

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 26, 2010

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Sue Crane
Councilman James Ross
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
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:

- Village of Red Hook Mayor David Cohen and Supervisor Crane co-authored a news release which she read. It was in regard to a temporary hold on the proposed Red Hook sewer project.
- Resignation of Arvine "Bucky" Coon effective May 28, 2010.

Deputy Supervisor Robert Latimer made the following announcements:

- Information regarding a sustainable renewable and green energy plan. A sample resolution was attached.
- New York State will drop licensing dogs. It will be given to the municipalities.

Supervisor Crane also announced the following:

- The Senior Picnic will take place on September 15th at the Tivoli Recreation Park at noon. It is sponsored by Dutchess County Office of the Aging.
- The Memorial Day Parade will assemble at the High School at 9:15 a.m. and begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Supervisor Crane read an announcement from Dutchess County Legislator Ben Traudt who will host a "Dutchess Government Comes to You" meeting at Red Hook Town Hall on June 2, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- There will be a PANDA annual meeting at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow night at the studio.

Councilman Colgan announced the following:

- The Northern Dutchess Alliance will hold a meeting on June 16, 2010 from 4 – 6 p.m. The location will be announced.

Supervisor Crane reminded everyone that there will be a Public Hearing on June 10, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the H.S. on the proposed amendment to the zoning and subdivision code of the Town of Red Hook.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling thanked Town Clerk Sue McCann for helping her on an issue regarding past minutes. Everyone should be appreciative of the type of minutes that she maintains. Historically they are really significant and it is critical to know even the minutia.

Rosemarie Zengen is glad that Chief Truitt is here tonight. There have been strange people in her area making her nervous. The Village police are really attentive, they are there a lot. She knows she can always contact a Village police officer if she has a problem. She thanked Chief Truitt and other Village officers for how well they've responded to calls she had to make recently. They are a real asset to our community.

Bill Kemble, Kingston Daily Freeman reporter, questioned going to executive session regarding the Highway Superintendent vacancy. He referred to the Open Meetings Law.

Supervisor Crane explained that the Board will be discussing the hiring/firing of an individual or individuals in executive session.

Rosemarie Zengen asked if executive session can be on the website so the audience can know ahead of time so they don't have to wait.

Supervisor Crane explained the agenda is on the website.

Town Clerk Sue McCann explained that executive session is usually last on the agenda so that people are not waiting around for the Board to return.

RESOLUTIONS

Standard Work Day Reporting NYS Employee Retirement System

Supervisor Crane explained that the New York State Comptroller's Office is asking for a resolution that is required to establish days worked per month for NY State Retirement System employees, particularly for elected officials. She referred to a note from Business Manager Deb Marks saying that the Town Board would be passing the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution. It reflects those elected officials that are part of the NYS Retirement System. It goes to the NYS Comptroller for verification of their work records. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2010 #31

RE: ESTABLISHING THE STANDARD WORK DAY REPORTING FOR THE NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman James Ross moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

Mead Orchards – Conservation Easement for PDR

Supervisor Crane explained the resolution approving the conservation easement for the purchase of development rights of Mead Orchards, LLC. It reflects our partnership with NY State Department of Agriculture and Dutchess County to purchase the development rights for property that is part of the Mead Orchards. State funding is anticipated to include a grant from NY Dept. of Agriculture and Markets in the amount of \$427, 819, from a Dutchess County grant in the amount of \$72,772, and Dutchess Land Conservancy in kind contribution in the amount of \$12,500 with a total estimated purchase price of \$533,390. The Towns portion is \$57,335. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2010 #32

RE: APPROVING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS OF MEAD ORCHARDS, LLC

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman James Ross moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

Acknowledging Justice Court Audit – 2010

Supervisor Crane explained the resolution to acknowledge the required audit of the Town of Red Hook Justice Court that was just conducted. She read the resolution regarding the audit.

RESOLUTION 2010 #33

RE: TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE REQUIRED AUDIT OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK JUSTICE COURT WAS CONDUCTED

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman James Ross moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS, INC.

Supervisor Crane asked Councilman Colgan if he was prepared to talk about the Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. issue.

Councilman Cogan responded that he was able to speak a little about it. He read the information he received and explained some of what he understood of the plan. In summary, they want to

run a 1,000 megawatt line from the Canadian border to New York City and across Long Island Sound to Bridgeport. It is going to run in and/or along the Hudson River. He explained that what he read is all legal documentation and much of the information has not been made public about some of their research. At some point they will have to go through hearing processes. He made notes of his concerns which were as follows: wants a detailed map of all power lines in and adjacent to the Town of Red Hook as well as the infrastructure related thereto; wants to be notified of all public hearings and see archeological records. These power lines may be under the water and may be under the (train) tracks. That means yet another barrier to the access to the river. They made some inference to infrastructure and to him that might mean some power stations somewhere along the river; some sort of control devices. He would want to know anything that would impact the Town in any way. He told Attorney Chale that this is all legal information that he was reading. He wants to be sure that this doesn't slip by us. He would like Attorney Chale to look at the information.

Supervisor Crane said it appears that public statement hearings will be between August 30 and September 29, 2010. That time frame is a full month, but we don't know any details yet. It is a proposed schedule. We are just beginning to access the information. She appreciates Councilman Colgan looking at it and trying to describe it.

Councilman Colgan feels it is a concern and can have quite an impact on the Town.

Supervisor Crane will forward information she has to Attorney Chale.

ST. MARGARET'S

Councilman Colgan reported that the committee met yesterday. Town Historian J. Winthrop Aldrich agreed to purchase an historic marker and place it in front of St. Margaret's Home. He gave the proposed language to go on that marker; the committee reviewed it yesterday and is happy with it. He passed the information out for the Board's approval and read what the marker would say.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to accept the language as proposed by the St. Margaret's Committee for the historic marker in front of St. Margaret's.

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

Supervisor Crane thanked Town Historian Wint Aldrich for his generosity for offering to pay for the historic markers.

TIVOLI LIBRARY PRESENTATION – BONNY CORRADO

Supervisor Crane welcomed Bonny Corrado, Director of the Tivoli Library.

Bonny Corrado gave a presentation explaining services that are provided for all ages. The Tivoli Library is open 46 hours a week, staying open until 8:00 p.m. each week night. She explained results of a survey regarding the library. With the pending renovation work at the Red Hook Library beginning next week, they will not host a summer reading program which will increase the schedule at the Tivoli Library. Dutchess County plans to cut summer reading program support so she explained their plans under the circumstances. The library received an award for its outstanding service two years in a row. Only one other library in the Mid-Hudson Library System has received this honor. She invited everyone to attend the library programs.

Supervisor Crane thanked her for her presentation. She asked if Bonny would like to introduce the members of the Board of Trustees.

Bonny introduced Joe Campisi, Board President, Chris Tieger and Lee Palmer.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor – Supervisor Crane read the report dated May 26, 2010. It explained Grievance Day and the preparation that went into it. There were 56 grievance complaints. On June 8 and 9 the Board of Assessment Review will meet in executive session to review and act on the filed complaints. If unable to finish on those two days they will schedule additional meetings in June. By July 1 the final assessment roll is published.

Business Manager – Business Manager Deb Marks reported that she and two other area women generated interest in the Towns in Dutchess County and now have a newly formed group with by-laws and a mission statement called the Dutchess County Fiscal Officer's Association. She

was just elected their first President. It's a good opportunity to network and have a source to consult with.

Budget Officer – Budget Officer Rose Rider told the Board that the Highway Dept. has completed an inventory of their Capital Equipment. She referred to a budget plan for capital expenditure for the next five years beginning in 2011 for the Highway Department. It shows only those items that are within the replacement time for that first five years. It is the first department to develop the plan. The next areas will be done by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy and Recreation Director John Kuhn.

Building Inspector – Steve Cole, Office of Building and Zoning, presented his report for the period 4/29/10 to 5/26/10. It included Permit Reports, Total by Type and Status of Permits, Certificate Reports, Inspection Reports and the Permit Fee Report dated 4/26/10 to 5/26/10 that showed total fees collected - \$3,074.00.

Supervisor Crane asked about new construction.

Steve Cole said that there are five new constructions to date, which is one more than all of last year.

Dog Control – Supervisor Crane asked Dog Control Officer Cecil Moore to keep her up to date on any dogs that may be in the kennel. He reported that there are no dogs in the kennel. Town Clerk Sue McCann gave the report generated by Dog Control Officer Cecil Moore. It listed his patrol schedule and response report for the month of May.

Highway Department – Deputy Highway Superintendent Richard Schloemer reported that they replaced a culvert pipe, finished sweeping the Town streets, swept for the Village of Tivoli, finished sweeping for the Village of Red Hook, and reclaimed a section of Stony Brook Rd. and a section of Amherst St. and Columbia Ave. They just finished moving the topsoil back today.

Police Report – Police Chief Jim Truitt reported on activity during the month of April. There is a parent night on June 15th because of a huge concern with prescription medications. The school district wants to alert parents. On Memorial Day the police department is hosting a child identification program in front of the Village Police Department. They've been working with Dutchess County resources on substance abuse counseling in the Middle School and the High School to try to bring about awareness.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan explained that he and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy have been very involved with selecting Stephen Tilley as the preservation architect for St. Margaret's. He sent out an RFP for the roof on the Town Hall building. Both of the bids were very time consuming.

Supervisor Crane met with the Board's choice for engineer for special projects and discussed the roof project. She asked if he would look at the bids to make sure all bases were covered and make sure that the roof structure is sound. He also agreed to talk with the green energy people about those photovoltaic panels to make sure we have it right.

Recycling - There was no recycling report but Supervisor Crane said that we missed submitting our annual report to the State D.E.C. She received a letter that they previously asked for our completed annual report and are asking again. She forwarded that to Councilwoman Strawinski to make sure that Recycling Manager T.J. Hackett has that report.

Water Department – Councilman Ross reviewed the April monthly report. They are in the process of replacing a lot of the old meters that have very high readings. About 76 old meters have been identified. The water tank will be inspected and it may have to be repainted. They are coming up with an emergency plan so the pumps and water levels can still be controlled.

BOARD REPORTS

Zoning Board of Appeals – Councilman Ross attended the last ZBA meeting and they had four public hearings scheduled. He explained the variances that were granted or continued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ag. & Open Space Committee – Councilman O'Neill said the Ag. & Open Space survey was published last month, the responses were gathered by the Committee and they are in the process with the Intermunicipal Task Force to meet with the parcel owners in the proposed Agricultural

Business District under the Centers and Greenspace Plan and actually speak to the landowners about the proposal and their responses to it.

CAC – Chair Brenda Cagle reported that Lindsay Chapman agreed to work again as intern this summer. They received notification that the energy personnel position for which they received preliminary notice may not include money for interns. They recommend instead that the entire award of \$52,000 be used to fund one position. The data for the Vernal Pool survey had been collected and sent to Cornell Cooperative Extension. There were two very deserving applicants for the Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship. Anne Rubin will give her aquifer protection presentation to the Village Board on June 7. The CAC wrote to the ZBA requesting they grant a variance for the siting of a photovoltaic array so that it could be optimally sited for best performance and they asked the ZBA to promote the siting of renewable energy sources in its rulings. (The variance was granted.) There is one vacancy on the CAC. She listed the qualities they are looking for in a new member.

Disaster Preparedness Committee – Supervisor Crane referred to a copy of the Town of Red Hook Emergency Action Plan of 2010. There is an additional section that is being worked on not part of the plan introduced tonight.

EDC - Chris Klose, EDC member, presented the report. They are moving along on streamlining their process. They have another vacancy so they are searching for three people now. They created an action plan to serve as a basis for their monthly reports. There was discussion about whether or not the meetings should be announced. Attorney Chale said it is up to the Town Board to decide what procedures advisory boards should follow.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Councilman O’Neill reported that the Task Force is still meeting weekly and they are receiving updates on the proposed sewer project which is now on hold because of absence of funding they anticipated. They are getting ready for the Public Hearing on June 10th at the High School. Supervisor Crane looked into using the High School for continuing the public hearing if needed. The dates reserved are July 7th and July 21st at 7:30 p.m.

Recreation Committee - there is no report but the summer brochures are out. Sign-ups are June 5th and June 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On Wednesdays there is a Senior Walk at 10:00 a.m. at the Recreation Park.

Planning Board – Clerk Paula Schoonmaker reported that they met in May and granted conditional final approval for a minor subdivision on Middle Road. They held a public hearing on a proposed new dorm at Bard College. They discussed drainage in regard to the Town’s specifications since they are outside the jurisdiction of the Building Inspector.

St. Margaret’s Committee – Chair Paula Schoonmaker announced that Stephen Tilly has been selected to be the preservation architect for the restoration work. The committee has also been working on creating a St. Margaret’s page linked to the Town’s website and discussing the best language to be used on a historical marker on the property.

Trails Committee – Chair Howie Callies reported that the first Tour de Red Hook took place. He thanked everyone who participated in the event. There were 66 people who travelled the route, the oldest was 69 and the youngest was 4. It was well received. He gave information regarding bicycle riding in the Hudson Valley. He asked for comments on ways to improve the event.

Tree Committee – Supervisor Crane said the Tree committee planted many trees on Arbor Day.

Zoning Review Committee – Chris Klose reported that they are reading through various noise ordinances and are putting finishing touches on parking regulations. Supervisor Crane said a committee member from Tivoli moved and they are looking for a replacement.

I.T. Committee – Supervisor Crane said they have been meeting. She will ask that they report at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane shared the following correspondence:

- Resignation of Brad Mitchell from the EDC

- Update from the DC Commissioner of Finance that there have been an average of 140 foreclosure calls per month. There was a decrease in the County Fund Balance. It is critical to maintain reserves.
- Housing in the Hudson Valley Conference sponsored by Patterns for Progress on June 14th
- A kickoff to end homelessness in Dutchess County is on June 14th at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel. It is supported by a grant from the Dyson Foundation.
- A letter to Victor Behoriam from a platoon leader, Don Pierce, in Afghanistan whose troops received goodies through Hugs from Home. He thanked everyone who contributed to the care box. Supervisor Crane let everyone know that the Hugs from Home boxes are still in Town Hall and various other locations and the items are much appreciated.
- A note from a gentleman who travels on Route 9 complaining bitterly about the traffic. She forwarded it to several people about how it is that light stalls traffic. She learned that the Village Board asked for the pedestrian walk signal and the NYS DOT complied. It has been since that resolution from the Village Board that it seems the traffic situation has become more difficult. If we want to change that the Village Board has to make a new resolution, then the State can take action. The State will not take action until the Village takes action. The detour for 9G has definitely impacted the traffic.
- June 6 will be the first annual Stroll for Epilepsy at 11:00 a.m, across the Walkway over the Hudson
- A letter from Linda Keeling on behalf of several people talking about a Councilwoman's emails. She would not read the letter but asked if Rosemarie Zengen would like to. Rosemarie Zengen summarized the letter. It seems that Councilwoman Strawinski has a group of some 400 people she sends emails to as undisclosed recipients. She has every right to do this - write whatever she wants to whomever she wants. However, she feels that she undermined our Assessor by saying in one of the emails if you want a fair assessment then went on to name a company that could help. Ms. Zengen is a business woman in Red Hook and feels that Councilwoman Strawinski should represent the entire Town of Red Hook, not just one business. It is not in good taste to promote one person's business especially when there are several other businesses that provide the same service. Ms. Zengen doesn't think that Councilwoman's Strawinski should interpret the agenda. The information is on the Town's website. It is not fair to the Supervisor, it undermines the office. It takes away from the cohesiveness of the Board and the functionality of the Board. Councilman O'Neill asked about the situation and doesn't feel that it should be brought up without Councilwoman Strawinski present. It should not be brought up in the first place.
- A letter from Jack Gilfeather, our NYMIR representative about representation throughout New York State.
- A letter from Mary McFarland from Dutchess County sharing the timetable of the Loop buses for the summer
- A letter from Steve Saland talking about the traffic light in Red Hook

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling commented that we lost 3.4 million dollars on the sewers but what about the 4.1 million dollars for the EFC?

Supervisor Crane responded that as far as she knows that is in place and they are searching for additional funding. We will know around June 1st about the actual figure. We don't have enough to pursue the plan as it was developed.

Councilman Colgan explained that all of the stimulus money for this fiscal year has been applied.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go into Executive Session at 9:25 a.m. for the purpose of hiring or firing of a particular individual or individuals.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to close the Executive Session at 10:55 p.m.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to pay a stipend to Richard Schloemer which amounts to the difference between the salary of the Superintendent of Highways and the salary of the Deputy Superintendent of Highways being \$761 for nine weeks in 2010 and resume that stipend at \$84.59 a week beginning May 28th, 2010 until the Board determines otherwise.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk