

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 25, 2015

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 announced the passing of a very dear friend of Red Hook’s, Paul M. Fredricks. Paul will be missed in both the Village and Town of Red Hook. He served the community in so many ways. She asked that a page be set aside in the minute book in his memory.

She also announced the following:

- Thanked everyone for their support during this tough winter.
- Volunteer recognition night is changed to Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Renegotiated the Royal Carting contract. The regular carting fee was reduced at the Rec. Park and they will stay at the recycling center until 1 p.m. on Saturdays. There is a possibility of going to single stream recycling. It will be discussed with TJ Hackett, Recycling Center manager, and the CAC.
- Councilwoman Cagle did reach out to the CAC and their initial response was favorable. They will look into it in more in detail.
- Supervisor Crane called the Town’s insurance company because the ice backup on the roof has caused significant leaking in the building. The adjuster came, then two days later, the tile in her office bulged full of water. It appears at the juncture where the new addition was joined to the older part of the building.
- There were two meetings regarding bridges. One was about the Linden Ave. Bridge and the other regarding the 9G corridor management plan. There will be fewer trees removed on Linden Avenue, and they have been marked. They must be cut before March 31 in order to meet the requirements of the DEC.
- There will be a bridge replaced coming in to the triangle at the fork in the road on Rte 199. It has the same issues as the Linden Ave. Bridge. The NYS DOT called officials from Milan, Red Hook, and Red Hook Central Schools to discuss it. It will take 6 to 8 months of diverting traffic from that area. Five school busses go into Milan on that route. It will take place next year.
- She attended the 2015 Focus of the Dutchess County government about the County’s plans.
- Councilwoman Cagle announced tax help at the Red Hook library on March 7 for those with an income of under \$60,000. Call 758-3241 to make an appointment.
- Supervisor Crane announced Rebuilding Together, Dutchess County. It serves homeowner occupied homes. There is an income eligibility requirement. Call 454-7310 for more details.
- Bookkeeper Ann Conway and retired Business Manager Deb Coon completed and filed the annual report. She pointed out the revised statement to the Board dated December 31. 2014.

SUPERVISOR’S REVISED MONTHLY STATEMENT

The revised statement dated December 31, 2014 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$2,984,722.84; Receipts - \$485,615.05; Disbursed - \$690,285.96; Balance - \$2,780,051.93

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the Supervisor’s Statement as read.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for comments. There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Crane referred to and read the resolution setting a public hearing.

RESOLUTION 2015 #4

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW A (PROPOSED) OF 2015 REGARDING THE TND ZONING DISTRICT

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to set the public hearing for April 14, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Copy attached

Supervisor Crane explained and read the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2015 #5

RE: THE TOWN OF RED HOOK HONORS AND COMMENDS ALL HUDSON VALLEY GIRL SCOUTS WHO HAVE EARNED THEIR GOLD AWARD AND AUTHORIZES THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE PASSED TO COMMEMORATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND CELEBRATE GIRL SCOUTING IN DUTCHESS COUNTY ON MARCH 7, 2015 IN POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Cagle moved to approve the resolution.

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

Copy attached

RESOLUTION 2015 #6

RE: PROCLAIMING APRIL AS PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK

On a motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilwoman Brenda Cagle moved to approve the resolution.

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

Copy attached

MUNICIPAL ENERGY PROGRAM

Councilman Ross went to the Association of Towns meeting in February. Our Town Board signed a letter to encourage ProStar Energy Services to use renewable sources as part of their program. While in NYC he met with a ProStar representative and the Executive Director of the Association of Towns. ProStar Energy Services is actually the third company endorsed by the Association of Towns. Before the Association agreed to endorse them they did a lot of research and found them to be the most reputable. He referred to a proposal. The program is about negotiating a better price. Moving forward they agree to a certain price for a two year contract. Councilman Ross thinks it is a good idea and feels it could save a considerable amount of money.

Supervisor Crane referred to specifics in the contract.

Councilwoman Cagle said that ProStar signed up about 100 municipalities and they are going out to bid. If the prices come higher the Town is not bound by the letter of intent. In the mean time, she spoke with someone from another group who offered a much better price. Mega is the aggregator, and the company is called Direct Energy. Ulster County and a lot of schools use them. She compared the average costs with Central Hudson. She explained the savings with the different companies. The Board has the information in their e-mails.

The Board will review their information and then make a decision.

FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE

Councilman O'Neill researched the three aspects of updating the fee schedules. The Building Inspectors, the ZBA fees and escrow, and the Planning Board schedule. They don't have a final report but they will recommend an increase in the Building Inspectors fee schedule. Consensus for the ZBA is to increase the fee schedule and establish escrow. He is still looking into the Planning Board's fees.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS REPORT

Councilman Ross reported that Senator Chuck Schumer gave a long but good talk at the Association of Towns meeting. He found it very informative. Also, a lot of the Towns talked about the 2% tax cap issue imposed by the State. Senator Schumer is looking at ways to charge companies a lower tax to bring back their business from abroad. Then they would like to put that money aside for infrastructure. At the Business Meeting there were 13 resolutions brought forward with all passing unanimously. A lot had to do with the tax cap. Towns feel they should get credit for things like shared services that they did before municipalities were being encouraged to do so. There was controversy regarding elections to the Association of Towns board. Questions were asked about salaries that went unanswered. Town's budget processes are put under scrutiny and it is felt by some that the Association of Town's budget should be too. Councilman Colgan said it is a private organization but the case could be made that they should be subject to the same scrutiny as we are.

Councilman Ross said you can see it from both sides. The controversy caused good discussion. Another issue was 21 proposed amendments to the by-laws. Ten were passed that had to do with gender correctness and the others were tabled until next year.

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke explained the problems a lot of highway departments are facing.

Supervisor Crane thanked Councilman Ross for attending the meeting.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK DISCUSSION

Supervisor Crane referred to a draft of the revised handbook. She went through the first draft and will supply the Board with copies for their review.

REORGANIZATION

Councilwoman Cagle read a letter from George and Cathy Michael regarding serving on the Tree Committee. There are a few applicants for vacancies on the committee and Tree Commission Chair asked that they all attend the next meeting. Nancy also asked that the Town Board adopt the Forestry Management Plan soon.

REPORTS

ZBA – Their February 11 meeting was cancelled. An applicant withdrew his application. No other Public Hearings or Reviews of Appeal on the agenda. They held a special meeting on January 29 for the purpose of seeking advice from counsel regarding pending litigation. A Public Hearing for Appeals is scheduled for March 11, 7 p.m. at the regularly scheduled ZBA meeting.

Supervisor Crane commented that we very fortunate to have the new ZBA Clerk, Anne Rubin.

Budget Officer – She has been meeting with Department Heads making sure they understand the 2015 budget.

Grant – The Town was awarded a grant from Greenway.

Highway Department – Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke asked if the Board had a chance to review the tentative snow policy documents that she sent. It addresses some of the issues they face during the winter season. She will re-send the document to the Board.

Police – The January R.H. Police report showed 80 total incidents, 4 arrests and 30 tickets issued

Justice Report – The 2014 annual reports from Justice Triebwasser and Justice Martin were presented to the Board. Total fines were \$35,308 for Justice Triebwasser and \$46,372.50 for Justice Martin.

Trails Grant – The RFP is finalized and will get it to Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy.

Water Department – All filters operating satisfactorily, there are 10 outstanding work orders, replacement of a portion of a pipe at the pump house is planned, water district inventory was updated, pump house yard maintenance is needed but will wait until pipes are repaired. The pump house inspection was conducted on December 3, 2014.

Ag. & Open Space Committee – There is one vacancy on the committee. A letter was received from NYS Ag. Society having to do with the NYS Mesonet Early Warning Weather Detection System. It is an advanced statewide weather station network and the letter explains how it could

be used. They are looking for permanent site locations. Some farms in Red Hook have participated in a similar program. Each site consists of a 33 foot tower centered within a 33 foot by 33 foot plot of land. To insure the highest quality of data, each station must be at least 300 feet from the nearest obstacle. The Ag. & Open Space Committee asked if anyone is interested in hosting a site to contact Dr. Jerald Brotzge at jbrotzge@albany.edu. Their website is: nysmesonet.org. The committee also wants to advertise that money from the state to support farms is available and any farms interested are invited to contact Scenic Hudson, Dutchess Land Conservancy or the Ag. & Open Space Committee. There is also a residential tax credit/circuit breaker. Councilman O'Neill presented two resolutions one regarding support of NYS Funding for Farmland Protection and a resolution in support of the Residential Property Tax Credit/circuit breaker for the Board's review.

Supervisor Crane is unsure what the circuit breaker would do to the average tax payer. Who is going to benefit and who is going to pay? Who picks up the difference?

Councilman Colgan said someone has to pick up the difference at the State level. People with lower incomes would see a property tax reduction from what he's read.

Supervisor Crane has questions and said the circuit breaker needs to be explained.

Disaster Preparedness – There will be a meeting on Monday at 2 p.m.

EDC – Discussed the future community center and worked on putting together a website for a calendar regarding happenings in the Town. Representatives from the County will attend the next meeting to give a presentation regarding tourism.

Recreation Commission – Weston & Sampson staked the wetlands mitigation in the new recreation park.

Sister Cities – met at the Library and there is one young woman who's been to the Town of Mas'ha and is involved in the Palestinian question and wants to participate in the education of children in Red Hook about what is going on in the Middle East. Sister Cities International wants to take a copy of a letter we wrote to the mayor of a town in Israel asking them to join us.

ZRC – Met on February 12 and are submitting their recommendations regarding agricultural fencing and continue discussion on spite fencing. They started discussing vending trucks.

IMTF – Discussed pursuing a grant application for future zoning amendments, reviewed uses allowed in the Ag. Business District under the Centers & Greenspace Plan with consideration for limiting commercial uses in the ABD. Reviewed an initiative to adopt a 'Resilient Communities' concept to complement CGP.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go into Executive Session at 9:06 p.m. for the purpose of discussion regarding the hiring or firing of an particular person or persons.

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

On a motion of Councilman O'Neill seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:10 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilman O'Neill seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk

**THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
PAUL M. FREDRICKS**

March 24, 1934 – February 23, 2015

Paul was a dedicated leader and volunteer. He served as a member and Chair of the Board of Assessment Review, Town Zoning Enforcement Officer, charter member of the Egbert Benson Historical Society, long time member and President of the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce and member and Chair of the St. Margaret's Committee.

He will be remembered for his handsome and welcoming smile, gravelly voice, pocketed vest and wide brimmed hat.