

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 22, 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 Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle
Also Present: Christine Chale, Attorney for the Town

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane announced the following:

- Doug Strawinski, Chair of the Recreation Commission, was honored as Rotary Citizen of the Year
- November 11 is a Supervisor's and Mayors meeting in Millbrook at 6:30 p.m.
- November 1 Red Hook Village Chocolate Festival

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for comments. There were none.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board began discussion of the budget for 2015 with a slide presentation.

Supervisor Crane explained the challenge of wrestling with the budget and explained changes in each fund. We have been told that next year there will be a freeze on spending and we will be asked to produce a plan for 2016 that shows a 1% reduction in the following year's budget. Having done that in 2016 we will be expected to reduce yet another 1%, or have a plan for a 1% reduction which is reflecting a shared services or consolidation plan.

In Red Hook we have two Villages. We've been working on looking at Highway and DPW expenditures to develop shared services that are new. We already have some shared services. If we don't come up with that plan, the taxpayers will not receive a rebate in their taxes. It is up to school boards and town boards to meet this directive from the State. The Board continued with the power point presentation.

Supervisor Crane recognized Jim Mulvey of the Red Hook Fire Company.

Mr. Mulvey asked about the budget for the fire department.

Supervisor Crane explained that the budget is 1.5% this year and an additional 1.5% the following year.

Mr. Mulvey spoke about the Fire Company in regard to an article in the River Chronicle. The fire company is a volunteer organization and we get 850 – 900 calls a year. They have been working for recruitment, trying to get community members. He explained training mandated by the State. At the moment they are sustained by 20 – 30 active members and they need assistance. He asked for the Town's help with ideas for recruiting. The company also does community service.

Supervisor Crane asked what we can do in terms of recruitment.

Mr. Mulvey answered that we know they need to do more in terms of upgrades. He explained the repairs and items that are needed to bring the firehouse up to date. They also need to be prepared for the possibility of a partial paid fire company in the future. As a Board they want the Town to recognize their situation. They welcome any suggestions.

Supervisor Crane asked about recruitment age.

Mr. Mulvey said they can volunteer within limits at 16, start doing more at 17 and then when they turn 18 they're off to college. The 20 year olds are the ones they would like to recruit.

Supervisor Crane suggested an informal meeting to kick around ideas and strategies.

Supervisor Crane continued review of the budget. She then recognized Sgt. Patrick Hildenbrand of the Red Hook Village Police Department. She explained that what is in the budget no way reflects the esteem we hold for anyone. There isn't enough money to thank the firefighters or police for what they do for this community. She asked Sgt. Hildenbrand if he had any comments.

Sgt. Hildenbrand explained that the budget was over \$90,000 when he started in the department and this year it is \$50,000. Safety in the community is their number one goal. A lot of the time they are the first ones on the scene because they are dedicated to Red Hook. He explained the issues and difficulties they face. He understands the numbers and restrictions but when the Town grows, the budget should grow with it.

Supervisor Crane explained the fact that the Village calendar (regarding the budget) is on a different cycle than the Town's calendar which complicates things.

The Board continued review of the budget with revenues, median sales prices of homes, taxes to be collected and the percentage of increase/decrease per thousand. We are protecting the fund balance and it is increasing.

Supervisor Crane recognized retired Business Manager Deb Marks, new Bookkeeper Ann Conway and Budget Officer Rose Rider for their work on the budget. She asked if the Board had any comments.

Councilman Ross feels it is a very decent budget.

Councilman Colgan has nothing but support for it. Under Supervisor Crane's leadership he thinks a great job was done with these resources.

Councilman O'Neill praised Supervisor Crane, Rose Rider, Ann Conway and Deb Coon for their work on the budget.

Supervisor Crane spoke about the budget process and how municipalities have to adjust to change. They did the best they could. She discussed leaving the public hearing open.

Councilman Colgan is agreeable to leaving the public hearing open.

Councilman Ross suggested having a plan to finalize the budget.

Supervisor Crane suggested finalizing the budget at the November 10 meeting. The final budget must be filed by November 14th this year. Elected officials salaries cannot be changed. She contacted the State Comptroller's office and we are under the tax cap with these numbers. She will give it one more glance before filing.

Town Clerk Sue McCann to read the public hearing notice.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to keep the public hearing open until November 10, 2014 at 7:40 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments. There were none.

SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION FROM TANGENT THEATER COMPANY

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter of agreement we received from Tangent Theater Company in connection with the Arts Mid-Hudson 2015 project grant. It affirms that we are acting as the conduit for that theater company.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to support the grant application from Tangent Theater Company to the Dutchess County Arts Council.

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

SET PUBLIC HEARINGS

Village of Tivoli Fire Contract

Red Hook Fire Company Fire Contract

Supervisor Crane read the resolution for 2015 and 2016 contracts

Water Dept. – the September monthly report showed gallons pumped, well levels, normal levels, projects for 2015 were listed, and piping around the pump house was done. The new pump cost more than anticipated so Chair Hank VanParys asked for \$16,500 to be transferred from the unreserved balance.

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Supervisor Crane authorized the transfer of \$16,500 for the new water pump.

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

Intermunicipal Task Force – at their last meetings they met with residents regarding zoning issues.

Recreation Commission – they are wrapping things up. The wetland mitigation at the new park is moving along. A \$5000 grant was received from Dutchess County for the recreation programs. The county did an inspection of the summer program and they are waiting for a report. Fall baseball is wrapping up. Prep work for next year’s activities is being done.

Senior Services Committee – the committee is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a local Senior Expo during the fall of 2015. Any vendor, speaker or individuals interested in assisting should e-mail Chair Andrew Kehr at kehr@frontiernet.net.

Zoning Review Committee – Agricultural fencing was discussed in a joint meeting with the Ag. & Open Space Committee. Recommended changes were listed. The committee asked that the Town Board ask the Town Attorney to prepare a resolution amending zoning. The ZRC understands the concern of the Town Board allowing an unrestricted exemption of agricultural fences from our zoning. The subject of spite fencing is on their next agenda.

Councilman Ross thinks both should be done at the same time.

The Board agreed.

Supervisor Crane referred to a letter from Richard Rang regarding the TND code for the Hoffman property.

Councilman O’Neill said it was referred to Michelle Greig of Greenplan, Inc. She is out of the area and will return the end of the week.

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke listed the dump truck on the auction website. It is open to the public and will be listed for 7 to 10 days.

Assessor Scott Hobson announced that data collection efforts are being continued. The data collectors have identification. If commercial business owners want to update please sent the information in.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councilman Colgan announced the Chocolate Festival in the Village of Red Hook all day long on November 1.

Election Day is November 4 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go into executive session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel, hiring in particular.

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

On a motion of Councilman O’Neill seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the executive session at 11:00 p.m.

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

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue McCann, Town Clerk