

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 8, 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
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale
Business Manager Deb Marks

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. She announced that Judge Peter Forman informed her that he will be available on January 1st at 10:00 a.m. for a swearing in Town Hall. Anyone who is interested in attending is welcome.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period of November 1 to November 30, 2009 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$915.80; amount remitted to County Treasurer for dog licenses - \$64.62; amount remitted to NY State Ag. & Markets \$12.00; amount remitted to NY State Department of Health for marriage licenses - \$67.50; amount remitted to NY State Environmental Conservation - \$2,961.83; Total State, County and Local revenue - \$4,021.75.

Town Clerk Sue McCann announced the Hugs from Home box and a food donation box for Dutchess Community Action are outside of the Town Clerk's Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Linda Keeling asked if the Board would include an ADA Coordinator during the reorganization. She also asked that they consider policy and procedures.

Supervisor Crane asked her to send her a reminder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- Swearing in ceremony at Town Hall on January 1st at 10:00 a.m.
- Swearing in ceremony and gathering of friends in Watts De Peyster Hall in Tivoli for our new County Legislator from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. December 20th.
- Northern Dutchess Alliance newsletter that puts a new face on our membership. The newsletter is entitled "Charting Our Course". On January 13, 2010 there will be an annual breakfast at the Wallace Center from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. It also talks about the ways people can donate to those in need.
- Annual Toy Workshop at Northern Dutchess Hospital, call 871-3425 Laura Watson for information.
- The Baptist Home is looking for volunteers to entertain residents.
- Oblong Books is looking for books for local children in need.
- Community Action is collecting canned and dried goods for the food pantry.
- Ferncliff Nursing Home is collecting small unwrapped gifts to give to the residents 65 years and older.
- Office of the Aging needs volunteers in the Rhinebeck area to deliver meals to homebound elderly one or two days a week. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage.
- VFW is having a food collection for holiday baskets for local families in need.
- Winter Coats are being collected by Classic Cleaners for donation.
- Blood Drive at Northern Dutchess Hospital on December 17th from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. and also at Rhinebeck High School from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy has gone out for a request for quotations regarding clearing Town sidewalks. They are due in by December 11th. If anyone is interested see Mr. Kudzy or the Town Clerk.

Councilman McKeon made the following announcements:

- 12/10/09 - Red Hook Chamber holiday event at the golf course at 6:00 p.m.
- 12/12/09 - Tivoli Winterfest from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- 12/19/09 – Winter farm market will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Elmendorph

Councilwoman Strawinski announced the Community Cares Committee formed in June. They've met on Fridays to try to organize community members to get involved with our youth and perhaps reach out to parents who are having difficulty with their teenagers and adolescents. She thanked the Town Clerk for putting the box out for the food drive.

WATER BOARD

Water Department Chair Hank VanParys told the Board that they've accepted the bid with United Water for our water system operations. He thanked Attorney Chale for her help with the contract. They received certificates of insurance from United Water this morning and he, Carole Little and Gerry Gilnack met with their manager last Thursday. The manager will be at the meeting this Thursday to attend the normal monthly work session with current water system operator Rich Cain. People from United Water will be here once or twice to visit the facilities and Hank said he'd be happy to ride with them to show them around. They will take over January 1, 2010.

Supervisor Crane asked Hank VanParys to speak about his request for a raise for meter readers in the year ahead.

Hank Van Parys said the Water Board discussed that the meter readers deserve an increase. They've been paid a dollar a meter and it includes the meter pits. They agreed to increase the overall rate to \$1.50 a meter and \$2.00 for meter pits. For meter pits, they have to lift a heavy cover, lift an interior cover and sometimes have to lie on their stomachs to look down to the meter which might be in the water. Their last increase was in 2001 and he thinks it is time.

Supervisor Crane thinks it would be something the 2010 Board should think about. The Water Department is usually well within budget. She will defer to that first meeting in 2010.

Hank VanParys explained what he asked Business Manager Deb Marks to transfer from the unreserved fund. The next big item will probably be to maintain the tank. It will be inspected this summer and he expects that some work may have to be done.

Supervisor Crane said there will be a final closing of the books on December 12th at which time they can take care of some of the little pieces of business.

LINDSAY CHAPMAN – POWER POINT PRESENTATION ON ICLEI PROJECT

CAC Chair Brenda Cagle introduced Lindsay Chapman, the intern who has been working with the CAC since June. She did a great job and is completing her graduate work at Bard in environmental studies.

Lindsay Chapman passed out information and explained the ICLEI project she's been working on. She introduced herself and explained that she is a graduate student in the Environmental Quality Program. She has been working on a greenhouse gas inventory for the Town of Red Hook as well as for the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli. She began her presentation by explaining the steps she went through and the plans she looked at from the national level down to the local level. She showed where Red Hook could make some changes to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and to what is entailed in a climate action plan. The point is to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emission in our region to mitigate climate change. This is taking place worldwide. She referred to two acts before Congress right now regarding reducing greenhouse gas emissions. ICLEI is a networking tool for local governments to find out measures that are working and those that are not. She explained the goals of reducing gases. ICLEI is suggesting a 1% reduction a year. She included Bard College in her climate action plan as well as the school district. Highlights included Town Government greenhouse gas inventory, total community comparison and commercial community measures. She pointed out potential

government measures which included installing LED lights and timer for recreation fields, which reduces Rec. Park electricity usage by just over half avoiding 6 tons of CO2 emissions. Regarding the Willowbrook Road pump house, it is not cost efficient to replace either pump but she suggested keeping this project in mind for future when maintenance on the pumps is required. It is suggested in the future to look to electric and hybrid trucks and heavy duty vehicles, and converting 100% of the streetlights and traffic signals to LED lights which will reduce lighting electricity consumption by more than half. In closing she presented how to formulate a climate action plan. Because resources are shared in the community of Red Hook, the best strategy is to include Villages, Town and Bard into one written action plan. It would require input from a variety of stakeholders – government officials, business owners, residents, and Bard students. It is suggested to continue internships through Bard for additional resources. She concluded that the community of Red Hook is capable of a 15% reduction of 2005 levels by the year 2020. It is a goal to strive towards.

She answered questions from the public and the Board. The power point presentation will be posted on the Town website.

ST. MARGARET’S RESOLUTION APPROVING PRESERVATION COVENANT

Supervisor Crane explained the resolution for consideration. She asked Attorney Chale to summarize it.

Attorney Chale explained that the resolution relates to the grant that was awarded some time ago. One condition of the grant, which Paula Schoonmaker is still working on, is that we submit and agree to a preservation covenant. It is required for an historic property. She explained the conditions.

Supervisor Crane asked if the agreement pertains to the architectural piece of the roof stabilization as well.

Attorney Chale said the agreement is not for that grant. That grant is sort of an emergency stabilization grant for the roof. She suggested consulting with an architect on that. This is for a bigger grant.

RESOLUTION 2009 #54

RE: APPROVING PRESERVATION COVENANT FOR THE ST. MARGARET’S HOME

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

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

Copy Attached

NEW YORK STATE STIMULUS GRANT - \$1,000,000 FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Supervisor Crane asked Denis Collet if he was prepared to explain the grant.

Dennis Collet spoke on behalf of the CAC. They have an opportunity to apply for a one million dollar grant for a municipal energy funded program for the residents of Red Hook. He is unable to give details at this point. It is a complex application and once they assemble the contacts in the field they will have a package by Saturday morning which is their deadline.

Supervisor Crane said the Board will meet Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. She hopes to take care of end of year vouchers at that meeting too. She will give the Supervisor’s report then.

Councilman McKeon said the CAC put in a request for using about \$500 from their budget to allocate to Lindsay Chapman for the work she is going to do finishing the grant. He asked if the Board would consider that request for them to use their money.

Attorney Chale said it could be called fee for service.

CAC Chair Brenda Cagle told the Board she thinks they have about \$800 left in their budget.

Supervisor Crane explained the reserve fund and how they are urging departments and committees to use tremendous caution at the end of the year because it is such a tight year. Maybe between now and Saturday the Board can consider it. She is always willing to agree to a reasonable amount of dollars for grant writing.

Councilman McKeon said we would need to approve the expenditure now. You cannot retroactively do something like that. Lindsay has been the lead author for this grant. She is actually writing it and has been working on it for several weeks.

Councilwoman Strawinski said this is over and above what her internship was for and she supports giving her the money for grant writing work.

Councilman McKeon explained that there will be between 15 and 60 awards and the minimum award will be one million dollars. It is a funding opportunity through the Department of Energy.

Supervisor Crane asked Lindsay Chapman to explain the grant.

Lindsay explained that we will be applying for the innovation fund. The point of the project is to establish a program around this area. They are applying for the grant so that we can establish a weatherization and solar program for homes so they will be able to bypass the upfront costs which could be in the thousands. The one million dollars will go towards administrative costs as well as possibly subsidizing energy audits for homeowners.

Denis Collet explained that some of the details have not been fully worked out.

Supervisor Crane informed them that staff wise we don't have anyone who could oversee the project.

Denis Collet assured her that the intention is not to put additional burden on the Town; it is intended to be self sustaining. The funding from the grant itself would offset the administrative costs. The program would be self sustaining. There would not be an additional burden on the Town.

Supervisor Crane also informed him that we do not have office space available in the building.

Denis Collet explained the intention behind the program was to increase jobs to add additional revenue while reducing the cost. If it doesn't meet the intention we are not interested in participating.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to approve \$500 for the grant writer Lindsay Chapman.

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

REPORTS

Police reports – Supervisor Crane referred to October and November police reports. She explained that the Town enjoys police coverage of both the Village of Red Hook and the Sheriff's Department. For the month of November there were 31 incidents, total tickets issued were 12. For the month of October there were 42 incidents, 3 arrests and 18 tickets issued. She said this report brings to mind that there has been vandalism at the Rec. Park and she wanted to take the opportunity to tell residents to report it. The only way to find out who is guilty of damaging our Rec. Park is for people to be alert and report it.

Purchasing Activity – Councilman Colgan gave the report prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for the period of October 8 through December 8, 2009. There were 57 purchase orders totaling just under \$70,000. The largest was for the purchase of salt. There were several projects taken care of and he is working on RFP's for several consultants. It is a rather time consuming process for him.

Supervisor Crane asked Attorney Chale if she would mention the engineering and planning RFP as they relate to Ted's office.

Attorney Chale explained that Ted is supposed to meet today and is preparing RFP's for engineers and planning. In particular, he is developing scopes for those and working out engineering counseling for highway engineering work. He will continue to review specific projects on a case by case basis. The Board will need to include the Planning Board on the discussion of a planner and also on the engineer for the planner.

Councilman McKeon asked if it makes sense to go out for an RFP for a Planner when you are trying to finalize the Centers and Greenspace Plan.

Attorney Chale asked if it was intended to cover the Centers and Greenspace Plan. The answer was no.

Supervisor Crane explained we got an estimate of costs and it is the Board's contention to stay with that estimate.

Attorney Chale said it is really up to the Planning Board to select the Planner. Ted is responding to a request he had earlier to do RFP's for the various types of services.

Supervisor Crane said additionally there are a lot of people in the community asking about filling the position of Highway Superintendent. She talked with Deputy Highway Superintendent Rick Schloemer who informed her that Rob Taylor is ready, willing and able and feels he can be the second in command. She wanted everyone to know that there is a plan in place for the Highway Department. She said that Wayne spoke to the NY State Pension administrator and made sure that after he retired it would not affect his pension if he should need to come in and act as the plow driver. He is ready, willing and able. She also said that the Highway Garage is still a need. The CDBG will be completing the sidewalks down to the Rec. Park. Many people walk and bike that path and hopefully that will be a solution to the dangerous pedestrian traffic. She has a meeting with Dan Wheeler tomorrow regarding the sidewalk.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane referred to the following letters:

-someone is inquiring about the protocol for presenting the issue of feral cats in Red Hook. She asked Attorney Chale to look at it so that maybe we can address it.

Councilman Colgan knows of someone in Tivoli who is involved with this on a volunteer basis.

-a letter from Roger Akeley talking about the County making an initiative for alternative methods to fund expenses associated with Dutchess County Resource Recovery.

- a letter from Inga Pulver who pointed out there is a large Menorah by the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce building and there is neither a Christmas Tree nor Nativity displayed. Her letter stated this is wrong and hopes the Town or Village plan on installing either one representing those residing in Red Hook who celebrates Christmas.

- A letter from Gerald Nesel, Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds from Bard College. She read the letter which was in regard to our Building Inspector coverage. She has seen an outpouring of support for that Building Department. Mr. Nesel says there have been budgetary decisions and asked that some consideration be given to this decision on behalf of Bard College. Both gentlemen have been very helpful in the past few years to keep Bard compliant with Building Department related issues. He's asked for interpretation of codes and sought advice from the two men. He said that reducing the presence of a resource such as a member of the Town Building Department concerns him and he feels it will have an adverse affect on the positive direction they have been headed.

- Two letters from our Town Hall family. Deputy Assessor Diana Picciano's letter said she realizes that this year's budget is especially sensitive because of the cuts that have to be made, but cutting the Zoning Enforcement Officer's hours is a mistake. He has to be in the office for day to day calls, has to inspect all building CO's and now take on the Village of Tivoli. Her office has worked with Mr. Cole's office for years and they see the amount of work that comes out of that office by him on a daily basis. To decrease his hours would be a mistake for the safety of the Town and its residents.

- a letter from Deputy Town Clerk, Claire Horst that stated she understands the budget is an arduous process but she cannot understand how they can reduce the hours of the Code Enforcement Office. It is a disservice to our community. She doesn't think the Board has the

slightest idea of the day to day activity they experience. On a daily basis they receive calls in their office about issues taken care of by the Building Department. Those issues may not always be part of their monthly report but they are a part of their daily routine. Tivoli no longer has a building inspector and that work load has been added to the Red Hook office. On behalf of the Code Enforcement Officer, she asked that the Board consider reinstating his full time position.

Supervisor Crane offered those letters for the Board's consideration. She referred to a letter from the County Executive who will be meeting with Governor Paterson regarding fiscal issues. Marcus Molinaro sent a newsletter regarding Social Security benefits. It highlights Social Security retirement benefits, the Medicare Advantage program, Medicaid benefits and who is eligible, and the Home Energy Assistance Program.

Councilman McKeon explained that the Community Action Agency in Red Hook is available to assist people who need those programs.

Supervisor Crane said there are also volunteers through AARP to help with income tax.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to go into Attorney/Client and Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Ross, moved to adjourn the Attorney/Client and Executive Session at 10:16 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan, seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	3	Ross, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	1	
	Absent	2	Crane, Strawinski

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk