

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 14, 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
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. She expressed condolences on behalf of the Town to the family and friends of Marcy Appell. She was a long time volunteer in the Town, serving 26 years as Chair of the Planning Board, volunteered in the community on various committees, served on Dutchess County Planning and Winnakee Land Trust. She will be missed by us all. The Town Clerk will dedicate a page in the minute book in her memory.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's report dated January 31, 2015 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$2,780,051.93; Receipts - \$411,192.74; Disbursed - \$596,390.32; Balance - \$2,594,854.35. The Supervisor's report dated February 28, 2015 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$2,594,854.35; Receipts - \$432,189.67; Disbursed - \$464,018.88; Balance - \$2,563,025.14 There was the following budget adjustment: increase in revenue of \$182.00, total increase in appropriations - \$182.00.

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to approve the Supervisor's January 2015 report and February 2015 with budget adjustments as read.

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

Supervisor Crane pointed out the statement of outstanding accounts receivables submitted by Bookkeeper, Ann Conway.

DEC CAMP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Supervisor Crane congratulated winner Rebekah Martz on winning the scholarship. Dr. Bruce Cuttler, representing the Masonic Lodge, presented her with a certificate and congratulated her on receiving the scholarship. He told her that it will be a great experience. Supervisor Crane then congratulated winner Ragy Beshay who also won a scholarship. Ragy was presented the scholarship award from VFW 775 Commander Bill Moore. He congratulated Ragy on receiving the scholarship award. Supervisor Crane thanked the CAC, administrators of the applications. Jen Cavanaugh, CAC member, thanked the Masonic Hall and the VFW for sponsoring the student's scholarships.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period March 1 – March 31, 2015 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$2,079.60; Amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$78.00; Amount remitted to NYS DOH - \$67.50; Amount remitted to NYS DEC - \$217.30; Total State, County & Local revenue - \$2,442.40

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- She attended the swearing in ceremony at Red Hook Village Hall
- Citizen Prepared Training by Red Cross free program at Bard College at 6 p.m. tomorrow night
- Jackie Szako, President of Red Church Community Association, sent a letter explaining the removal of an old fence. They are holding a penny social to raise money to help defray the cost of replacing that fence on April 24, at 5 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7: 50 p.m. - Local law Modifying Number of Members of the Tree Preservation Committee from 5 to 7 Members.

Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice.

Supervisor Crane opened the public hearing for comments.

Linda Keeling commented the more the merrier.

Nancy Guski, Chair of the Tree Committee, is excited about increasing the membership. It helps spread out the responsibility and brings in fresh ideas.

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

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

Supervisor Crane read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2015 #11

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW B (PROPOSED) OF 2015 REGARDING THE RED HOOK TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

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

Copy attached

8:00 p.m. – Adoption of Town Zoning Amendment of TND regarding cottage size

Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice.

Supervisor Crane explained that this was referred to Dutchess County Planning who sent a letter of support, as well as the Town Planning Board. She read the resolution and opened the public hearing for comments. There were none.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2015 #12

RE: AUTHORIZING ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW A (PROPOSED) OF 2015 TO BE KNOWN AS LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2015, REGARDING THE TND ZONING DISTRICT

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

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

Copy attached

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman O’Neill announced the 300th anniversary of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. They received a citation signed by the Governor of NY on March 22, 2015. He read the first three paragraphs of the citation.

Councilman Colgan said that at last week’s EDC meeting it was announced that fireworks will be re-instated at the high school on July 3rd.

Supervisor Crane thinks it might be helpful to provide guidance. She explained that St. Margaret's was donated to the Town about 10 years ago. A grant was offered for \$425,000, based on the value of the property at the time. There was a change in administration at the governmental level and the grants were frozen. The bottom dropped out of the real estate market too. After several years it was reappraised and the Town was granted less than half of what we hoped to get for it. We received a grant from Senator Steve Saland for \$95,000 to help stabilize the roof. We got some work done, the building is stable, but what is required is that we have electricity on for security. A large portion of the Recreation budget as well as other department's budgets are used for upkeep of the property. It has been an enormous commitment on our part for over ten years. There are restrictions on the agreement that it will not be used for retail. We are not able to have complete freedom about how we use the property.

Councilman O'Neill thinks the committee should be recreated. The historic nature of the building motivated people for years, but it hasn't been a benefit in any practical way. It's a matter of someone generating some productive work in getting grants. Without Paul Fredrick's leadership it creates a void and we should think in terms of recreating the committee.

Supervisor Crane said we do have a new volunteer, Tina Keil, owner of Bella Fiore Florist. She is interested in preserving the building.

Councilman Ross said that Tina is very interested but he doesn't know who would want to serve as Chair. He thinks Rosemarie Zengen has been acting Chair.

Supervisor Crane asked if he is prepared to propose Tina for the committee. She isn't prepared to talk about reforming the committee she wants to give it some thought. Money is her concern. We need a business plan. There are so many important buildings and this is a daunting task.

Everyone is competing for projects they believe are important to them.

Councilman Colgan has thoughts and concerns. The first concern is money. He doesn't see how we can get the funds from the taxpayers to move forward. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars of work left before it can be inhabitable. He doesn't know where we can get that money. It should probably be owned by a not for profit that can find an appropriate use. It is stable right now but not usable. Perhaps some local people can form a committee of professionals in terms of restoring the building. It has to be refurbished for some sort of not for profit use. He is concerned that a lot of work has been done, that it be kept up. Our own staff from the Parks Department has been great in maintaining the property but the building needs major attention. Supervisor Crane is hoping that bringing it to the public's attention will generate some conversation. She suggested tabling the discussion. We may have to develop a private/public partnership which will take a lot of energy.

Councilman Ross commented that we still have a committee and we have a lot of ideas. They are asking for direction. Our Attorney should read the agreement to see what we legally can do. Attorney Chale refreshed everyone's recollection of the conditions. They did reach out to Hannaford to modify the conditions but they were unwilling to do that at the time.

Councilman Ross suggested revisiting that with Hannaford.

Councilman Colgan expressed how much money has been spent and estimates for the work to be done on the exterior of the building. The interior needs to be done too.

Councilman Ross wants to look at the parameters of what can be done with the building, and contact Hannaford. Then decide what we can do with it.

Councilman O'Neill said it might have been a good idea in the beginning, but now we also have a community center opening up which is a competing business. Maybe Bard can take it over.

Councilman Ross said if we come up with a proposal of use, then we can go back to Hannaford and ask them what we can do. Something like that would be great. If it doesn't fit the parameters, then ask Hannaford to modify it when we have a plan.

Councilman O'Neill commented on the cost for the building to be renovated.

Supervisor Crane took Bard officials on a tour and it is pretty evident that there is so much work to be done at a big expense. It is going to take deep pockets to support that building. The Town cannot do it at this point. She doesn't want to slam the door on any volunteers face. The reality is that we are not going to have Town money to devote to St. Margaret's. What are our choices? Attorney Chale will report on the contract with Hannaford and have this on the agenda for May 12 meeting.

TOWN HALL PARKING LOT PAVING PLAN & ADA IMPROVEMENTS

Supervisor Crane updated everyone on the meetings with Brandy Nelson to discuss what issues need to be addressed. We are looking for cost projections by April 30. Brandy will get back to us with timeline and cost projections by then. It will be a huge improvement.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY

Supervisor Crane asked Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke if she'd like to explain. Theresa explained the purpose and intent of the policy and how they apply to the Town of Red Hook. They want to bring awareness to the public. She gave examples of the questions they often get. They would like to place the policy on the Town's website. Attorney Chale said she and Theresa talked about this and she'll review it.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Councilman O'Neill and Councilman Colgan met with Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole. There is a proposal from the Building Department to increase the fee schedule. Councilman O'Neill asked the Board to look at it and put it on the agenda for the next meeting. In addition, there is a recommendation by the Building Dept. and Nick Annas, Chair of the ZBA, to increase the fee schedule for the ZBA. He will provide the proposed fees to the Board. Supervisor Crane asked to wait until the May meeting to review.

WILLMS ZONING PETITION

Supervisor Crane said there is an error in a very small parcel that is not zoned properly. She asked Mr. Willms if we could work out his requested amendment during a time that we would ordinarily be doing another zoning map so it wouldn't be so costly. He was happy with that suggestion and said there is no urgency. Attorney Chale said it would be a modification of a map. She explained how the error occurred.

MUNICIPITY PROJECT – APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR USE OF DC GIS ASSESSMENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Supervisor Crane referred to a request for use of Dutchess County GIS Assessment Photographs in that project. She spoke with Will Labossier to make sure this would not have an impact on the cost associated on our Building Department and he assured her that there is no extra cost. This is simply authorizing participation. She thinks this is a good idea. It is a unified data base.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

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

REVISED EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK DISCUSSION

Supervisor Crane referred to a draft of the employee handbook. She thanked Bookkeeper Ann Conway who did an enormous amount of work on this. Trilby Sieverding also helped out on the handbook and Supervisor Crane thanked her also. The employees reviewed it at a lunch and she pointed out questions and concerns. Our goal is to have it ready and adopted by the summer. She asked the Board to review it.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane shared the following correspondence:

- Dept. of Army permit was issued to the DEC to build a bridge over the North Bay in Tivoli.
- Empire State Development Corp has consolidated funding available in the way of grants.
- Sandy Martin from the RH Library sent a letter requesting permission to park in the Town Hall lot for no more than 30 cars for a bus trip. The Town Hall parking lot might be under construction. Supervisor Crane will call her to see if they can use the school parking lot.
- Permit has been issued for bridge replacement on Linden Ave. over the Sawkill. Tree clearing has been completed. A notice will go out to the Highway Dept. when they are ready to close the road. To date, the Highway Dept. has not been notified.
- Another bridge rehabilitation will take place over the White Clay Kill in 2017
- Letter received from an engineer acknowledging receipt of our request to reduce speed limit on a road at Bard College
- Hannah Beale sent a letter expressing interest in serving on the Ag. & Open Space Committee. Kimberly Hart was also recommended.
- An official certification from the Association of Towns that we are entitled to all rights and privileges for the year, and a book telling about the issues voted on.

**THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
MARCELLA “MARCY” APPELL**

February 24, 1926 – April 5, 2015

Marcy was a beloved figure in our community and was extremely active in Town and County politics, along with numerous charitable activities. She Chaired the Town of Red Hook Planning Board for 26 years and served as a member of the Dutchess County Planning Board, as well as 21 years as president of the Dutchess County Planning Federation. Marcy was also very active in private land use, conservation and environmental efforts serving for 26 years on the board of the prominent conservation organization, Winnakee Land Trust.

Marcy has touched many lives and will be deeply missed.