

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 12, 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
Deputy Town Clerk Claire Horst

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

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

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

The Supervisor’s report dated March 31, 2015 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$2,563,025.14; Receipts - \$3,675,973.29; Disbursed - \$769,464.02; Balance - \$5,499,534.41. A bank statement from our master account and CPF balance are attached to the report. There were the following budget adjustments: General A Fund – Increase in appropriations - \$28,505; General B Fund – Increase in appropriations of \$12,385; DB Fund increased appropriations - \$7,349; Water Works O & M Fund – Increase in appropriations of \$10,870; Request for resolution to use Parkland funds for wetland mitigation - \$4,300.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to accept the Supervisor’s report with budget adjustments as read.

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

Copy attached

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PARKLAND FUNDS FOR RECREATION PARK WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT

Supervisor Crane explained the following resolution:

RESOLUTON 2015 #19

RE: APPROVE THE USE OF PARKLAND FUNDS TO COVER THE INCREASED APPROPRIATION FOR THE RECREATION PARK WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,300

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

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

EAGLE SCOUT

RESOLUTION 2015 #20

RE: HONORING BENJAMIN D. KOCIK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

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

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

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RHCSD 2015 BUDGET PRESENTATION – PAUL FINCH, BRUCE MARTIN

School Superintendent Paul Finch began the presentation explaining the budget and the fact that they are staying under the cap while maintaining programs. He briefly explained the districts efficiency plan.

Business Manager Bruce Martin explained the numbers in the budget. There will be a 2.34% tax levy increase. That increase is at the calculated tax cap. There is a 1.98% increase at the expenditure side. It is likely that their efficiency plan will be approved. Most of the efficiencies are district specific. He explained further. The vote is on May 19 from noon to 9 p.m. in the Mill Road School. Voters can register on May 13, from noon to 9 p.m. in the 3-5 lobby of Mill Road School. There are five items on the ballot.

LIBRARY

Erica Freudenberger, Director of the Red Hook Library spoke about the activity at the library in the last year. They are one of ten libraries chosen nationwide to take part in the Libraries Transforming Communities grant which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association. They will speak at two conferences about what they are doing here in Red Hook. The Red Hook Library was also recognized at the national level. They were one of 85 libraries out of 7500 to earn a coveted five star designation from Library Journal. In 2014 they got the "Best Small Library in America" finalist award from Library Journal and it came with a generous grant. To continue with their work they are asking for \$4,990 in funding. It is one of the five items on the school board election ballot. That amount averages out to about \$1.15 a year for a home assessed at \$250,000.

Supervisor Crane thanked and congratulated her.

Felicia Keesing, President of the Board of Trustees of the Tivoli Library, explained that they are not asking for an increase this year due to the fact that they built up a creative and diversified funding structure. She gave examples. Their library was refurbished just this last month. It was paid for through donations from their patrons.

Supervisor Crane thanked her for the information.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for comments. There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 25. It begins at the High School at 10:00 a.m.
 - The United Methodist Church will hold a patriotic musical tribute on May 23, at 3:00 p.m.
 - May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month.
 - RH Education Foundation presents "All That Jazz" on 6/21 from 5:30– 9:30 p.m. at Spiegel Tent
- Councilwoman Cagle announced the following:
- Thanked the Arbor Day and Clean Up Day organizers and participants. The Tree Committee planted 10 trees, gave away 80 seedlings, and over 100 children participated.
 - Update on the trails planner grant. Alta Planning was hired and the start date is May 26.
 - Regarding the sidewalk grant, we are in the preliminary design phase. An agreement is to be signed and executed, and then a consultant will be contacted. Construction is planned to begin summer of next year.
 - Expressed condolences to the family of Betty A'Brial. She was a Senior Services Committee member, was a wonderful volunteer, active in the community and she will be sorely missed.

PUBLIC HEARING – 8 p.m.

CPF TRANSFER TO REDUCE BAN PRINCIPAL \$225,000

Supervisor Crane explained the purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider transferring some money from the community preservation fund to pay down some of the principle on two farms supported by PDR in the past.

Deputy Town Clerk read the public hearing notice.

Supervisor Crane opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m. for comments.

There were no comments.

Supervisor Crane explained that the CPF Committee met this afternoon to give their consideration to the plan. They unanimously supported these two properties. These two parcels were very high on the rankings. The total cost incurred by the Town when we did a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) was \$478,000. We are proposing that we transfer \$225,000 from the fund to pay some of the principle of these two farms.

Attorney Chale read the resolution.

Supervisor Crane asked the Board members if they had comments.

The Board was in agreement about the transfer.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to close the public hearing at 8:20 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION 2015 #21

RE: AUTHORIZING APPLICATION OF CPF PROGRAM FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE COSTS OF THE GREIG FAMILY FARM AND KALINA FARM CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

On a motion of Councilwoman Brenda Cagle seconded by Councilman William O'Neill moved to approve the resolution.

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

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BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

Councilman O'Neill led the discussion regarding an amendment to the fee schedule. He presented the proposed changes; there have been none since 2003. He explained that Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole prepared the proposed new fee schedule which was distributed to the Town Board. It compares previous and proposed fees. In addition, everyone was provided with a document, Zoning Board of Appeals Fee Schedule. It set forth the current application fees in 4 areas for the ZBA. The recommendation of the Chair of the ZBA is to double those fees. The ZBA also wants to establish an escrow account.

Attorney Chale said the language in the escrow proposal is similar to the language in the Planning Board's current fee schedule. The amounts are different. She explained the purpose of their escrow.

The Board discussed the wording of "may/must" at length.

Councilman O'Neill added that our fees were compared to local municipalities.

Councilman Ross said if we are going to change the fee schedule he wants it written exactly as it is in our Chapter 70. It says they "may" be required.

Councilwoman Cagle asked if the ZBA weighed in on this issue.

Supervisor Crane asked if this request for increase is coming from the members of the ZBA.

Councilman O'Neill responded that the Chairman asked for the increase.

Councilman Ross also responded that the Chair, Nick Annas asked for it, the ZBA hasn't weighed in on it.

Attorney Chale explained that the fees are for administrative expenses and are not for the Town to make money.

Councilman Colgan suggested wording and change it next year if needed.

The Board reviewed fees and wording in other municipalities in regard to their ZBA fee schedules. Fees for use variances and area variances were discussed at length.

Supervisor Crane is comfortable with raising the fees based on the information. She thinks there should be an escrow and how much should be determined by the Zoning Board of Appeals as far as she is concerned.

Councilman Ross said in his opinion, we should give the ZBA the authority in the fee schedule if they decide they need a fee schedule of \$500 or \$1000. It should not say that they must set up an escrow. There are different situations.

RESOLUTION 2015 #22

RE: TO ADOPT FEE SCHEDULES FOR 2015

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

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

Copy attached

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Colgan moved that the ZBA *may* establish an escrow account as provided for in Chapter 70. That escrow amount is proposed

to be \$500 for an area variance application, application for interpretation is \$500, application for a use variance is \$1,000, application for change of non-conforming use \$1,000.

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

The fees voted on will take effect immediately.

ENERGY CONTRACT PROPOSALS

Councilwoman Cagle referred to a conversation the Board had about the possibility of changing from Central Hudson to another electric supply company. Every estimate we received is less than what we are currently paying. We were waiting for a response from a municipal energy program in hope of getting a good quote on electric. That did not work out as expected. We have estimates from Veridian and Direct Energy. She pointed out the different quotes from each company. Both are less expensive than Central Hudson's last twelve month costs. She explained the differences between the companies over a 24 month period. We based numbers on kilowatt hours used in 2014.

Supervisor Crane is happy to save \$2,178.74.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adopt the Direct Energy 10% Green.

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

Supervisor Crane thanked her for the work she put into this.

REORGANIZATION

Tree Commission – George and Cathy Michael are interested in serving on the committee.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilwoman Cagle moved to appoint George and Cathy Michael to the Tree Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2016

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

Ag. & Open Space Committee – there are letters of interest from two residents, Hannah Beal and Talea Hekman-Taylor. After a short discussion, an appointment was tabled.

St. Margaret's Committee – Tina Keil, owner of Bella Fiore, is interested in serving on the committee.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to appoint Tina Keil to the St. Margaret's Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2016.

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

Supervisor Crane said that Attorney Chale looked into background regarding St. Margaret's. Attorney Chale distributed documents regarding the acquisition and adaptive re-use of St. Margaret's Home. She brought the Board's attention to the preservation covenant. She briefly explained the covenant and deed. She was unable to find the Hannaford Road deed and may have to check with the County in that regard. The Town is supposed to maintain the 20 foot evergreen buffer.

Supervisor Crane commented that we are faced with a number of issues that have to be addressed in regard to the St. Margaret's Home property.

Senior Services Committee – The Committee announced that there is a vacancy for Secretary due to the resignation of Sheila Franklin.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane shared the following correspondence:

-The DMV announced an amendment to their law that the word "handicapped" must be removed from any sign. A new universal symbol of access will replace the older signs.

Councilman Colgan received information from the Watershed Agricultural Council regarding a forestry exemption law. The State is in the process of reviewing it and it may reduce the acreage requirement for the forestry exemption.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor Crane opened for comments. There were none.

Attorney Chale, on behalf of the Red Hook Rotary, thanked the community for their support of Apple Blossom Day.

ATTORNEY/CLIENT

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go to Attorney/Client Session at 9:32 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contracts.

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

On a motion of Councilwoman Cagle seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn Attorney/Client at 10:50 p.m.

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

On a motion of Councilwoman Cagle seconded by Supervisor Crane moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Horst, Deputy Town Clerk