

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 12, 2019

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 Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Councilperson Sarah Imboden
Councilperson Christine Kane
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Attorney Christine Chale

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's report dated February 28, 2019 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$4,939,060.42; Receipts - \$2,310,684.99; Disbursed - \$1,296,461.70; Balance - \$5,953,283.71 He shared the 2018 year end finance report with the Board. There were budget adjustments for the Board's review.

On a motion of Councilperson Imboden seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to approve the Supervisor's report.

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

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On a motion of Councilperson Kane seconded by Councilman O'Neill moved to approve the budget adjustments in the General A and General B fund

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

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TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period February 1 through February 28, 2019 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to Supervisor - \$2,174.42; Amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$52.00; Amount remitted to NYS Dept. of Health - \$45.00; Amount remitted to NYS DEC - \$58.58; Total State, County & Local revenue - \$2,330.00

On a motion of Councilman Colgan seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to accept the Town Clerk's report.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

ADDENDUM TO 2019/2020 SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RED HOOK FIRE COMPANY

Supervisor McKeon explained that there is mandated cancer coverage for volunteer firefighters. Town Clerk McCann read the public hearing notice.

Supervisor McKeon opened the public hearing for comments. There were none.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to close the public hearing.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor McKeon announced the following:

-Village elections will take place on Tuesday, March 19 from noon to 9 p.m.

-There will be a community build for the new playground on two weekends, May 3 through May 5 and what remains on the 10th and 11th in May. Volunteers can sign up on redhookplays.com.

-The Empire State Trail will be coming up River Road. A draft is being worked on for public input. He explained the traffic calming measures that will be taken which may include a lower speed limit.

Councilperson Imboden announced a special contest called Project Draw Down by the CAC to help people think about reducing carbon footprints.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments.

Linda Keeling reviewed the PANDA meetings and in regard to the RH Community Center, the building is not handicapped accessible. She did an informal review of access and she said there is lack of signage, needs one more bar (handrail) and general parking should be redone. She suggested establishing an ADA committee.

Supervisor McKeon thanked her for her suggestion. The RH Community Center is not a Town owned property. He will pass on suggestions to the County.

There were no more comments.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE MEMBERSHIP – NYCLASS & RESOLUTION TO AMEND INVESTMENT POLICY

Supervisor McKeon explained the resolution regarding the co-op, NYCLASS, which gives liquidity of a money market with CD rates. We would like to join this cooperative and amend our investment policy.

RESOLUTION 2019 #17

RE: APPROVING AMENDMENT TO TOWN OF RED HOOK INVESTMENT POLICY

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

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

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RESOLUTION 2019 #18

RE: APPROVING MUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT REGARDING NYCLASS

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

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

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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DUTCHESS COUNTY – ADA RESTROOMS REC. PARK

Supervisor McKeon explained the grant received to make our restrooms ADA accessible. Councilperson Imboden asked if the Board was going to see the plans for the improvement. Supervisor McKeon explained that is part of the work Tighe & Bond will do. The County walked through with us and gave us accessibility advice.

RESOLUTION 2019 #19

RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF GRANT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND DUTCHESS COUNTY FOR THE RECREATION PARK BATHROOM ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilperson Christine Kane moved to approve the resolution.

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

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PROPOSED PRIVATE DRIVE NAME – GREENHOUSE LANE OFF OF FREEBORN LANE, TIVOLI

Supervisor McKeon referred to the issue brought up at the last Town Board meeting. A map of the area was provided for the Board’s review. For 911 purposes, the private drive will be called Greenhouse Lane. He asked if the Board had any questions.

RESOLUTON 2019 #20

RE: ACCEPTING GREENHOUSE LANE AS A FARM DRIVEWAY NAME FOR PARCEL 6274-00-696839

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

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

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DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RED HOOK COMMUNITY CENTER AGREEMENT

Supervisor McKeon explained changes made by our Town Attorney based upon the Board’s input regarding the Community Center agreement.

RESOLUTION 2019 #21

RE: AUTHORIZING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE RED HOOK COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilperson Christine Kane moved to approve the resolution.

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

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RESOLUTION TO AMEND SPEED LIMIT – RIVER ROAD

Supervisor McKeon referred to previous discussion regarding the speed limit reduction.

RESOLUTION 2019 #22

RE: REQUESTING MODIFICATION OF SPEED LIMIT ON COUNTY ROUTE 103/RIVER ROAD FROM ANNANDALE ROAD TRIANGLE TO TOWN LINE

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilperson Sarah Imboden moved to approve the resolution.

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

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RECREATION PARK FACILITIES UPDATE – REVISED BOND RESOLUTION

Supervisor McKeon explained that there was an adopted master plan in 2013. We received a grant to amend a field to be ADA accessible. There were several public workshops and public hearings for input. The Town Board decided to move forward with a challenger field, and it was decided to bring the field and lighting together. He invited Brandee Nelson of Tighe & Bond to give a quick summary.

Brandee reviewed the process so far. The challenger field will be built on Recreation Park East and she presented a 2019 revision of the master plan.

Supervisor McKeon pointed out a parcel purchased previously with community preservation funds.

Brandee continued with the presentation. A needs assessment was done in August and presented at the September and October meetings. They took input from those meetings and looked at them comprehensively to come up with this revision. She explained the phases of work to be completed.

Supervisor McKeon explained the cost of the project. We have had grants and we have the ability to use some employees to provide some of the work. The Phase I cost is in the neighborhood of \$2,425,000. After grants, we already approved \$1.2 million so we are looking at another \$300,000 to amend our bond resolution in order to do Phase I. He broke down the costs and he explained possible costs beginning at Phase II. The implication of increasing bonding was explained. The amount of indebtedness projected in 2020 will reach a high of \$5 million, well below our borrowing authority which is approximately \$86 million. The budgets referred to in 2021 were summarized. There is no need to raise taxes with this project being completed. He asked for any thoughts from the Board.

Councilman Colgan said it seems that financially, it has a number of maybes. An expenditure of this amount including what we owe is an immense number. Our recreation program is important but it should not be the driving force for the Town. We have a commercial area that has been ignored since 2012. It needs a sewer before moving forward and it is the economic future for the Town. That should be number one on the agenda. He likes the design of the recreation park, but does it have to be done now? We need to hear from the public.

Supervisor McKeon said we did pay off BANS and did pay down our debt.

Councilperson Kane said that following this project from the beginning it has taken a long time to get to this point. Nothing has happened with this property since the Town purchased it. The current parking situation for that property is unsafe. At the very least she would want us to move forward with parking to make the property more accessible. It is great that this property is going to be connected to trails. There have been improvements but she doesn't want to see this plan wait another ten years. She'd like to see us get started, and is in favor of the overall project.

Councilman O'Neill is confident in the work done by our committees and planners. He's also satisfied with the financial aspect and is in favor of being progressive.

Councilperson Imboden commented that she echoes what Councilperson Kane said. Our facilities are a large part of the quality of life here in Red Hook. A lot of these investments are long overdue. This plan reflects an amount of public input that she hasn't seen in the past. This is a positive long term vision and she is in favor of the financial plan.

The Board looked at the SEQRA for any potential environmental impact. An EAF was prepared and reviewed by our Town Attorney.

Attorney Chale reviewed and explained the EAF with the Board.

RESOLUTION 2019 # 23

RE: TO ADOPT A DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE PROPOSED RECREATION PARK IMPROVEMENTS

On a motion of Councilman William O'Neill seconded by Councilperson Christine Kane moved to approve the resolution.

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

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RESOLUTION 2019 #24

RE: AMENDING BOND RESOLUTION NO. 88 OF 2017 DATED DECEMBER 12, 2017, AS AMENDED BY BOND RESOLUTION NO. 86 OF 2018 DATED DECEMBER 11, 2018, AUTHORIZING RECREATION PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT AN ESTIMATED INCREASED MAXIMUM COST OF \$2,425,000, THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN INCREASED AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF, THE EXPENDITURE OF \$430,000 FROM RECREATION RESERVE FUNDS, AND PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

On a motion of Councilman William O'Neill seconded by Councilperson Christine Kane moved to approve the resolution.

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

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ADDENDUM TO 2019/2020 SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RED HOOK FIRE COMPANY

Supervisor McKeon referred to previous discussion regarding this situation.

RESOLUTION 2019 #25

RE: APPROVING AN ADDENDUM TO THE TOWN OF RED HOOK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND THE VILLAGE OF RED HOOK FIRE COMPANY, INC. FOR 2019 AND 2020

On a motion of Councilman William O'Neill seconded by Councilperson Christine Kane moved to approve the resolution.

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

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RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW B – MORATORIUM EXTENSION LARGE SCALE EXTRACTIONS

Supervisor McKeon explained the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2019 #26

RE: AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RED HOOK OF LOCAL LAW B (PROPOSED) OF 2019, AS LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2019

On a motion of Councilperson Sarah Imboden seconded by Councilperson Christine Kane moved to approve the resolution.

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

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RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CCA SERVICES AGREEMENT JOULE ASSETS

Supervisor McKeon explained the resolution. The Town is joining with other municipalities with regard to energy provided to residents and businesses. We are collectively purchasing clean energy that will power homes. Residents will have the option to opt out.

RESOLUTION 2019 #27

RE: AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK AND JOULE ASSETS INC.

On a motion of Supervisor Robert McKeon seconded by Councilperson Sarah Imboden moved to approve the resolution.

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

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DISCUSSION – MAILBOX POLICY

Supervisor McKeon referred to a sample mailbox policy provided to the Board by Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke.

Highway Superintendent Burke said this policy has been worked on for quite some time. She wants to develop mailbox installation guidelines to be attached to the driveway permit process. The current illustration is vague. It is important to have one in place as a preventative measure and as well as a tool when reinstalling broken mailboxes. Residents will not be expected to change existing non-conforming installation unless they are identified as a safety issue or are repeatedly damaged by snow clearing operations. Guidelines can be posted on line and handed out with driveway permits. It is the best interest of our residents to be proactive in preventing potential damage to their property, as well as improving the safety of the roads.

Supervisor McKeon thanked her for her work on this. He discussed the issue of replacing mailboxes. We have a lot that are non-conforming. Replacing posts can be burdensome. It's hard to understand each situation.

Highway Superintendent Burke is talking about those residents who walk in to the Highway Department with a broken mailbox in their hand complaining that the plows keep hitting it. She will suggest looking at their installation. If the installation is improper, they can follow the guidelines and avoid that in the future. We are not talking about every mailbox in Town, we are talking about future mailboxes and those that are getting damaged because they are in the wrong location.

Supervisor McKeon sees this as being potentially burdensome, for example if a road is widened, and they are too close.

Highway Superintendent Burke asked what the solution would be in that case.

Supervisor McKeon is not sure and would like to give this some thought. He could see that a lot of residents would be upset if told they had to relocate their post.

Highway Superintendent Burke asked what the alternative is if the mailboxes get hit while the roads are being plowed.

Supervisor McKeon doesn't know what the alternative is.

Councilperson Imboden is confused about the Supervisor's concern. She is guessing that most people who have non-conforming mailboxes don't get hit. How do you define safety hazard?

Highway Superintendent Burke explained the snow and ice policy. Posts and boxes will be replaced if we damage it while plowing. The Town Board raised the limit for replacement of a mailbox.

Councilperson Imboden asked how many get repeatedly hit.

Highway Superintendent Burke said there are a few that they have to be careful about and in a bad year they might hit 10 to 15 mailboxes. Then they will talk to the resident.

Councilperson Kane asked if this guideline conforms to the postal service regulations.

Highway Superintendent Burke responded yes.

Councilperson Kane asked if this is the only installation they can do.

Highway Superintendent Burke explained no, there is leeway in the specifications. We are trying to discourage cement posts, etc. Technically these are objects in the right-of-way according to highway law.

Councilperson Kane asked about a fee that would be charged to a resident.

Supervisor McKeon would want the Highway Department to perform the inspections. He is comfortable with Theresa making determination of boxes hazardous or dangerous to our equipment or operations.

Highway Superintendent Burke said that hasn't worked in the past year, she's made determinations that have been ignored. She would defer to an engineer. She is not willing to argue with people about their non-conformance and be challenged.

Supervisor McKeon commented that it is a real challenge in the snow storms for our crew to see the mailboxes.

Highway Superintendent Burke is not sure about the pavement part of it. She has been vigilant in keeping the roads as they are in regard to pavement creep.

Supervisor McKeon asked for any more thoughts and said we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Councilman Colgan thinks this is an impossible situation but we do the best we can.

Supervisor McKeon said we haven't had a mailbox policy and we should come up with one.

Highway Superintendent Burke mentioned the fact that a dump truck was ordered last May and has not yet been delivered because production was pushed back 18 months. In 2020 we will be looking for a plow truck and if we wait, we will go two winter seasons without it. She hoped the Board would pre-order it and have it here on time. There is no payment until delivery. We don't have a spare truck and the truck we will be replacing will be 19 years old in 2020. If we wait until 2021, we might be down another truck. She'd like the Board to be pro-active regarding purchase.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor McKeon shared the following correspondence:

-The Comptroller's Office responded that they received our corrective action plan in response to the audit.

-A letter from Dave Wright who heads the Over-40 softball league in support of the current recreation park proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments.

Linda Keeling asked if the Disaster Preparedness Committee has a list or a way of identifying those with disabilities so the fire department knows if there is an issue.

Supervisor McKeon suggested she get in touch with the Chair of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, Hai Ping. They are updating their plan now and may know the answer.
John Wintenburg asked about newspaper tubes. Will the mailbox policy apply to them as well?
Highway Superintendent Burke said in the mailbox spec draft says they can be attached to the post, but they are not addressed in the mailbox policy. Mailboxes are required.
Attorney Chale said you might want them to have specifications too.
Highway Superintendent Burke explained the point of the mailbox specs. We are concerned with the safety of assembly in the right-of-way.
There were no further comments.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Kane moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk