

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 25, 2014

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 William O’Neill
Councilman Harry Colgan
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane announced that Christopher Ruscillo achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. She read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2014 #14

RE: HONORING CHRISTOPHER RUSCILLO FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

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

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|---------|--------|---|------------------------------|
| Adopted | Ayes | 4 | Crane, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill |
| | Nays | 0 | |
| | Absent | 1 | Cagle |

Copy attached

Supervisor Crane congratulated Christopher and his family.

There were the following announcements regarding grants:

-A letter of interest in supporting a recommendation that the Town of Red Hook serve as a pilot community under a program called Cornell University and New York State DEC Hudson River Estuary Program. We are offering to be the model community to demonstrate the place to do some research. She read a letter composed by Councilwoman Cagle and Michele Greig explaining Red Hook’s conservation efforts in nominating the Town for the program.

-Center for Civic Engagement at Bard College (summer program). She explained the program in its second year and read the list of countries represented. Supervisor Crane was invited to a dinner with them on Friday night.

-Supervisor Crane read a proclamation in honor of Army Specialist Lisa Wiley, daughter of Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke and husband John Wiley, who returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments. There were none.

RESOLUTION APPROVING TOWN OF RED HOOK INVESTMENT POLICY

Supervisor Crane explained that Business Manager Deborah Coon did a lot of research in this regard. It stems from the inability of some banks to be able to do business with municipalities without fairly high service fees. There appears to be two banks that do not have such service fees. She asked that this be tabled until the next meeting until more information is obtained from one of the banks.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to table the resolution until the July 8, 2014 meeting.

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|---------|--------|---|------------------------------|
| Adopted | Ayes | 4 | Crane, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill |
| | Nays | 0 | |
| | Absent | 1 | Cagle |

BUDGET DISCUSSION FOR 2015

Supervisor Crane briefly discussed some considerations that are capital improvements. One is insulation in the courtroom and court offices. She asked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to get estimates. He said it would cost about \$6,000 at prevailing wages. There is then the balance of the building which would be an additional \$6,000. The other budget issue is that we received a letter from our health insurance agency, CDPHP, about a premium rate change to the program we are subscribed to. The change is an 18.7% increase and there is a 30 day comment period. This is one of our largest expenditures and is a budget breaker. She doesn't know if they will get approval from Albany. These are the kinds of pressures we are experiencing and she wants the public to know. It is very discouraging.

SUMMER HOURS AT TOWN HALL

Supervisor Crane asked the Board to approve the plan to change Town Hall employee's hours for summer. She suggested closing at noon on Fridays for the month of July and August. They would work one extra hour Monday – Thursday.

BOARD REPORTS

ZBA – Report dated June 24, 2014. At the 6/11/14 meeting they held a continuation of a public hearing for Donald W. Triebel application. Two neighbors expressed their concerns. An area variance was motioned and failed. Some members of the ZBA were absent from the meeting. At their special meeting on 6/19/14 the motion was amended to grant the area variance using the number of regularly enrolled from 60 to 93. Motion passed. He explained the confusion regarding the number of children enrolled.

Planning Board – meeting was cancelled.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Animal Control – In May there were multiple dogs at large and a beagle is still at Dr. MacDonald's, a male dog was adopted out and other dogs were reclaimed by owners and educated on dog law. There was one barking dog complaint, two wild life calls, one dog bite, two cat referrals and there is an open case to assist police agency for a residence in Tivoli.

Building Inspector – for the period May 26 – June 24, 2014 there were 28 permits; 36 inspections; 24 certificates; total fees collected - \$3022.00.

Grant Update – Supervisor Crane spoke about the possibility of using the CDBG for the driveway at Town Hall. She is waiting to hear from John Clarke of DC Planning for his input. The grant application for the sidewalk has been submitted and now we wait to see if we qualify.

Highway Department – They are starting roadside mowing and will be paving the other half of Norton Rd. in July. They're also working on catch basins, culvert pipes and improving drainage.

DC Sheriff's Report – The May 2014 report showed 63 total incidents.

Red Hook Police Report – The May 2014 report showed 89 total incidents, 10 arrests and 61 tickets issued.

Purchasing – During the period March 26 – June 23, 2014, 85 purchase orders were issued. A dehumidifier for the large records room was ordered to hopefully alleviate humidity problems. Ten trees have been removed around the cell tower property that were considered hazardous.

Water Department – The May 2014 report showed normal monthly items. There are two new work orders. Plans include valves needed, clearing around the tower fence, easement clearing, poison ivy removal, repair of water tank fencing, and clearing two meter pits. Full hydrant flushing was done on May 13 and 14.

Councilman Colgan reported on a meeting with DC Water & Wastewater Authority. We have more than enough resources between the Town and Village. The need is excess reserve capacity. The Village has a plan to put in an additional well and there will be a connection between the Town and Village water supply. Progress is being made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Disaster Preparedness Committee – Chair Vin Collucio agreed to conduct an assessment of climate resiliency preparedness. The assessment protocol is established by New York State under the "Climate Smart Communities Program".

Ag. & Open Space – The committee met with the ZRC and discussed the zoning law regarding agricultural fencing. Language will hopefully be finalized at the July 10 meeting.

EDC – They are working on a Town wide calendar of events.

Intermunicipal Task Force – They continue to review and discuss the historic preservation local law draft focusing on lodging options. They viewed and studied rural roads in Milan and Clinton, measuring road widths to appreciate highway specs. in rural towns.

Shared Services – The three municipalities met to look at shared services. There will be an informational meeting at Red Hook Village Hall on July 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Senior Picnic – The Dutchess County Senior Citizens Picnic took place today at the Fairgrounds.

Senior Services Committee – Held a successful food drive on June 17.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane received a letter from a Tivoli resident about Red Hook students who stay after school using the Bard College shuttle for rides home. She is looking into it.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Debbie Gillen, one of the neighbors of the proposed Funshine Day Care center on Rockefeller Lane, told the Board that she didn't get notification about a special ZBA meeting. She said there was no notice about the special ZBA meeting.

Town Clerk Sue McCann said the notice was posted on the Town website, calendar and also on the Towns bulletin board.

Debbie Gillen asked about the total enrollment of 93 children.

Councilman Ross told Ms. Gillen that the Town Board has nothing to do with this. It is the ZBA. The Chair of the ZBA was concerned about the first vote. Because of the way he felt about not all ZBA members being there, he checked with our legal counsel and they called a special meeting. It was all done according to the guidance of our Town attorney. He named the people who were in attendance. It was not a public hearing so Don Triebel was there but not allowed to speak. Most of the discussion was centered on the new motion of that meeting.

Debbie Gillen asked who she can go to if she has a complaint or questions.

Supervisor Crane told her she should probably contact the liaison of the committee she is concerned with. She recommended finding time to talk with him one on one. She could talk to ZBA Chair Nick Annas too. If she gets no satisfaction she can go to the Ethics Board with concerns. She explained that the Town Board tries never to interfere with the conduct of the Zoning Board of Appeals Planning Board because they are independent Boards.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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|---------|--------|---|------------------------------|
| Adopted | Ayes | 4 | Crane, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill |
| | Nays | 0 | |
| | Absent | 1 | Cagle |

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk