

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING
Year End
December 21, 2017

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

Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor McKeon announced the following:

-DEC Camp scholarship application deadline is January 12, 2018

-Winnakee Land Trust application for funds to acquire over 300 acres along the Sawkill has been approved

-DOT is going to grant our request to lower speed limits on River Road and Route 9G. It will be done in the spring time. In regard to Route 9G, it will be for a two year trial period and will run from Kelly Road north to Peach Tree Court. It will be set at 45 mph. As part of the agreement they are asking the Town to provide an education campaign.

Councilperson Imboden announced the E-Waste collection on January 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Recycling Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments.

Isaac Imboden likes Red Hook and thinks it is a clean and neat place to live.

MUNICIPAL SOLAR FARM DISCUSSION

Supervisor McKeon continued discussion of the municipal solar farm project. He introduced Jeff Irish, who gave an update on the proposal.

Jeff Irish, a professional engineer and owner of Hudson Solar, explained the projects his company has done and how he's helped the Town move through the steps involved to implement the municipal solar farm. It is good for people who cannot site a system on their property.

They've built 13 community solar systems so far. The well field on Town property owned by the Village is a particularly attractive site for this project. They've proceeded with Central Hudson and that is complete. He outlined the project, a 6.8 acre solar system. It is large enough to generate electricity for about 350 average homes. He continued to explain the project.

The Board asked questions to clarify the parcel size, and what is presently on that lot.

Jeff Irish explained the concept of the project and reasons for a third party finance company. The amounts saved would be 5 – 10% lower than present rates. There are two options, one of them that the Town could buy the system from the company at year six, saving residents even more money. He explained the rate differences over a 25 year time span without and with the community solar project, and gave a time line for the project. On January 4, 2018 there is a 25% payment \$79,232 due to the utility. This cost will be reimbursed by the developer when constructed. That payment locks in an approximate \$200,000 NYSERDA grant and locks in a compensation rate with Central Hudson.

Councilman O'Neill asked where in writing it is that we would get our money back if we decide to back out of the project.

Jeff couldn't answer for Central Hudson.

Supervisor McKeon explained how the solar farm would affect the highway garage in relation to savings.

Jeff Irish explained the savings with this project. The average CH customer uses about 8500 kW hours per year, this would take care of 277 of those kW hours.

The Board discussed various issues related to purchase of the system and selling electricity.

Supervisor McKeon asked if we will have what the tariff will be in February.

Jeff Irish explained what he assumes based on a federal trade case. He also spoke about the size of the panels, and using pollinators in order to reduce how often the property would have to be mowed.

Councilman O'Neill asked about the \$200,000. Don't we need to have a public hearing on this to see if the community wants this?

Supervisor McKeon stated that we have been discussing this for a while.

Jeff Irish has been talking to finance companies and explained the payment process.

Denis Collet explained the program and the positive aspects of it. In regard to developers, this will probably be attractive to finance companies because of the work already put into it.

Councilman Ross explained the \$79,232 is the only money put at risk. In all, it will cost the Town nothing.

The Board discussed various issues related to the project. This whole idea of this project is to benefit the community.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to authorize a \$79,232 payment be made to hold our position.

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

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor McKeon has been talking to community members about two committees that need to be constituted. One is the Complete Streets Committee, and one is to update the LWRP. There are quite a few people interested and more committee members are needed.

Councilman Colgan suggested that the Highway Department be the lead group.

Supervisor McKeon said that Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke will be part of the Complete Streets committee. He also said that our Town Historian wants to step down and Emily Majer is recommended. He asked that the Board consider committee members and Historian by the next Town Board meeting.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING COUNCILPERSON JAMES ROSS

Supervisor McKeon referred to the resolution honoring Councilman James Ross for his remarkable contribution to our community. He is one of the longest serving Town Councilpersons in the history of the Town of Red Hook including the last 28 years in a row. He read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2017 #92

RE: HONORING JAMES ROSS

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

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
 Nays 0
 Recuse 1 Ross

Copy attached

Supervisor McKeon thanked Councilman Ross. He asked if Councilman Ross would want to share any snippets from over the years.

Councilman Ross said it's been a wonderful ride. He's learned a lot by listening to each other.

REPORTS

Assessor – Their office mailed enhanced STAR renewals out, a list was received from NYS Tax & Finance for possible removal of exemptions and they are reviewing those names. There were 11 sales in November, the highest sale price was \$428,200, and the lowest was \$20,000 for vacant land.

Building & Zoning – The December report showed 16 permits, 25 inspections, 26 CO/CC's, 5 complaints and revenue of \$8,563.80.

RH Village Police Dept. – In November there were 84 total incidents, 19 arrests and 62 tickets issued

Purchasing – For the period November 27 – December 20, 26 purchase orders were issued, the largest for gasoline. Fencing has been installed at the tennis courts, final coat and markings will be done in the spring.

Water Department – November monthly report shows normal levels pumped, well volumes are normal.

No violations on water tests, filtration operating satisfactorily, filter cartridges were replaced in July. There are 26 outstanding work orders and one meter reading gun needs replacement.

Ongoing circuit breaker problems with pump control and a proposal was accepted by the Board for Black Electric. Dead end hydrant flushing was done in October. 2018 work items include water tower work, and rehabilitation of well #2.

Intermunicipal Task Force – continued discussion and review of the proposed Solar Energy Law, Local Law D of 2017. Also continued review of uses applicable in the B-1 zoning district and the TND, and those proposed for a new Hamlet Business District in Upper Red Hook.

Tree Preservation Commission – Foam board signs were purchased and placed by new plantings. Will use remaining funds to purchase fertilizer and another lopper. They will maintain overgrown trees in the Red Church cemetery. Pitcher Lane planting project items were listed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments. There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Supervisor McKeon announced the swearing in ceremony for newly elected officials will take place on January 6, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in Town Hall.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to re-open the meeting.

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

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to close the books for 2017.

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

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk