

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
March 22, 2019

A special 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 10:05 a.m.

Present: Supervisor Robert McKeon
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Councilperson Sarah Imboden
Deputy Town Clerk Claire Horst
Absent: Councilperson Christine Kane
Also Present: Attorney Christine Chale

Supervisor McKeon called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained that the Archdiocese of New York put St. Sylvia's Church, the rectory, parking lot and small parcel up for sale. This is a matter of urgency because it is a critical piece of property. He referred to resolutions regarding the negotiations and establishment of a public hearing date. He introduced Tivoli Mayor Joel Griffith and Deputy Mayor Emily Majer who were in attendance.

Tivoli Mayor Griffith commented that the church is an historic asset and the parking lot is invaluable to Tivoli. He thanked the Town for pursuing this.

Deputy Mayor Majer explained some of the history of St. Sylvia's Church.

Mayor Griffith heard from residents who are concerned about the vulnerability of the property being for sale and asked if Tivoli can do anything to save it.

The Board discussed the property.

RESOLUTION 2019 #28

RE: AUTHORIZING REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan move to approve the resolution.

Adopted	Ayes 4	McKeon, Cogan, O'Neill, Imboden
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Kane

Copy attached

Supervisor McKeon read the resolution establishing a date for the public hearing. He explained the intent to acquire the properties and explained specifics in the resolution regarding purchase. Councilman Colgan commented that this is certainly an institution of note in the Village. He hopes it would become a part of the community.

RESOLUTION 2019 #29

RE: ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE
PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF FORMER ST. SYLVIA'S PARCELS

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan move to approve the resolution setting the public hearing for April 9, 2019 at 7:35 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes 4	McKeon, Cogan, O'Neill, Imboden
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Kane

Copy attached

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke asked who will be responsible for the maintenance after the property is purchased.

Supervisor McKeon explained that is being acquired by the Town and if the Town owns it, the Town maintains it. We have not discussed long term uses yet, we are leaving ourselves flexible.

Councilperson Imboden would like to meet and start discussing long term ideas.

Supervisor McKeon said this has been fast and agrees that it would be a good idea to have a neighborhood meeting. There are a lot of ideas right now.

Councilperson Imboden would like to have a message for residents who may question the purchase.

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke asked if this will have an impact on this year's budget. Supervisor McKeon said we think we can do this with community preservation funds. We are allowed up to 10% towards maintenance and we are looking at grants. We talked to our Town Historian about grant opportunities to do work on the building.

Mayor Griffith said his message to the residents is that the Town is working on purchase, and then we will have time to talk about what best use would be. Acquisition is first, uses second. Councilperson Imboden is concerned as a Board member. We already have one historic property that we don't know what to do with. This is different, but she thinks as Board members, their responsibility is to reassure residents.

Councilman Colgan commented that this is a functioning building now. It is nothing like St. Margaret's which was derelict.

Mayor Griffith said, speaking on behalf of the Tivoli constituents, this is a chance to show the residents that we are acting in their best interest as the Town moves forward as a collective place between the Town and the Village of Tivoli.

Supervisor McKeon said this is our first opportunity to use community preservation funds to purchase an historic property. We had this program for 12 years and raised over \$2.5 million toward important projects.

Mayor Griffith thanked the Board on behalf of everyone in Tivoli. Residents care about this deeply.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Adopted	Ayes	4	McKeon, Colgan, O'Neill, Imboden
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Kane

Respectfully submitted,

Claire W. Horst
Deputy Town Clerk