

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

November 9, 2011

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York, convened in public session at Red Hook 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
Business Manager Deborah Marks
Budget Officer Rose Rider
Town Accountant Rae D'Achille

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. She congratulated those who were recently elected and thanked everyone who ran.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Crane referred to the budget report prepared by Business Manager Deborah Marks. She asked the Board to review and approve the budget adjustments in the General A Fund, General B Fund and Highway DB Fund.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked about the budget for elections which was passed down to us through the County. She thought we decided not to pay.

Supervisor Crane recalled that they discussed the issue but did not agree to that.

Councilman Colgan and Councilman Ross did not recall agreeing to that.

Councilman Ross commented that either way local residents will pay.

Town Accountant Rae D'Achilles explained if not paid the county would withhold from the sales tax payment to the Town.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the budget adjustments as discussed.

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

Copy Attached

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Town Clerk McCann presented the report for the period October 1 through October 31, 2011. Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$1,402.29; Amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$75.00; Amount remitted to NYS Dept. of Health - \$90.00; Amount remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$3,171.71; Total State, County & Local revenues - \$4,574.00. She announced the "Soles for Souls" shoe collection box outside of her office. The High School's Interact Club sponsored by the Red Hook Rotary is collecting gently worn shoes for distribution around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane announced the Veterans Day commemoration at Memorial Park at 7:00 p.m. on November 11.

Councilwoman Strawinski announced the dates for the Winter Farmer's Market to be held at the Elmendorph Inn.

2012 WATER RATES DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL

Supervisor Crane invited Water Department Chair Hank VanParys to explain the issue regarding the increase of water rates.

Hank explained the increase of 10%. He was going to ask the Board to approve the increase but found out it has to be amended in our local law first.

Attorney Chale prepared a resolution setting a public hearing for the change in the local law. She explained the regulations in our code.

Supervisor Crane read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2011 #102

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW NO. H (PROPOSED) OF 2011, A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 139 ENTITLED “WATER”, MODIFYING RATES, CHARGES AND PENALTY PROVISIONS

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to set the public hearing for December 13, 2011 at 7:45 p.m.

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

Copy attached

Water Department Chair Hank VanParys informed the Board that the company United Water is selling off their smaller operations to another company, Whitewater. He recommends staying with them for now and reviewing it next year.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2012 BUDGET

Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice regarding the 2012 budget. Supervisor Crane asked Business Manager Deborah Marks to present the report. Business Manager Deborah Marks reviewed the preliminary budget with a power point presentation. She discussed the taxable assessed valuation and tax rate per thousand giving examples based on a home valued at \$280,000. Councilwoman Strawinski disagrees with the contingency budget line and does not want to decrease funding for the Red Hook Village Police. Supervisor Crane explained why the contingency fund is essential. She cited the fact that the Town Hall is faced with an oil burner that is cracked which needs to be addressed and other issues that have arisen. If the contingency is not used it will help build up the fund balance which we have been using. She’s met with representatives from Standard & Poor who look at the fund balance for bond ratings. Supervisor Crane opened the public hearing for comments. There were no comments.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to close the public hearing.

Adopted Ayes 4 Crane, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 1 Strawinski

The vote was taken after the following discussion:
Councilwoman Strawinski wants to leave the public hearing open because PANDA has not been at previous budget discussions.
Supervisor Crane said the budget must be submitted to New York State.
Councilman Ross does not feel it serves any purpose to keep it open. We’ve had numerous discussions that have been open to the public. It might delay the passing of the budget within the legal limit of what the State allows.
The public hearing of the 2012 budget was closed.

PUBLIC HEARING - DEVEREUX GROUP HOME PROPOSAL

John O’Keefe, Executive Director of Devereux, handed out information pamphlets about Devereux. He explained that Devereux has been in Red Hook since 1991 and he gave a brief summary of the plans for a five bedroom ranch house on a five acre parcel that had previously been subdivided. The house would be home to five children ages 16 – 21. The plans have already been approved by the State and they are asking for the Town’s review and approval. Councilman O’Neill commends Devereux and asked about the house. John O’Keefe explained that the house will have a residential character, low lighting and will have a wooded border. Councilman Colgan asked about the distance from the road and size of the house. John responded at least 100 feet. The house will be 2500 to 3000 square feet. Councilwoman Strawinski commented about information in the pamphlet.

John told her that they are accredited by the State Education Department, and various other departments.

Councilman Ross asked if there is any form of a PILOT in any of their locations.

John responded that like the Town, they have limited funds. None provide a PILOT.

Supervisor Crane opened the public hearing.

Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice.

Mr. Cody asked if there will be new hires.

Town Accountant Rae D'Achilles asked if Devereux's finances can be found on their website.

John gave her their web address and told her how they file.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to close the public hearing.

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

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the site.

CANDIDATE FOR DOG CONTROL OFFICER, HAL CODY

Supervisor Crane invited Mr. Cody to tell the Board about himself.

Mr. Cody has been involved with dogs his whole life and had a lot of experience with dogs and the public. His experiences with dogs are as a handler, trainer and boarding. There is potential to kennel dogs. Suggestions he made were about possible rabies clinic and enumeration.

Supervisor Crane recommended appointing Mr. Cody. She will work out a letter of understanding between him and the Town.

Councilman Colgan asked Mr. Cody to describe his farm and kennels.

Mr. Cody has a farm on Lasher Road. He has 43.7 acres and six kennels. He can board a maximum of twelve dogs. It is agricultural land and he has a privacy fence.

Supervisor Crane would like to have Town Clerk McCann, Mr. Cody, Councilman Colgan and herself to meet to discuss dog licensing.

VOTE TO APPROVE 2012 BUDGET

Business Manager Deborah Marks made the transmission to the New York State Comptroller's Office and returned to the meeting to hear the vote on the budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adopt the 2012 budget.

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

ARVINE & WENDY COON REZONING APPLICATION – LOCAL LAW (PROPOSED)

Supervisor Crane read a memo dated November 9, 2011 from the Planning Board. They consent to the Town Board serving as lead Agency in the review of the proposed rezoning, the site plan and the lot line alteration. They are concerned that the scale of some of the uses permitted in the AB Zoning District would be too large for the relatively small size of the Coon lot and would negatively impact the gateway location of the site.

Attorney Chale explained the resolution she prepared.

Supervisor Crane read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2011 #103

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW G (PROPOSED) OF 2011

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to set a public hearing on December 13, 2011 at 8:15 p.m.

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

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HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY GRANT DISCUSSION

Supervisor Crane referred to an application to Hudson River Valley Greenway. It was submitted some time ago and reflects consulting fees to the Planner. She read the project description. The budget for those planning fees is \$21,500. We hoped to get \$10,000 but we received a resolution from Hudson River Valley Greenway approving a matching grant of \$7,500. She is reluctant to enter into this agreement at this time because it is not budgeted and is just a small portion of what is actually needed to complete this ambitious plan. She asked for the Board’s input. Councilman O’Neill feels we should take advantage of whatever funding we can get in order to move forward with zoning. He wants to accept the \$7,500 and work on it until it runs out. Business Manager Deborah Marks told the Board that we can use in-kind services as our portion. Councilman Colgan spoke to the Chair of Hudson River Greenway and Michele Greig, Greenplan. Much of what is listed in the cost are things we can fulfill ourselves without any fees going to the planner or our lawyer. Councilwoman Strawinski recommended taking advantage of this and hopes that there is money available to complete the job at a future date. Councilman Ross asked what they want to do with the river front properties. Some of the properties are already protected. What is the mission and who is going to take time to track the services? He does not want to spend taxpayer dollars for this. Councilman Colgan said we have used in-kind services before. Councilman O’Neill can keep track of in-kind services. Supervisor Crane was adamant that she will watch this like a hawk and it will not exceed the amount of money the grant offers. She asked for a motion to approve.

On motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to accept the Hudson River Valley Greenway matching grant for \$7500 for the furtherance of the study of the Town’s historic riverfront district.

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

The vote was taken after the following discussion:
Councilman Ross wants to make sure that we do not spend more than what they agreed upon and maybe if we learn something from the grant we can decide if there is a need to go further.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Crane opened for comments.
There were none.

ATTORNEY CLIENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to go into Attorney Client Session for a legal matter and Executive Session regarding the hiring, firing of a particular person

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 Executive Session.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to close the Attorney/Client Session.

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 10:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue McCann, Town Clerk