

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2018

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
Councilwoman 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, 2018 was read as follows: Opening balance - \$3,993,260.55; Receipts - \$318,531.81; Disbursed - \$179,526.97; Balance - \$4,032,265.39. Supervisor McKeon referred to December 2017 and January 2018 budget adjustments including an adjustment for purchase of a brush truck for the Highway Department.

On a motion of Councilman O'Neill seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to accept the Supervisor's report and budget adjustments.

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 – February 28, 2018 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$2,946.16; Amount remitted to NYS Ag. & Markets - \$60.00; Amount remitted to NYS Dept. of Health - \$45.00; Amount remitted to NYS DEC - \$28.34; Total State, County & Local Revenues - \$3,079.50.

Abstracts

November 2017 – Vouchers 22672 - 22742 Total: \$355,086.66

December 2017 – Vouchers 22743 – 22925 Total: \$560,090.39

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On a motion of Councilwoman Kane seconded by Supervisor McKeon moved to accept the Town Clerk's report.

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

PLAYGROUND RENOVATION PROJECT

Shana Weiler, who lives near the recreation park, explained that she noticed the playground equipment needed to be updated. She sent out a survey regarding the park, which contained three simple questions. Overall there were almost 90 responses with overwhelming support. Councilperson Imboden explained that Shana approached us with survey results and the Town Board gave a general nod to looking into it. The results were also brought to the Recreation Commission and the materials were presented to them. One of the firms, Parkitects, uses State contracts for purchases like this. Goals were to renovate the playground to provide better and safer equipment. Another issue is making the playground more accessible. Red Hook Plays is the group handling the renovation. She named the people on the committee. She presented the renderings of the layout of the playground and explained the equipment.

Leore Kushner of Parkitects said the see saw piece of equipment can accommodate up to 3 or 4 wheelchairs and 8 to 10 children. He listed various features of the equipment.

Councilperson Imboden said some of these pieces of equipment can be seen in action on YouTube. An asphalt square would be added for various games. Hopefully this would provide an opportunity for funding from a grant.

Supervisor McKeon asked about using stone dust instead of asphalt on the pathway area.

Councilman Colgan commented that pathways have to be easily traversed by wheelchairs; asphalt would probably be a better surface.

Councilperson Imboden said the fine stone dust we have now can be accessed by wheelchairs. Leore Kushner said stone dust would be fine; it would not have muddy areas. Supervisor McKeon suggested putting these illustrations on the Towns web site. Councilman O'Neill asked about shade from the trees. Leore said the rec. park does have great shade. Councilperson Imboden explained the trees will be staying. The site plan gives a sense where the new equipment will fall around the trees. The health of the trees will be reviewed as a matter of safety. We will continue to work with Recreation Director John Kuhn. A finalized site plan would have to be 3 or 4 weeks before work starts. Supervisor McKeon added that we could do it this year. Let's stay open to that possibility. We have the majority of the funding. Leore commented that any time of year would be ok to build. Councilman O'Neill asked if there was a modern approach to fencing around the playground. Leore said some have fences, some don't. Chain link is the most popular. Councilperson Imboden asked if we would need a resolution in support of this. Attorney Chale said we should keep an eye on project costs. Councilperson Imboden explained the estimated costs associated with the project.

RESOLUTION TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ABANDONED RED CHURCH CEMETERY

Supervisor McKeon explained the issue regarding the Town taking over the Red Church Cemetery in Tivoli. We've had dedicated volunteers managing the cemetery over the years. The volunteers are no longer in the position to perform the work needed. He explained the resolution agreeing to assume the responsibilities associated with the cemetery and then read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2018 #12

RE: ACKNOWLEDGING ABANDONMENT OF RED CHURCH CEMETERY AND AGREEING TO ACCEPT ASSETS

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

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

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Supervisor McKeon thanked Hildegard, Jackie, John, Bill and Harry for their work.

DISCUSSION – DRAFT RFP MUNICIPAL SOLAR FARM PROJECT

Supervisor McKeon asked that the Board review the RFP by the next meeting for their input. Councilman O'Neill asked about the school and fire company as anchor tenants. Supervisor McKeon said the fire company is not eligible, and the school is too large to be included in the project to make it financially feasible.

DISCUSSION – LED STREET LIGHT PROJECT

Supervisor McKeon heard from the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium at the last meeting. They recommend that we pursue the turnkey solution with NYPA. NYPA procured over half a million light bulbs at prices no one can compete with. NYPA submitted a proposal which includes a summary of the project and associated costs. He read the resolution.

RESOLUTION 2018 #13

RE: AUTHORIZING PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY REGARDING THE LED STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE TOWN OF RED HOOK, COUNTY OF DUTCHESS, STATE OF NEW YORK

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

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

Copy attached

DISCUSSION – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Councilperson Imboden thinks that issues with the draft policy we have can be polished up. Supervisor McKeon would like to see the new website up and running. Residents can sign up to be notified about topics related to our community. We want to have that ability. He suggested putting the website together and seeing what people sign up for.

Councilperson Imboden said that the Communications Committee spoke about the challenge of alerting people to the fact that we have a new website. One way to tell people is through social media. A question is who does the monitoring. The new website is estimated to be up by the end of July to mid-August. She would like us to try a social media process in order to start building an audience.

Supervisor McKeon would like to start slowly, have the website, have people sign up and send communications. He would rather that than start a Facebook page.

Councilperson Imboden explained if we do start a Facebook page it will include Town specific information.

Supervisor McKeon would rather announce our new website in various ways to get people to see it.

Councilperson Imboden said information could be shared on Facebook and comments could be turned off.

Councilman Colgan said questions will be answered as this evolves.

Councilwoman Kane said managing social media can take a lot of time. She thinks it is important to look at how much time it takes. Social media is big, but if the website has an opportunity for someone to go and then share it, it can be used all the time.

Councilperson Imboden said that is happening now. She explained. The Recreation Commission has a Facebook page. Any department is able to make a Facebook page right now.

Attorney Chale said no, they aren't. It is not permitted under our policy.

Highway Superintendent Burke was told that the Highway Department was told to wait until the Town has one.

Attorney Chale said the only one who was able to make a Facebook page was St. Margaret's. No one else should have one.

Councilperson Imboden said the CAC has one that is authorized.

Attorney Chale said they are not authorized.

Councilperson Imboden said they came to the Board first to ask years ago. The Communications Committee wants to figure out a policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Supervisor McKeon opened for comments.

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke asked about funding for the truck. Was it approval to move the funds or an authorization to purchase?

Supervisor McKeon said it was an authorization to purchase.

Highway Superintendent Burke said this past week someone said to her that we got through the past few storms just fine; maybe the Highway Department doesn't need six trucks. That bothered her. This person had no idea how difficult this was; all they saw was that the roads were cleared. It was tough to have extended runs which caused her crew to spend more time in the trucks, take fewer breaks, less sleep, more stress. Being in a truck for 12 to 14 hours at a time is exhausting. Imagine driving in a blizzard with no relief. She thanked the Board for purchasing the new truck. Its better late than never. It will make it better for them to take care of the roads with a fleet that is restored.

Supervisor McKeon said we might have this brush truck available soon.

ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilwoman Kane moved to go into Attorney/Client session at 9:00 p.m.

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

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilperson Imboden moved to adjourn Attorney/Client session.

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

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilwoman Kane moved to re-open the Town Board meeting.

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

After some discussion the Town Board authorized the Town Supervisor to enter into discussion with regard to real property.

On a motion of Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk