

RED HOOK SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 7, 2012

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 7:00 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: Business Manager Deborah Coon
Budget Officer Rose Rider

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. She proposed keeping the public hearing open until the regular Town Board meeting on November 13, due to the weather.

PUBLIC HEARING – TOWN OF RED HOOK PRELIMINARY BUDGET 2013

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to open the public hearing.

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

Town Clerk Sue McCann read the public hearing notice.

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Susan Mora, Village of Red Hook resident, referred to the Dutchess County Executive's budget. She suggested that the Town Board set a resolution rejecting his proposal because she feels it will hurt the Town. Rhinebeck already set a resolution rejecting his proposal.

There were no further comments.

Supervisor Crane explained that the public hearing will stay open until November 13, at 7:45 p.m. Business Manager Deb Coon presented the 2013 Preliminary Budget. She explained the 2% property tax cap mandated by the State. She reviewed and summarized all funds and said this is a good spending plan for the Town.

Supervisor Crane explained the law regarding elected officials salaries. The preliminary budget can still be amended if there is a reason to do so. She asked the Town Board if they had any concerns regarding the preliminary budget since they last met.

Councilwoman Cagle asked about some of the grants and where they appear. She thinks that was cleared up in their last meeting.

Business Manager Deb Marks explained where they were.

Councilman Colgan asked if the Board would discuss the sales tax issue we have with the County. We have reviewed it and the Supervisor wrote a very pointed and effective letter to express our concerns. It reflects his opinion as well and wants to sign it too.

Councilwoman Cagle will also sign it. Our net loss is over \$67,000 which she said is a big hit for municipalities.

Supervisor Crane will redraft the letter with signatures of all the Board members.

Councilman Ross suggested passing a resolution regarding the issue since the Board agrees.

Councilman Colgan will work on the resolution with Councilwoman Cagle to be sent to the County.

Supervisor Crane read the letter she drafted about the cap of sales tax revenue to municipalities. She said that the DC Executive contacted her immediately upon receipt of her email and explained the reason for the reduction. Supervisor Crane also explained some of his proposed revenue streams to be shared with municipalities upon approval from the State. The County budget has to be submitted by December 1. Supervisor Crane said it is important for small towns to speak up when they are being affected. We are very effective administrators of the money entrusted to us. A resolution will be drafted for next week's meeting.

Supervisor Crane and the Board thanked Business Manager Deb Coon, Budget Officer Rose Rider and the employees who worked on this budget.

Supervisor Crane thanked the Town Board for spending extra time on the budget too. She asked about taxable assessed value and pointed out the drop of over \$7 million this year. We experienced much worse in the past and managed to get through it.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to leave the public hearing open until November 13 at 7:45 p.m.

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

AUTHORIZE TOWN ACCOUNTANT TO EXAMINE RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS

Supervisor Crane explained that every year we have examination of records and accounts of the Town Justice Courts, Town Clerk and Tax Collector. The Town Accountant is willing to do that starting next week on November 13. Town Hall is closed on November 12 for Veteran's Day.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to approve the examination of records and accounts.

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

The vote was taken after the following discussion:

Councilman O'Neill asked if the work has to be done by a CPA.

Business Manager Deb Coon answered no for that particular function.

Councilman O'Neill said that function is in three parts: the Court, Town Clerk and Tax Collector. We aren't required to have a CPA do that?

Business Manager Deb Coon did check with the State Comptroller. She retrieved a letter from them.

Councilman O'Neill asked if we are late doing this. We are doing 2011.

Supervisor Crane said it has to be done every two years according to the letter. We had the State Comptroller's Office do a risk assessment and she seemed to be satisfied.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Supervisor Crane said that she, Business Manager Deb Coon and Budget Officer Rose Rider met with another broker for healthcare insurance. She gave the Board information to review and suggested they discuss it at next week's meeting. Hopefully, the Town can save some money in future years.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk