

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 28, 2010

A special 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
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman James Ross
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Also Present: Business Manager Deborah Marks

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Supervisor Crane announced that the new Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke will be sworn in on January 1, 2011 at noon. Everyone is invited to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

TOWN BOARD CLOSING OF THE BOOKS

Supervisor Crane turned the meeting over to Business Manager Deb Marks.

Business Manager Deb Marks has processed all vouchers for payment. She explained those that need to be signed.

Supervisor Crane explained the voucher for Linda Holding, contractor for Linden Ave. sidewalks.

Deb continued explaining the budget, funding and budget adjustments. She reviewed lines in the budget and explained where the grants stand. Deb also advised the Board that our bond rating went down from an AAA- to AA+ rating.

Councilman Colgan asked if that is because of the reduction in the reserve.

Deb explained that we did not raise taxes and they don't like to see that. The recommendation is to raise taxes 2% to 4%. Taxable assessed value went down. Also our goal is to maintain our fiscal integrity. We have to keep that in mind as we go along through the year.

Supervisor Crane said we are forced to face highway garage construction. She asked if Deb needs assistance in accounting or if she would need someone who can lead us through that capital project construction who has a good acquaintance with that system in New York State.

Deb Marks told her that Rae D'Archilles is wonderful. She will check with her.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board to think about the capital plan and take a close look at it. Rae D'Archilles knew New York State law backward and forward because of her background with the State Comptroller's Office.

Deb explained what is going on in her office.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board to please look at the reorganization and the committees they are liaisons for. If we can tackle that and get a lot accomplished in the first meeting or by the second meeting in January it would be much appreciated. With the upcoming zoning hearing January will be very busy. It was also decided that correspondence that comes in will not be read by any Town Board member. If someone has correspondence they will be asked to attend the meeting and read it themselves during public comment, send someone else to read it, or the correspondence will be referred to in very general terms.

Councilwoman Strawinski thinks if it is a specific issue someone wants read into the record the Board should be able to read it.

Councilman Colgan said we can always use our discretion and added a three minute limit on public comment.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved that the Supervisor communicate at the first meeting that correspondence must be read by the person themselves or have someone else read the correspondence.

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

Supervisor Crane asked the Board to look at their calendars in order to conduct interviews for the Assessor. She'd like to have those interviews in the first week of January. Wednesday, January 5th at 7:00 p.m. was reserved for interviews. It will be a special meeting and the Board will go into executive session.

Supervisor Crane and Councilman Colgan had a productive meeting today with Crawford and Associates and Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke. Out of the meeting the issue of long range planning to include the Village came up again. She shared that she had a meeting with them in 2008 and they were very interested then. At the time they went to the Village highway area east of the firehouse and explored the possibility of moving the recycling center to that spot where they have buildings and they liked that idea. We all thought it was a good use of space if we do join forces. Village of Red Hook Mayor Dave Cohen is very supportive and would like to work out another meeting. The engineers were very confident.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk