

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 13, 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
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The monthly statement of the Supervisor dated June 30, 2010 was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$2,880,573.16; Receipts - \$449,240.89; Disbursed - \$678,505.58; Balance - \$2,651,308.47. Supervisor Crane asked Business Manager Deborah Marks to review the budget adjustments.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained the budget adjustments. In the General A Fund: Reduce appropriated fund balance - \$2,155.00. General B Fund: Increase in Revenue - \$340.00; Increase Appropriations - \$163.00; Offset to the Fund Balance Reduce Appropriated Fund Balance - \$177.00. In the Highway DB Fund: Total Increase Revenues - \$4,179.00, Total Increase in Appropriations - \$4,775.00; Offset to the Fund Balance Appropriate Fund Balance - \$596.00. Water Works O&M Fund and Other Funds: Total Increase Revenues - \$56,775.00; Total Increase Appropriations - \$56,775.00

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to accept the Supervisor's report with budget adjustments.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O'Neill
Nays 0

Copy Attached

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period June 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$2,489.81; Amount remitted to County Treasurer for Dog Licenses - \$72.32; Amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$18.00; Amount remitted to NYS Department of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$112.50; Amount remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$481.87; Total State, County & Local Revenues - \$3,174.50.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- The DC Youth Group Bureau inspected our Recreation Park and programs and is very impressed with the facilities and the quality of our program. She thanked those who worked so hard to make sure there are great programs during the summer.
- The Supervisor thanked Richard Franklin who put together a guide for personal family disaster preparedness which is sponsored by the Senior Services Committee.
- Bard College held a program regarding energy and climate action. It was sponsored by Sustainable Hudson Valley. Supervisor Crane attended half the presentation and said it was a great program. CAC Chair, Brenda Cagle represented the Town and talked about all the Town does to accept and try to conform to best practices.
- Department of Energy funding we applied for was denied. It was a highly competitive program to manage energy efficiency and conservation.
- Notification was received from Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority that NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation will provide additional support for the clean water State revolving fund with new provisions and additional financial support. We are targeted to receive support in the amount of \$2 million and will pursue the funding for the sewer project.
- A response from the State Dept. of Transportation forwarded from NYS Senator Steve Saland. It regarded traffic on Route 199 and Route 9 due to the timing of the traffic light. Supervisor

Crane read the letter regarding the light and pedestrian safety. If any action is to be taken at that light, the Village Board will have to petition NYS Department of Transportation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling spoke about the possibility of the Town donating to the Hardscrabble Day event this year. She is concerned about the Town supporting the Village's ways of managing the federal ADA law. She presented pictures and pointed out various problems at last year's event. She does not believe the ADA requirements are being met during the Hardscrabble event. Linda is willing to help the ADA Coordinator in the Village and stated if the Town is going to give money to the event it should be ADA compliant.

Supervisor Crane knows how dedicated she is to the cause. She is willing to work with Town Clerk Sue McCann and the Committee and will ask Recreation Director John Kuhn who has been trained in ADA compliance for the Recreation Park to see if we can mitigate some of the situations from the past so that it is more successful this year.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked Linda if she brought the photos to the Village as well.

Linda Keeling responded that she made them aware of it. She's had meetings with them.

Supervisor Crane thanked her for bringing it to the Boards attention and told her it would be helpful if she would share copies of the photos.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked Linda if she was certified in ADA compliance.

Linda Keeling answered that she attended a lot of meetings and worked with people with disabilities.

CAPITAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Supervisor Crane explained that she, Budget Officer Rose Rider, and Business Manager Deborah Marks met with some of the Board. We are at the half way point in the year and it is important for the Board to do their best to look at the budget. A lot of conservative fiscal planning allowed the Town to arrive at a pretty healthy fund balance. Standard and Poor's Financial Services, the company who gives the Town its rating and what interest rate we pay asks what the fund balance is, how we've utilized it in recent years, and if there is there a change. We do not want to have a negative impact on our borrowing rate by depleting our fund balance. We also do not want to have a negative impact on taxpayers. It is time, because the year is a difficult one, to look at the hard figures of June 2010 and see where we are in regard to meeting budget for 2010. She turned the meeting over to Budget Officer Rose Rider and Business Manager Deb Marks to explain the Capital Budget Plan.

Budget Officer Rose Rider referred to the Capital Budget Plan, a 5 year plan and began with the Highway Department continued the discussion regarding the Purchasing Dept and the Recreation Dept. Rose told the Board that it's a recommended process for municipalities to have a capital replacement plan.

Business Manager Deb Marks told the Board that the document Rose Rider put together is going to be of a wonderful use for the Town. Deb continued on Roses capital plan and spoke about the debt schedule of the DB Fund. Deb explained another chart they looked at regarding planning related spending between the years 1999 and 2009 and for the first six months in 2010. It is an indication of what steps the Town has taken in their Planning.

Supervisor Crane pointed out that in 2004, the budget started to climb. It is about the time the Town Board made a commitment to update its zoning with the proposed Centers & Greenspace Plan. The Town knew the long range update of Zoning and Planning would be costly, but what they did not anticipate that it would take this long and be this costly. That is what we are faced with today. She pointed out that these costs not only reflect planner's fees but also consulting fees associated with those planning costs.

Councilman Colgan asked about the impact of grants on the discussed capital planning.

Business Manager Deb Marks responded that anything in the category for Planning is in there.

Supervisor Crane explained that we had \$10,000 in grants from Hudson River Greenway and that we will receive this year for expenses. We were notified of a grant from New York State Department of State for \$50,000 for zoning updates and updating our master plan except for those fees associated with SEQRA. However, that contract has not been written, we have not received the funding. The scope of work has not been developed and given the State situation we cannot assume that \$50,000 is in our pocket. Until you have the check you have not got the money. We may be able to change our tactic in September when we get that \$50,000 notification and contract but between now and then we are out of money in this arena for anything that we don't absolutely have to spend.

Business Manager Deb Marks continued her review of the budget and pointed out the accounts for the Centers and Greenspace Planner, the Centers and Greenspace Attorney and the Greenway

Grant. She showed and explained the amount of money left in those accounts. It was suggested getting an estimate of what the expenses are going to be and make an effort to stay within that budget line. She asked the Board to focus on those lines of the budget.

Supervisor Crane explained that awareness of the budget is what they need to take forward. She called on each member for comments.

Councilman O'Neill will try to get Michele Greig of Greenplan to give them an estimate.

Speaking for the Task Force, they will continue their work and hope to conclude soon. It is going to cost but they agree to be very conservative. They are working on a grant.

Councilman Colgan commented that we've actually turned a corner with the Centers and Greenspace Plan. The DGEIS was done and we now have the response from the public, the Planner will gather that response and that completes the DGEIS. The zoning is already written and the hearings on that are likely to not lead to a great deal of additional expense. He added that we certainly do have to watch this closely.

Councilwoman Strawinski just started looking at this today. She would like to meet with Business Manager Deb Marks, Budget Officer Rose Rider and Supervisor Crane to go over some of the questions she has. She asked if it would be possible to get a complete list of what is paid to vendors at the six month point.

Supervisor Crane commented that is a lot of redundancy for very little payback when they want the Board to concentrate on the areas they need to address. Those areas are more than 50% extended at the end of six months.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants a detailed report for all of those areas that are more than 50% extended so that she can take a look at them.

Councilman Ross commented that we can see where we are with each line item in the budget.

Councilwoman Strawinski wants to know who we paid and what it is for. If we are going to be specific about three accounts she wants to be specific about all accounts.

Budget Officer Rose Rider explained that we do have some detail now on some of the accounts that she is interested in.

Supervisor Crane suggested Councilwoman Strawinski sit down as Councilmen Colgan and O'Neill have done and see the budget as they have.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained that the questions Councilman O'Neill had Councilman Colgan also picked up on. The lines really do jump out at you.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked if Business Manager Deb Marks could send her the information electronically.

Councilman Ross commented that they have to be very careful. When they worked on the budget last fall, they based it on what they were told it would cost to bring this to completion.

To be honest, he doesn't see how we can possibly bring this to completion this year according to what remains in the budget lines. The Board has to make a decision very soon as to whether they transfer more money into the budget lines or do as much as we can and put a hold on it until next budget time. It will take some time for the proposed zoning change. A lot was based on the estimates the Planner gave us last year when we came up with this budget.

Supervisor Crane thinks its fine for the Task Force to branch out into other areas of concern.

The meetings can continue without the Planner sitting there. There will be a budget shortfall if we do not address it now.

Councilman Ross asked Deb Marks about the report of the balance remaining. He asked if she could print out the percentage of the balance remaining in the whole budget.

Business Manager Deb Marks can do it.

Budget Officer said the budget also shows the net working budget.

Councilman Colgan thinks it would be wise to do a similar work up in two to three months.

Supervisor Crane explained that the Supervisors Budget has to be filed in the Town Clerk's Office by the end of September so that will happen anyway.

Budget Officer Rose Rider said they did speak to people about their overages. They will be meeting with the Highway Department next week. She passed out a report that compares expenditures to budget as well as revenues to budget.

Supervisor Crane thanked Budget Officer Rose Rider and Business Manager Deb Marks for their work on the reports.

RESOLUTIONS

- Community Development Block Grant Intermunicipal Agreement – table until July 28, 2010

- Community Development Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement between Village and Town of Red Hook and Dutchess County - Supervisor Crane asked to table these resolutions because we have not gotten paperwork signed off on. The resolutions will be included on the agenda for the July 28th meeting.

Attorney Chale informed Supervisor Crane that she heard from Dutchess County today and she also brought attention to the Municipal Agreement they are entering with the Village. The Village proposed seasonal maintenance from November to April. The County does not want the responsibility of maintaining the sidewalk.

- Support for Hardscrabble Day - September 25, 2010 – Supervisor Crane offered the resolution that the Town follow through with the commitment of \$2,000 for Hardscrabble Day which has been budgeted for. She will work with the Hardscrabble Committee regarding ADA requirements.

RESOLUTION 2010 #41

RE: TOWN OF RED HOOK SUPPORT FOR HARDSCRABBLE DAY –
SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to commit \$2,000 as budgeted in the 2010 budget to Hardscrabble Day.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman Ross thought we asked the committee to present the bills for Hardscrabble Day. Supervisor Crane explained that we provide the resolution and tell the committee that it is for equipment and programs and they will bill us for up to \$2,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Linda Keeling suggested looking into whether or not the new sidewalk to the Rec. Park is allowed to be closed during the specified time. If the Town receives federal funding ADA requirements might now allow it to be closed.

John Douglas informed the Board of a new law that went into effect in 2010 that requires all diesel trucks need to have special fuel tanks. He suggested looking into this while working on the budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go to Attorney/Client session at 8:55 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to close the Attorney/Client session at 9:55 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk