

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 10, 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
Deputy Town Clerk Claire Horst

Absent: 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 - \$2,651,308.47; Receipts - \$351,644.43; Disbursed - \$523,500.02; Balance - \$2,479,452.88.

Supervisor Crane asked Business Manager Deborah Marks to present the budget adjustments. Business Manager Deborah Marks reviewed the adjustments beginning with the General A Fund. There was a total increase in revenues - \$1,100.00. Total increase in appropriations of \$22,855.00. It was noted that \$18,000.00 was a transfer from the Capital Special Reserve for Buildings. Total offset is to appropriate the fund balance \$21,755.00. In the General B Fund: total increase in revenues - \$1,900.00; a total increase in appropriations of \$2,510.00. Total offset is to appropriate the fund balance of \$610.00. In the Highway DB Fund there is an increase in revenues of \$3,549.00; total increase in appropriations - \$1,200.00. Total offset is to appropriate the fund balance - \$2,349.00. In the Water Works O&M SW Fund: total increase in revenues - \$5,984.00; total increase in appropriations - \$8,854.00. Total offset is to appropriate the fund balance - \$2,870.00.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2010 #43

RE: THE SUM OF \$18,000.00 BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE UNEXPENDED FUNDS WITHIN THE CAPITAL RESERVE BUILDING FUND AND TRANSFERRED TO BUDGET LINE AO-031620202 (BUILDINGS) FOR THE NEW ROOF

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- Sign up for Red Hook's 10% Challenge of the Climate Project Fund. The Town with the most signatures will be awarded \$1,000.
- Dutchess Land Conservancy invites residents for a tour of an orchard. It will take place on August 14th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Mead Orchards.
- Hudson Valley Greenway sent a confirmation and an executed memo of understanding for the \$10,000 grant to support our efforts with Hudson Valley Greenway.
- The Empire State Development Corporation confirmed the grant for St. Margaret's roof stabilization project.
- Senior Citizens Picnic will be in Tivoli Memorial Park on September 15th beginning at noon. For reservations call: 845-486-2555 at least one week before the picnic. Supervisor Crane and the Senior Services Committee asked local banks if they would help offset the expenses for the senior citizens picnic with a \$100 donation. At this point they've received confirmation from

Key Bank, M&T Bank, Mid-Hudson Federal Credit Union, Rhinebeck Savings Bank and Ulster Savings Bank.

- Dutchess County Planning Federation is sponsoring a tour at the Omega Center for Sustainable Living on Wednesday, September 8th at 1:00 p.m.
- Northern Dutchess Hospital Neugarten Birthday Bash on Wednesday, September 15th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. RSVP 877-729-2444 by September 9th.
- Key Bank gave her information offering Town of Red Hook employees the same benefit package that Key Bank employees enjoy.

Councilman Colgan announced that resident Robert Bump was in the NY Times with a gentleman sitting next to him. It was the man who Robert rushed to save in Poughkeepsie. They both received new hearts on the same day and met in the recovery room.

Councilwoman Strawinski announced the following:

- 505 Bard College freshmen arrived. Returning students will be back after Labor Day.
- The Bard Music Festival is underway and Summerscape is keeping everyone entertained.
- There was a panel discussion at Marist College with members of the Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of the US Dept. of Agriculture went to the Clermont Farmers Market and took questions from area farmers. He will bring their concerns back to the President. They also toured other local farms.
- Both libraries have wonderful events so check their websites for more information.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for comments.

Linda Keeling referred to a motion made at the June 8th, 2010 meeting that the voting members of committee's must be residents of the Town of Red Hook. She indicated that according to her research, Michael Brown (St. Margaret's Committee) is not a resident, therefore he should not be included as a voting member. She asked that the Board take her information and hold off his appointment. Her other concern is about a letter sent to Supervisor Crane from Ed Blundell of the Village of Red Hook about Hardscrabble Day being ADA compliant. She will FOIL the Deputy Town Clerk in regard to that letter. She wants to see his response as well as the letter Supervisor Crane sent him. She commented that the minutes are wonderful, accurate and historically marvelous. Linda asked that whenever a grant is mentioned we indicate the name of the grant in the minutes. It is important to have the name of the grant and whatever other detailed information we can bring to the public.

Paula Schoonmaker commented that Michal Brown is in fact a registered voter in the Town of Red Hook. She believes that makes him a resident of the Town.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Senior Services Committee – Supervisor Crane explained that she received recommendations from the committee that Nick LaCourte be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Senior Services Committee.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to appoint Nick LaCourte to the Senior Services Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2010.

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

Economic Development Committee - Supervisor Crane informed the Board that Susan Kochanowski sent a letter of interest. She is a faculty member at Marist College and Chair Michele Martin recommends her appointment.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to appoint Susan Kochanowski to the EDC for a term to expire December 31, 2011.

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

Councilman Ross noted there were two vacancies on the committee and the Board decided to make the appointment for the term to end December 31, 2011.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked that anyone interested in serving on the committee send in a letter of interest. There is one more vacancy.

BUDGET 2010

Supervisor Crane meets weekly with Budget Officer Rose Rider and Business Manager Deb Marks to work on the budget. They are very concerned about meeting budget and keeping the fund balance intact. The fund balance was the focus of the night's meeting.

Budget Officer Rose Rider informed the Board that individual worksheets will go out to departments and committees this week. She explained the need to look at the 2010 budget in order to start the 2011 budget. It is important to review the fund balance and its status at the beginning of the budget review process. Rose continued to explain how they are going through the budget and presented Business Manager Deb Marks' "The Ross Report" for fund balance status as of July 2010. She pointed out her concern with the B Fund as it related to Attorney and Planning fees. She advised that all but \$200 of the \$10,000 Greenway grant has been used. The Attorney and Planner fees are a particular area they need to watch. Rose reviewed "The Ross Report" with the Board which included the A Fund, B Fund and DB Fund from 2002 until the end of July 2010.

Supervisor Crane explained that having a healthy fund balance is looked at by the financial people who determine the rate we pay for bond borrowing. When she spoke to Standard & Poor's when we got our favorable bond rating, they were very happy to see the fund balance but warned that if we kept taking adjustments from that fund balance it could have a negative impact on our ability to borrow at a low rate.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained the percentage amount that is recommended to keep in the fund balance.

The Board continued discussion and review of the budget regarding the fund balance.

Supervisor Crane emailed the Planners from Greenplan and asked them to give the Town an estimate and timeline for completion and hold them to what they said it would cost. She wants to plan on closing the year as tightly as we can with the amount of money we have to work with. This is a municipal budget that has requirements outside of a conventional business and we owe it to the public to do what we said we would do. It is also important to have a five year capital plan. She thanked Business Manager Deb Marks and Budget Officer Rose Rider for the time they spend on the budget.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION OF RECREATION PARK EXTENSION MASTER PLAN MAP

Supervisor Crane introduced Recreation Commission Chair Doug Strawinski who gave a presentation referring to Master Plan map of the rec. park extension. He passed out smaller copies of the map. He began his presentation by explaining that they've been working on the project for a little over two years. The Master Plan is being presented over a period of five years or more to get it to fruition. They will try to develop the park using grants and community participation. The property is a little over 27 acres on Linden Avenue and the plan is to start with a grassy land area for soccer fields. Later they intend to have a senior league baseball field, a softball field, and parking area. Eventually they'd like to have a pavilion, playground and picnic area in the center of the park. The park would also include trails. They plan on working on the park piece by piece. Handicapped accessibility will of course be a consideration when the final plans are met.

Councilman Colgan asked about a time line for the first use.

Doug said they hope to have the soccer fields grassed in two years. They continue to look at grants and are looking at one for the pavilion right now.

Councilman Ross asked if one baseball field and one softball field would be enough.

Doug responded that the Commission is trying to fulfill everyone's request. He explained it will take the burden off the fields they have now. The nice thing about the grassy area is that they are utility fields and can also be used for flag football, practice for baseball, they can be used for a lot of different things. That's what is nice about the concept.

Supervisor Crane thanked him for his presentation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2011

Supervisor Crane said we submitted an application for 2010 which was not awarded and she explained why it was not considered. We are in a place now at the recreation park, where we could apply for money from the Community Development Block Grant to construct the pavilion. The Recreation Commission asked that the Town consider resubmitting the application.

Doug Strawinski said they had a meeting and they agree that it is a great opportunity. The pavilion would include rest rooms which is important.

Supervisor Crane explained that we would need to have a Public Hearing on the proposal. She suggested that the pavilion be the CDBG application for 2011 and asked the Board if there were any other projects they want considered.

Supervisor Crane set a public hearing to discuss the 2011 Community Development Block Grant on August 25, 2010 at 7:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2009

Supervisor Crane referred to the CDBG that is going to be completed soon. It is for the sidewalk running from Park Avenue to the Recreation Park on Linden Avenue.

Attorney Chale explained the steps to take to move the project along. She referred to the resolutions, the Full EAF and a draft based on the specifics of the project. She reviewed those with the Board and read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2010 #44

RE: ADOPTING A SEQRA DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE FOR THE CDBG SIDEWALKS PROJECT (LINDEN AVENUE) IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND THE VILLAGE OF RED HOOK

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski moved to accept the resolution as read.

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

Copy Attached

Attorney Chale reviewed the next resolution which included a minor modification of the intermunicipal agreement. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2010 #45

RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDED INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT REGARDING CDBG SIDEWALK PROJECT (LINDEN AVENUE) BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND THE VILLAGE OF RED HOOK

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

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

Copy Attached

Attorney Chale explained the final step, the solicitation of public bids. We received bid documents from Engineer Dan Wheeler. After review of the easement documents she has a few comments to add but substantively he is prepared. He will be seeking approval to proceed with the solicitation of bids subject to minor modifications. She reviewed the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2010 #46

RE: AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC BIDS FOR THE CDBG SIDEWALK PROJECT (LINDEN AVENUE)

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to authorize the Supervisor to go out for bids on or by September 2, 2010.

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

Copy Attached

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Crane wanted a public discussion regarding the intersection of Linden Avenue and Whalesback Rd./Rockefeller Lane. It has been a problematic corner and she’s spoken with Assemblyman Molinaro about measures that can be taken. She also spoke with County Legislator Ben Traudt who is willing to help out in any way he can. She reiterated a conversation she had with Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke regarding the problem with that corner. Supervisor Crane is going to contact the Dutchess County Department of Public Works and ask them if they are willing to look into it any further than what we intend to do which is to narrow that roadway to the correct width and move the stop sign closer to the road width so that it is more visible as its approached. She’ll ask DCDPW if they have any further engineering advice or further controls that they can recommend. She wants residents to know that the Town is looking into the situation and the Highway Department will work on that soon.

APPROVE STEPHEN TILLY, ARCHITECT CONTRACT FOR ST. MARGARET’S ROOF RESTORATION

Supervisor Crane explained that the contract needs to be approved and referred to the copy the Board received. She asked if they are content with the contract.

Attorney Chale suggested the Board approve it for counsel review so that she can ensure that it is consistent with the other contract we executed with them.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to approve subject to Counsel’s review, the Stephen Tilly Architect contract.

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

RED HOOK TOGETHER – 10% CHALLENGE EVENTS

Councilwoman Strawinski brought the Board up to date on the 10% Challenge and Red Hook Together scheduled to take place on October 1, 2010. She explained that there have been meetings at Bard College initiated by some Bard College staff members and Chamber of Commerce President, Ed Pruitt to bring together people from different venues including local elected officials, school administration, Board members and some of our business leaders. They have a draft mission statement and hopefully by our next meeting they’ll have a final statement she will share with the public. The 10% Challenge is one event they will work on which will involve a number of activities surrounding the idea that we want to decrease our emissions by 10%. There will be a kickoff where a number of AmeriCorps volunteers will be surveying Village of Red Hook residents in particular about what their needs may be about weatherization and what they can do in their own homes to become more energy efficient. Councilman Colgan, Recreation Commission Chair Doug Strawinski and Recreation Director John Kuhn will supervise those AmeriCorps volunteers. She listed some of the events that are planned to raise awareness about the initiative. Currently there are over 1150 actions scheduled for that day across the globe. She wanted make sure that people in the Village of Red Hook were alerted that there will be volunteers going door to door to do evaluations. It’s been a wonderful collaboration to find ways where the community and Bard College can work together. Councilman Colgan looks forward to spending several hours with the AmeriCorps volunteers.

PROPOSED SEWER DISTRICT UPDATE

Supervisor Crane told the Board that Councilman Colgan attended a meeting in Albany regarding the proposed sewer district and she asked that he give an update.

Councilman Colgan explained the work that went into putting together a sewer package that we were at the point of completing. The financial package did not come through. He, Red Hook Village Mayor Cohen, Red Hook Village Trustee Brent Kovalchik and Bridget Barkley, Chair of County Wastewater went to Albany and met with the Environmental Facilities Corporation, who was one of the original funders and also with the US Department of Agriculture who was one of the original funders and the one whose funding failed at the last minute. They met and discussed at the issue at length. He reported that we do have a funding package again that will reinstitute the program. The cost will be the same as before and the financing will be available up front this time. They are in a much better position to move forward with a much more secure financial package.

Supervisor Crane asked if there are plans to meet with residents and respond to questions that came up.

Councilman Colgan said there are no specific plans yet but that is a major part of the agenda, to be very communicative with the people within the district. Those living in the district will receive the benefits and will pay the cost.

Supervisor Crane said the USDA's decision to change the reimbursement to rural areas drew a great deal of consternation with both the Representatives and Senators in Congress.

Councilman Colgan added that both of our Senators sent press releases and our Congressman sent a letter to the Department of Agriculture in support of the Town of Red Hook.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane shared the following correspondence:

- A memo from Doug Moat to the Town Board regarding Conservation Easements. Mr. Moat has asked the Town to consider some observations he has about easements. She recommended that the Board review the memo and she plans to make this an agenda item.
- Carrie Watkins Bates from Scenic Hudson, asked if there might be a way that Scenic Hudson, Dutchess Land Conservancy and Winnakee Land Trust can make a presentation to the Town Board in front of PANDA discussing easements to try to share information and eliminate confusion. Supervisor Crane told them that she would welcome a presentation from them.
- Dutchess County Legislator Ben Traudt called Supervisor Crane to discuss the election chargeback to municipalities from the County and the structure with which various communities would be charged. She asked the Board to review the information. D.C. Legislator Traudt will answer any questions. It will have some budget impact over time.
- Mark Debold of Poughkeepsie/Dutchess County Transportation Council informed the Board that they are invited to an executive meeting on Friday, August 20 at 10:00 a.m.
- Time Warner continues to inform the Town of changes in programming.
- Letters were received from North Road residents regarding the drainage issues on their property. They thanked the Town for their work to resolve the drainage issue.

Supervisor Crane announced that she will call for an Executive Session for the purpose of talking about police coverage and public safety and secondly regarding the hiring of an individual.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Linda Keeling asked what the funding is for the proposed sewer district.

Councilman Colgan responded that at this time he does not have firm details.

Linda Keeling asked if it is for less money will the proposed district be reduced.

Councilman Colgan responded that the physical boundaries will not change. There is a budget underway and it will take into account the growth in cost. He can't give her a firm answer now but, Dutchess County Water and Wastewater is working on a budget at this point.

Linda Keeling said that 98% of the people in the district don't want this.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked what she based that information on.

Linda Keeling told her going around with a petition and talking to people. She explained some of the responses she received.

Supervisor Crane told her that we made a commitment that if we got an opportunity with more funding we would reach out to the public and do a better job of educating them and bringing them into the conversation. She knows several people who are in favor of it. We will make a concerted effort to help people make an informed choice.

Supervisor Crane responded to an earlier comment Linda Keeling made regarding Mr. Brown who was appointed to the St. Margaret's Committee. He is a registered voter in Red Hook. You don't have to pay taxes to vote, you have to be a proven resident in the community. If he is a voting member of the community he must have proven residency. We are glad to have someone with his references and interest on the committee. Secondly, regarding her comment about a FOIL request for the communication between the Hardscrabble Committee and herself, she would be happy to meet with Linda any time to talk about what she knows to be true and would be glad to share her response to them.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of the hiring, firing, promotion or demotion of a particular person or firm at 9:22 p.m.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to close Executive Session at 10:25 p.m.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to go into Attorney/Client session at 10:25 p.m.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to close Attorney/Client session at 10:40 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 authorize police coverage as reported by the Supervisor from the week of August 23 through September.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claire W. Horst
Deputy Town Clerk