

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

May 10, 2016

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 Robert McKeon
Councilman James Ross
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O’Neill
Councilperson Sarah Imboden
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Supervisor McKeon called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

The Supervisor’s report dated April 30, 2016 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$5,805,676.48; Receipts - \$316,422.87; Disbursed - \$427,343.15; Balance - \$5,694,756.20. The Transfer Tax balance shows \$583,979.83.

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to approve the Supervisor’s report.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Imboden
Nays 0

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The Town Clerks report for the period April 1 – April 30, 2016 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$1,717.94; Amount paid to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$80.00; Amount paid to NYS Dept of Health - \$157.50; Amount paid to NYSDEC - \$1,068.56; Total State, County & Local revenues - \$3,024.00.

March Abstract – Vouchers 20097 through 20282; Total abstract: \$644,736.45

April Abstract – Vouchers 20283 through 20426; Total abstract: \$123,344.55

On a motion of Councilperson Imboden seconded by Councilman O’Neill moved to approve the Town Clerk’s report.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Imboden
Nays 0

PUBLIC HEARING

Regarding application of CPF Program Funds for debt service costs of the Greig Family Farm and Kalina Farm conservation easements

Supervisor McKeon explained the short term BAN and using the Community Preservation Funds to pay down that debt.

Town Clerk Sue McCann read the public hearing notice.

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments. There were none.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman O’Neill moved to close the public hearing.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Imboden
Nays 0

ARTHROGRYPOSIS AWARENESS DAY PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION

Supervisor McKeon presented a proclamation for Arthrogryposis Awareness Day. He read the proclamation and resolved supporting June 30, 2016 as Arthrogryposis Awareness Day. Rogers Run will take place on June 18 at 8:45 a.m. beginning at St. Christopher’s School.

RHCSD BUDGET PRESENTATION – PAUL FINCH & BRUCE MARTIN

Supervisor McKeon introduced School RHCSD Superintendent Paul Finch and RHCSD Business Administrator Bruce Martin who were in attendance to explain this year’s school budget.

Superintendent Finch told the Board that the Assistant Principal at the High School, Amanda Green, was given an award by the School Administrators Association of New York State. She is

one of 13 who receive the award throughout the State and is Administrator of the Year. He added more proud moments for the School district, citing the quality of the program in Red Hook. He moved on to the budget presentation stating that the tax levy increase this year will be 0.11%, the lowest they've seen in a while. He explained their budget process. Those retiring this year are Roy Paisley, Nick Ascienzo, Mary Pat Budd, Matt King, Gail Volk and Renee Gratzel. State aid increased which helped the budget. They are able to maintain programs and not reduce staff.

Business Administrator Bruce Martin explained what will be on the ballot for the school elections. There is a Board election for two seats with three candidates running. A bus proposition is also on the ballot in the amount of \$275,000. A library proposition is also on the ballot. Voter registration day for School elections is May 11 from noon to 9 p.m. at the Mill Road 3-5 lobby. The budget vote is on Tuesday, May 17 from noon to 9 p.m. in the Mill Road Cafeteria on the 3-5 side. They will use the scanning machine for the first time and he reminded everyone that the ballot is two sided.

Councilman Colgan asked the status of the student population.

Superintendent Finch responded that when he started there were 2300 students and now they have a little over 1900. That is a trend in Dutchess County.

Erica Freudenberger, Red Hook Library Director, announced that in 2015 the library was named as one of the best small libraries in America by the Library Journal and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, they received a library excellence award from New York State, and remained a five star library for the third year in a row. They've been very busy and she explained some of their programs. Some included partnering with the Red Hook Recreation Park, bringing reading camp to them, held an after school program for teens at the High School, and partnered with Bard College for programs. The library is asking for additional funding on the School Budget vote.

MID-HUDSON STREET LIGHT CONSORTIUM PRESENTATION

Supervisor McKeon introduced Pat Courtney of Courtney Strong regarding the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium. Previously the Board discussed purchasing our own street lights. Pat Courtney began her presentation explaining how the consortium began. They decided to put together a street light consortium and they went into a competitive grant situation because small communities would have to band together to make this affordable. LED streetlights will help save up to 70% a year. There is the issue of acquiring the streetlights from the local utility and purchasing new equipment. It is a two year program and she explained their goal and ways to participate. She explained financial options involved, but the consortium does not cost to join. They've come up with the plan but it takes a while to get it going. In the mean time they are starting to work with communities on their street light audits. She asked who to reach out to in the Northern Dutchess Alliance in order to present this to them and also asked for the Town to complete a no-cost application. She asked the Board how many street lights we have. Supervisor McKeon told her he met with Central Hudson who gave them a report of all the streetlights. He thinks around 250. They did an analysis for us about what the difference would be about LED's vs. the current fixtures.

Pat explained the process and said they will be able to start their financial analysis.

Supervisor McKeon thinks one of the benefits is that the financial implications are profound. One of the shortcomings going with Central Hudson is that they only offered one product, a 4,000 kelvin bulb. He assumes there would be several to choose from so we can design the lighting the way we wanted it. The other issue CH raised was maintenance.

Pat Courtney said a lot of great companies are coming into this market (maintenance).

Councilman Colgan is of the opinion that LED's are the way to go but his concern is the kelvin rating of the light. Above 3,000 kelvin is blinding. He hopes Pat will keep that in mind.

Pat said that's why they would do an audit so it can be designed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments.

Linda Keeling brought up issues about St. Margaret's Home and the use agreement. Her concerns were with safety. During an art show someone was using the banister in the home to do tricks on and that should not be allowed, the floor length windows can be a danger to children or adults with balance issues, and the accessibility issues are a problem. Port-A-Potty's should be installed and ramps should be added to replace stairs.

Supervisor McKeon said some of these items will be covered when the Board gets to that point in the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor McKeon announced the following:

- Bike Rodeo and Tour de Red Hook on May 14 from 1 – 4 p.m. at the High School, rain date May 15
- Artz Dayz Festival at St. Margaret’s Home planning schedule May 11th at 5:30 p.m.
- Association of Towns conference – Safeguarding the Public Water Supply on June 10, from 8:30 – noon at the Hilton Garden Inn in Albany
- Dress for Success Dutchess County VIP client sale at Poughkeepsie Plaza
- STAR program transition for first time homeowners
- DC Sheriff Office inviting everyone to a remembrance ceremony and tribute to members that lost their lives in the line of duty on May 26 at 9:30 a.m. May 15 to 21 is National Police Week
- Upper 9G Corridor Management Plan May 11th at Bard College and May 12 in Tivoli.

PARKING LOT PROJECT UPDATE

Supervisor McKeon informed the public that the parking lot project is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 16. Construction is expected to take up to two months. Parking will be available during construction.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE COSTS OF THE GREIG FAMILY FARM AND KALINA FARM CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Councilman Colgan read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2016 #38

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

On a motion of Councilman Harry Colgan seconded by Councilman James Ross moved to approve the resolution

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O’Neill, Imboden
	Nays	0	

Copy attached

Susan Ezrati of the CPF committee expressed gratitude for funding for the PDR. Councilman Colgan explained that this payment will pay off all of the costs associated with those two parcels.

PANDA UPDATE

Supervisor McKeon referred to discussion at the last Town Board meeting about the possibility of the Village of Red Hook no longer funding PANDA. We took a look at the franchise fees to see if they represented a fair accounting of what our contribution should have been. He referred to a Franchise Tax Analysis. The Village of Red Hook did allocate \$3600 towards finishing out the year and they recognized that PANDA was willing to discuss some specific requests. He asked since the Village will continue the contract until the end of the year, if the Board would consider paying the \$4,729.91 to support PANDA.

Councilman Colgan commented that it’s unknown what the Village is going to do next year. Supervisor McKeon said he thinks the Village is considering doing their own taping.

Mark Durand of PANDA said the Village is reserving some money for non-PANDA public information. They would do their own tapings and have their own you tube channel. They’ve met with them several times to go over different options. PANDA has to be prepared for the possibility that they will have four municipalities instead of five. It is causing them to look at other options and looking at new municipal agreements. PANDA would like to get an idea of what the municipalities would like to see PANDA do and be. They’d like to get funding for specific projects and purposes. Municipalities should only be covering operating costs, not equipment. He explained their ideas.

PANDA Treasurer Maryann Harvey explained that PANDA is not allowed to do fundraising, so they are talking about having another Board or foundation that can do fundraising.

Mark Durand explained there is a limit to what can be done when you can’t pay someone.

Maryann said their landlord wants his property back so they are looking for somewhere to go.

Councilman Colgan thought the new community center was a possibility.

Maryann said they do have budget constraints.

Supervisor McKeon commented that we need to adjust the contribution that each municipality is paying in because we have more subscribers and the Village has less. He reviewed the numbers with the Business Manager.

Councilman Ross clarified that the Village's fiscal year starts in July. Is it the 2016-2017 year? Maryann said they haven't billed the Villages yet. The Town pays in February.

Councilman Ross questioned the agreement of the \$4700 and would like the Village to earmark that amount until the end of the fiscal year. Otherwise he has no problem approving this.

Mark Durand doesn't understand the shortfall.

Councilman Colgan commented that he and Councilman Ross are struggling with the same issue, which is how to make PANDA whole when it falls into the bailiwick of the Village. We understand the unfair distribution so we can logically make that up, but we have to make that up to the Village.

Supervisor McKeon explained the payment for the unfair distribution of cost. It would help the Village fulfill their obligation for the 2016-2017 year.

Councilperson Imboden suggested that we have PANDA discussions before our budget.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman Ross moved to pay PANDA \$4,729.91 to cover fees associated with coverage for the 2016-2017 year after the Village of Red Hook makes their payment of \$3,600 the payment to be a corrective one to better reflect our franchise fees and relevant contribution to the PANDA expenses.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor McKeon received letters of interest for two committees.

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to appoint Lisa Whalen to the Greenway & Trails Committee for a term to expire 12/31/2017.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

On a motion Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman Ross moved to appoint Angelyn Haan to the Senior Services Committee for a term to expire 12/31/17.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

ST. MARGARET'S USE AGREEMENT

Supervisor McKeon explained the agreement prepared by the Attorney for the Town. He asked the Board if they had any comments on the agreement. We are only approving this form.

RESOLUTION 2016 #39

APPROVING ST. MARGARET'S TEMPORARY USE AGREEMENT AND USE RULES

On a motion of Councilman William O'Neill seconded by Supervisor Robert McKeon moved to approve the resolution.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

Copy attached

GRANTS UPDATE

Supervisor McKeon began with the County's 2016 Municipal Consolidation and Shared Services Grant. We spoke about applying for a grant to start on our new recreation land for parking, ADA compliant restrooms, septic and we would start construction of the first field. We found out last week that Dutchess County has approximately 2 – 3 million dollars that they are adding to this application process. They are also giving an additional two weeks to make the application which is July 1. He referred to a packet, Addendum to Municipal Consolidation & Shared Services Grant Program: Taxpayer Stabilization Grant Initiative and asked the Board to review the information. We also scheduled to apply for some highway department equipment. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke will be at the next meeting to describe what we are applying for.

Councilman O'Neill suggested speaking to the Little League program about what our intention is and how it might be used. They should feel included in the decision.

Supervisor McKeon said the first field designed will be available for those with challenges and also for use by Little League. Recreation Director John Kuhn and Recreation Commission Chair Doug Strawinski are working to come up with a budget for this application. He thinks they will ask for about \$400,000. He then referred to the Estuary Grant the Town received to study which 10 culverts should be replaced. Hudson River Access and Environmental Protections announced grants. Any ideas on what to apply for are welcome. NYSERDA also has a grant to study climate change adaptation and resiliency. Supervisor McKeon drafted a letter regarding New York State Climate Change in support. It only asks for an in-kind match. He asked the Board if they would like to pursue this.

On a motion of Councilman O'Neill seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to approve the letter drafted by the Supervisor to accompany the grant application.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

Supervisor McKeon explained that the recreation commission provided details about the challenger fields they visited in Wappingers, and they also provided drawings, and estimated expenses associated with building that facility. There is also possible grant money for a vehicle for senior citizens and others in the community.

Councilman Colgan suggested turning the grant for senior citizens vehicle over to the Senior Services Committee to look into. That's been a suggestion at some of their meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor McKeon shared the following correspondence:

-Dutchess Land Conservancy regarding a request from the Klose family to construct a 5' by 5' floating pump house within the Resource Protection Areas designated by the conservation easement. Supporting information was attached.

-Ag. & Markets regarding a review of unreasonable ordinance with respect to Building Dept. fees. They cite the fee for the Sheehan farm for demolition of a barn that burned down. When it comes to agricultural structures building permits are not required through the States right to farm law. The Building Inspector only requests an electrical inspection. Supervisor McKeon recommends having a reasonable cap on agricultural buildings. He asked if the Board wanted to take action on reducing the fees before drafting a letter to Ag & Markets.

Councilman O'Neill commented that we don't have to explain ourselves at all. Those fees were reduced specifically for the Sheehan project. We gave them a 50% benefit.

Supervisor McKeon wants the Board to take a look at the fee structure.

Councilman O'Neill would like to hear from Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor McKeon asked if there were any comments.

Linda Keeling thanked PANDA for the way they've improved over the years. She also suggested that the Ag. & Open Space Committee should comment on the fees the Board just discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to go into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss the potential sale, lease or acquisition of a particular property.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to close the Executive Session.

Adopted Ayes 5 McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman O'Neill moved to authorize the Supervisor to enter contract negotiations with regard to real property outlined in Executive Session.

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
	Nays	0	

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilman Ross moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	5	McKeon, Ross, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
	Nays	0	

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk