

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 26, 2012

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
Councilwoman Brenda Cagle
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- The tentative budget will be filed tomorrow, September 27, with the Town Clerk. The special budget workshop dates are Oct. 2nd, 16th and 22nd, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The public hearing on the budget is tentatively set for November 7.
- We had a Highway Garage grand opening and she thanked Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke and the highway crew. It was a wonderful event.
- Hardscrabble Day was a wonderful event this year. There was an extraordinary sense of community spirit. She thanked those who worked on it.
- Congratulations to the Bicentennial Committee for the wonderful puppets. Everything they did was done with excellence.

Councilman Colgan made the following announcement:

- This year Loretta Campagna has been selected as Rotary Citizen of the Year. She will be acknowledged at the dinner on October 23 at 6:15 p.m. at the Red Hook Firehouse.

Councilwoman Cagle announced the following:

- The Red Hook Community Arts Program is going strong.
- There is a new restaurant in the Village, Bread and Bottle.

COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY – ASSESSOR SCOTT HOBSON

Assessor Scott Hobson explained the purpose of a recent confidential survey mailed to owners of commercial properties and multiple residences throughout the Town. Information requested is related only to the improvements of the property and not with any business that may be conducted there. The purpose of the survey is to assist them in their efforts to update and verify their existing data and values in preparation for the upcoming Town-wide reappraisal scheduled for the 2014 assessment roll. It is the assessor's job to establish and maintain an equitable assessment roll that is documented and supported at a uniform percentage of value.

Supervisor Crane asked if he's had a lot of concern from business owners about the survey.

Scott explained that the concerns expressed to him were minor in nature. Participation has been good. He thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to clarify this with the public.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:45 P.M.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2013 APPLICATION FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS OF TOWN RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice regarding the 2013 CDBG application for the water line extension at the Red Hook Recreation Park on Linden Avenue.

Supervisor Crane opened the public hearing and described the project applied for. It is for the extension of the water line that exists on Linden Avenue from the entrance of the new Recreation Park. The first request was rejected and we feel it is a good community-wide use of funding. It will benefit people of all ages in the community. There will be soccer fields, baseball fields, trails, playground area, and it will eventually provide a handicapped accessible pavilion. She described the plans for the park which includes ball fields. We have requested the full amount allowed to apply for which is \$100,000.00. A Master Plan has been done and she referred to a map of the layout of the Rec. Park extension when complete. It has a layout of the water line. *Linda Keeling* feels it is an important project. In reference to the walking trail, she asked if it will be handicapped accessible.

Supervisor Crane explained that it will be appropriate for biking, walking and wheelchairs. It will be accessible to everyone. There were no more public comments.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Linda Keeling spoke in reference to a sign for the Scism Road Bridge. She spoke to the Egbert Benson Historical Society and they feel that it will fit within the purview of what they can do with the extra money from the bicentennial. She brought the idea to the Highway Superintendent. Next Linda read from an article in a local paper regarding too many signs. She added that she's also noticed a lot more signs and asked if the Zoning Enforcement Officer could go through and clean up the areas with too many signs.

Supervisor Crane asked if anyone had any questions or comments for the Town Assessor, Scott Hobson.

Lisa Griffin referred to a question on the survey form for commercial properties. It asks about income for apartments. Her concern is that landlords that rent to college students usually rent for a substantial fee per student. Probably double what she could get renting to a family. How do you distinguish between the two? How do you set up a norm for that?

Scott told her that is a good question and explained the issue. Location is important. Closer to the college might make the apartment more valuable. It will be different in different areas. There is also the length of time an apartment is rented that makes a difference.

Lisa Griffin said it is ok as long as there is a way to distinguish. She would hate to have the norm be established in one area and have it be the same in another area.

Scott said the information he collects will establish a norm or median of values for similar properties.

Supervisor Crane asked if there were any questions from the Board.

There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Crane read the resolution regarding the 2013 Community Development Block Grant application.

RESOLUTION 2012 #58

RE: AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 DUTCHESS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

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

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

Copy attached

Supervisor Crane read the resolution authorizing the advertisement of sealed bids for highway services and materials.

RESOLUTION 2012 #59

RE: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ICE CONTROL ABRASIVES, A REQUEST FOR SEALED BIDS FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT, AND A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR 2013

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

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

Copy attached

Town Justice Jonah Triebwasser explained the next resolution regarding submission of a grant application to NYS for funding for improvements to the Justice Court. They've obtained nearly \$65,000 in grants for various equipment and court room enhancements. This year they are asking for blinds and repainting for the court room and hallways leading to the courtroom. They are also asking for security enhancements. He thanked Court Clerks Nancy Roberts, Kathy Fell, Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke, Business Manager Deb Marks and Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy for their help in completing the grant package. The application is due by October 1. Councilman Ross read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2012 #60

RE: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF RED HOOK TO PURSUE A GRANT APPLICATION TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR THE TOWN OF RED HOOK JUSTICE COURT

On a motion of Councilman James Ross seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to approve the resolution.

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

Copy attached

LETTER OF RESIGNATION – PATRICK KELLY

Supervisor Crane read the letter of resignation from Patrick Kelly from the Planning Board.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to accept the resignation of Patrick Kelly from the Planning Board.

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

Supervisor Crane explained that the position on the Planning Board is open until December 31, 2015.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to appoint Planning Board Alternate Betty Carr to fill the unexpired term.

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

RESOLUTIONS - Cont.

Supervisor Crane read the next resolution regarding proposed bids for exterior restoration of St. Margaret's Home to Yankee Construction Co. of N.Y., Inc.

RESOLUTION 2012 #61

RE: AUTHORIZING THE AWARDDING OF BID FOR THE EXTERIOR RESTORATION OF ST. MARGARET'S HOME IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

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

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

Copy attached

ECHO VALLEY STREET POLES/LIGHTS REPLACEMENT DISCUSSION

Supervisor Crane asked Attorney Chale to discuss the subject matter. No decision will be made tonight. A Central Hudson representative will be at the October 9 meeting.

Attorney Christine Chale explained that this was precipitated by a request from the Highway Superintendent to take care of some of the poles in that area that are deteriorating.

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke said the poles are in a weakened state.

Attorney Chale gave a brief history of the development in regard to the poles. She suggested that the area be made part of the consolidated lighting district. That would require a public hearing. She pointed out maps from Central Hudson that shows the location of the lights.

TOWN OF RED HOOK CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Supervisor Crane said that Councilwoman Cagle provided minutes from the Conservation Easement Review Committee meetings. We have some e-mail feedback from members of the committee. She asked the Board if they want to review the minutes and discuss at another meeting.

Councilman Colgan would like a recommendation from the committee as well.

Councilwoman Cagle said they are planning on compiling information.

Sara Imboden said that Maryann Johnson is working on the committee report.

Supervisor Crane suggested the Board take the time to review their comments. We will bring it back to the October 9 meeting.

HYDROFRACKING COMMENTS FROM CAC

Councilwoman Cagle told the Board that they received recommendations from the Zoning Review Committee suggesting that we define heavy industry in our zoning code which currently is not defined. Hydrofracking itself may not be allowed in our zoning code now however, some of the ancillary activities may be. The CAC and our Attorney propose some changes that would make it clear that heavy industry is not permitted in our Town and then a definition was added to include natural gas and petroleum exploration etc. as heavy industry. They also included language that took care of waste disposal from those activities and they prepared language to ban the use of oil and gas drilling byproducts as deicers and other agents in our Town. Those recommendations were sent to the CAC for their review and comments. She asked CAC Chair Laurie Husted to explain their comments.

CAC Chair Laurie Husted said they agreed with the language and recommendations of the ZRC. There was one gap in that penalties weren't filled in so they recommend using Ulster County's law regarding use of the brine. Their main concern of transportation of hydrofracking related materials is still a problem.

Supervisor Crane asked for the language in that. The Board will accept this tonight and will bring it back as a topic of discussion. It is a change in the zoning law and will require a public hearing after discussion.

Attorney Chale will prepare the law for the Board to review at the next meeting.

Supervisor Crane wants to see the law before setting a public hearing.

BOARD AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Water Department – Councilman Ross summarized the August 2012 monthly report prepared by Chair Hank Van Parys. The wells are holding and dead end hydrant flushing will be October 17th. They are still getting prices to restock meter pits.

Zoning Board of Appeals – Councilman Ross reported that the ZBA had 3 public hearings on September 12. They were regarding storage, a proposed brewery that was turned down because it did not meet requirements, and a sideline and area variance which was allowed.

Planning Board – Councilwoman Cagle reported that there was discussion about the property formerly known as the Davis property. The owner appeared and there was discussion about tree removal on that property. There were no decisions made.

Building Department – Councilman Ross reported that there were 63 building permits issued for the month. Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole performed 97 inspections. Building Inspector Bob Fennell performed 23. CO's and CC's totaled 57. Complaints: 6 property maintenance, 4 zoning, 1 no building permit, 1 junk vehicle and 1 fire safety. They followed up and closed the books on those 13 complaints.

Tree Committee – Councilwoman Cagle presented the report prepared by Chair Nancy Guski. The committee had a booth at Hardscrabble Day and distributed information about the Emerald Ash Borer, how trees save energy and tree owner manuals. Rose Zengen announced that a Swamp White Oak will be planted this fall to honor Marc Molinaro's many years of service to the community. At the end of October the committee is planning on planting 12 trees, three at the Rec. Park, 3 on Guski Road, and 6 on Rockefeller Lane. They hope to complete their tree inventory this fall. Two Scout groups contacted them to do tree identification and planting projects.

Dog Control – Councilwoman Cagle presented the report prepared by Dog Control Officer Hal Cody. He seized 3 unlicensed dogs, 1 was returned to the owner properly licensed. 3 dogs are pending adoption at shelter. 1 dangerous dog is being held pending court decision – appeared in court for two dangerous dog hearings, appeared in court on 3 unlicensed dog cases and there was one long term shelter dog adoption.

Senior Services Committee – Councilwoman Cagle presented the report prepared by Chair Andrew Kehr. On October 17th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Town Hall there will be a free presentation entitled “Medication Management”. The Senior News brochure has been updated. Copies are in the Town Hall and also available on line.

Trails Committee – Councilwoman Cagle presented the report. They met September 6 and welcomed new member Rose Fritz. They discussed their budget and agreed to use their remaining budget on materials to further develop the Aspinwall access to the new recreation park. Bruce Cuttler reported that Dutchess County will provide bus shelters and bike racks upon request. He also serves on the County’s pedestrian and bicycle study working group.

Purchasing – Councilman Colgan presented the August and September reports prepared by Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. The largest activity for the period June 25 – August 14, 2012 was issued for blacktop for the new highway parking lot and driveway. During the period August 30 – September 25, 2012 FEMA funding was received to remove trees from the Sawkill Creek at the Rec. Park. They were damming the Sawkill and causing problems. Trash hauler negotiations were completed. An RFP is out for a Professional Planner has been prepared.

Hamlet Review Committee – Supervisor Crane asked the Board to accept the resignation of Geoffrey Carter as Chair and member of the committee.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the resignation of Geoffrey Carter as member and Chair of the Hamlet Review/Design Committee.

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

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to appoint Christopher Gilbert as Chair of the Hamlet Review/Design Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2012.

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

Ag. & Open Space Committee – Linda Keeling reported that Robert McKeon made a presentation at their meeting. His main concern is the bend in the road on Feller-Newmark and how it would impact traffic and farm operations. Flag lots were another concern.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Councilman O’Neill reported that the Task Force met and they continue to review the updates to the Village of Red Hook sewer project, the amendments to the Centers & Greenspaces Plan, and proposed development projects in the Town of Red Hook, including along the Lakes Kill off Feller Newmark Rd. and along Route 9, south of the Village on the west side of the highway. They considered strategy for protecting land within the Historic Landmark District. The Task Force also discussed establishing demolition provisions in our Zoning Code.

Highway Department – Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke reported that they are fully moved into the new facility. She thanked everyone who attended the open house and offered to take anyone interested on a tour of the new facility. She reminded the public that the new parking lot should not be used as a cut through to the Recycling Center. There is a lot of heavy truck traffic. The Highway Garage’s new address is 28 Glen Pond Drive.

Supervisor Crane thanked Theresa for the work on the collaboration with the village of Red Hook. She understands that they moved some equipment into the garage and also have an office there. She also thanked Attorney Chale for preparing that intermunicipal agreement.

CAC – Chair Laurie Husted reported that they heard from the EnergizeNY community group who is charged with working through municipalities to help communities make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient using the Home Performance with Energy Star programs. The CAC will ask the Board to adopt the EnergizeNY resolution for Red Hook to participate. The CAC is hosting weekly “Ask the Energy Expert” hours at the library on Tuesdays from 5 – 7 p.m. The transportation subcommittee is getting underway led by Wil Labossier. Laurie and a member of the waste subcommittee toured the single stream collection facility in Beacon and they were very impressed with the equipment used. The CAC website is being worked on to make it more useful for the community. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th.

Police Department – Supervisor Crane reported that the Red Hook Police Department had 37 total incidents. There were 3 arrests made and 27 tickets issued.

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PARKS DISCUSSION

Supervisor Crane asked Councilwoman Cagle about the issue of smoking in public parks. The Recreation Commission feels that the sign in the park is adequate. That precipitated correspondence from some residents and she asked her to speak about that. Councilwoman Cagle received six comments in writing. There was equal correspondence from those in favor of the ban as those against a ban. She cited some examples of the correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.
There were none.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk