheet. He pointed out the following information for seniors:

- There will be a Medicare informational session sponsored by Office of the Aging on January 20, 2010 at the Poughkeepsie Galleria Community Room from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Financial Planning & Long Term Care Insurance on January 12 in the St. Francis Atrium in Poughkeepsie. Call St. Francis Home Care Services at 483-5528 to register.
- Medicare open enrollment dates, November 15 to December 21, 2009. Review current drug plans for 2010.
- Valentine's Food Drive
- The Read Aloud Program, contact Donna Gaynor, Principal, K-2 Mill Rd. School

Supervisor Crane thinks if the Office of the Aging knew the Town could make this room available or the community room at Red Hook Commons available, maybe they could hold presentations in Red Hook.

Andrew will bring that up to them.

Trails Committee – Councilwoman Strawinski read the report prepared by Chair Howie Callies. The subject of how to facilitate the inclusion of the Mill Rd. School trail on the Town and County map was tabled due to a lack of a quorum. They discussed how they might utilize the recently announced availability of grants from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Council regarding development paths and walkways at St. Margaret's Home. They are interested in helping establish the location as a community destination point. Their next meeting is December 3rd at 7:30 pm. at Town Hall.

Zoning Review Committee – Chair Susan Simon reported that we are entering a time where the zoning isn't necessarily keeping up with the times. Building Inspector Bob Fennell and Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole come to them with situations where zoning needs to be adjusted. It is the committee that makes the recommendations to the ZBA so those things can be remedied. The committee has had a hard time meeting because of lack of quorum, and as a result there are issues to discuss that need to be addressed that they have not been able to move forward with. There are two representatives from the Village of Tivoli and the Village of Red Hook that cannot vote. She requested that the Board allow the two members to vote and also the possibility of having alternates as well. The committee meets the second Thursday of the month.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling asked if a Transportation Committee is in place.

Councilman McKeon answered that it is not ready yet.

Linda Keeling told the Board that the St. Margaret's Committee will need a secretary, and she is available to be the secretary for the Ag. & Open Space Committee.

Supervisor Crane asked for anyone interested in any of the secretarial positions to contact her or Town Clerk Sue McCann.

There were no more public comments.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to move into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss the hiring, firing, promotion or demotion of a particular person.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman McKeon moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk