

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

December 20, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The final business 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 Marirose Blum Bump
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Sue Crane
Councilman Harold Ramey
Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also Present: Business Manager Deborah Marks
Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Blum Bump opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Vicki Perry referred to the resignation letter of Councilwoman Crane. She asked why she submitted it before the end of the year. Are we having a resignation now because everyone is away for the holidays? There is a petition asking that this maneuver not take place.

Kathy Stewart seconded Ms. Perry's comment and said the majority of the people at the meeting are here because of their concern for special interests.

Linda Keeling felt the room for the meeting was too small. In the future a meeting of this size should be in the Firehouse or Village Hall if the Courtroom is not available.

Susan Mora stated an officer in the courtroom told her they would be finished in about five minutes.

Ann Wyrick feels it is the wrong time to vote on a new Board member. She wants the Board to be conciliatory to everyone, be more legalitarian and not be so partisan. She asked the Board to vote for a new member after the New Year so that the new members have a say.

Mark Merritt agrees with the first speakers. He used to be a registered Democrat but disaffiliated himself from them and is not registered with any party. He dislikes partisan politics and doesn't feel the previous speakers are partisan.

Ann Rubin said from a practical viewpoint she would like to see the Board members elect take part in the process of choosing who they will be working with.

Dick Franklin exclaimed "let's not kid ourselves". This past election was extremely partisan. Many aspects were unfortunate. He thinks it's time to pull a consensus which he said we have not had in the past four years and get an individual in here who will represent all 11,000 people within our community and not any one small special interest group.

Warren Wyrick was moved by Mr. Franklin. Talk about partisanship and you can say those things. This is an issue where people were divided by belief not partisanship. Don't protest we should have a better spirit. He doesn't think Mr. Franklin had anything valuable to say.

Patty Gordon sees things unfolding as the will of the people being subverted.

Councilwoman Crane heard each and every one of the comments. She's has heard from many citizens during her campaign. It is a huge responsibility to try to pull together a community and represent all of them which will be her job January 1, 2008. She is acutely aware of that responsibility. She has been on the Board for 10 years and is prepared to lead. She hopes that over the first few months residents will understand perfectly why she intends to make a recommendation. She cannot vote after she resigns. She has searched her heart, spoken to people in the community, two people have turned her down for being considered. She is being

open and honest. When this is over she will share with the community who she spoke to first, then next. She has never met with fellow Board members about the subject regarding her recommendation. (she paused to ask Kathy Stewart to stop her antics in the audience) Councilwoman Crane told Mrs. Stewart that she intends to be truthful, you might not like the truth or agree, but have the respect to listen. As a matter of law, when she resigns, the remaining Board members have the responsibility to do whatever they can to pull this community together. Her past experience helped her tremendously. She has a responsibility to everyone in the Town. Regarding the swearing in ceremony, she announced that it will be on Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Linden Avenue School. Councilwoman Crane then recommended Mr. Robert Latimer for the open seat on the Board.

Supervisor Blum Bump announced receiving Councilwoman Crane's resignation effective December 22, 2007.

Councilwoman Crane read her resignation letter. (Copy in Town Clerk's Office)

Harry Colgan said he's worked with committees in the Town for a long time and has great respect for what the Town Board has done. I consider members of this Town Board to be friends who have worked very hard for this Town. He will do the best he can for the benefit of the Town.

Ann Wyrick referenced the New York Sunshine Laws. It is important that everything is done in the open.

Micki Strawinski understands that applications have to be submitted to the Board for the Town Board seat or any committee in the Town. She has the understanding that it is Town law.

Harold Fell asked how the Board works in the Town. Is this a nomination or recommendation? When a name comes up does the Board have a say in it?

Supervisor Blum Bump explained it was a recommendation and no action can be taken until the seat is vacated.

Councilman Ross explained the Town Board makes the appointment. That person will hold that seat until the election next year at which time they will run for one year and then will have to run the following year. They will be appointed, then run for the rest of Councilwoman Crane's term.

Susan Elias is upset about this entire situation. Councilwoman only won by 17 votes and there are many people in this Town that feel this is a manipulation in order to quickly get another majority by a certain group. She said residents would like to have someone who appeals to a broad range of residents in Town.

Linda Keeling welcomed Harry Colgan and Micki Strawinski. She acknowledged the hard work from Councilman Harold Ramsey and Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro. They have worked very, very hard for this community. I hope they are on some committee's and stay working with us. At the end of the day, we all want what is good for everybody.

Councilwoman Crane referred to the comment about the 17 votes. She once won an election in the Village by 7 votes. Losing an election should not cause such rancor and fear. How can you all know what is in anyone's heart? Rob Latimer is a respected businessman in multiple counties, he is firm, strong, and fair. His children are in the school system, he understands the community and serves the Village. He has the time, can work hard, and is willing to make the commitment.

Supervisor Blum Bump is proud to have been Supervisor for these four years. She enjoyed the challenges and is proud of the accomplishments under her leadership. Many good things have happened for the Town. She worked with the State, the County Executive, and the County Planning Department. The Villages have come together with the Town in working together. They've met regularly with the Centers & Greenspace Task Force. This Board has worked with many groups to come up with legislation that supports the Centers & Greenspace Plan. There are many planning organizations watching Red Hook and watching our efforts, acknowledging that it is groundbreaking. She's happy that all happened despite partisan differences. We made

great strides helping seniors with their taxes, we passed easement laws, and passed legislation in support of the Community Preservation Fund. She is proud that Red Hook became a Tree City, USA that was very important. Her goal was to do her very best to be the kind of leader that does what makes the community thrive. She is not a politician by calling and looked at this as community service. She thanked everyone for their support. She thanked Councilmen Ross and Ramsey, as well as Councilwomen Crane and Pullaro. She gave special thanks to Deputy Supervisor Bill O'Neill who worked hard with so much expertise, inclusiveness and levity. She is also very happy about the number of volunteers who've come on board. She enjoyed working with the Mayors of Tivoli and Red Hook. She wished Sue Crane and the Board her best, and she thanked Town Clerk Sue McCann.

Ann Rubin asked if there will be other recommendations for the Board seat.

Supervisor Blum Bump said if there is anyone interested in the Town Board seat to let her know. She will talk to Attorney Christine Chale.

Supervisor Blum Bump suggested moving into the courtroom which became available.

Councilwoman Crane left the meeting at this point.

REGARDING THE LAST BUSINESS MEETING OF THE YEAR

Supervisor Blum Bump explained that certain things have to get done since it is the last business meeting of the year. The Board has to sign vouchers, checks, make budget adjustments and state their intent to continue with the health insurance policy.

Business Manager Deborah Marks printed out the budget adjustment for the Board's approval. If the Board wants to make changes she can make the adjustments.

In the General A Fund – Total reduced revenues - credit of \$23,835.00; total increase in revenues - debit \$38,063.00; total reduction in appropriations – debit \$31,860.00; increase in appropriations – credit \$6,350.00; total debits \$69,923.00; total credits \$69,923.00.

In the General B Fund – total reduced revenues - credit \$58,950.00; total increase in revenues – debit \$5,750.00; total reduced appropriations – debit \$5,750.00; total increase in appropriations – credit \$22,550.00; offset to the appropriated fund balance – debit \$24,750.00; total debits \$81,500.00; total credits - \$81,500.00

Highway DB fund – total reduced revenues – credit \$0.00; total increased revenues – debit \$0.00; total reduced appropriations – debit \$14,000.00; total increased appropriations – credit \$26,502.00; offset to the appropriated fund balance – debit \$12,502.00; total debits \$26,502.00; total credits \$26,502.00

On a motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Ramsey, moved to accept the end of the year budget adjustments.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Blum Bump, Ross, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Crane

REORGANIZATION 2008

Supervisor Blum Bump announced the work for the reorganization will be done by the new Board in 2008.

Councilman Ross asked for copies of the reorganization information.

Supervisor Blum Bump will put the letters of interest in everyone's mail box tomorrow.

Councilman Ramsey was thankful for the opportunity to serve on the Board. It was an honor to serve over the last four years. The Board accomplished a lot of goals such as the volunteer fire service credit, and the need for new recreation land which was closed on last Monday. They established a new disaster preparedness plan and safer roads. They continued to work with our schools to help keep taxes down. He recommended the new Town Board move forward on the Highway Garage, working with the EDC and help build up our tax base to help the citizens of the Town. On that same subject of taxes he suggested helping the senior citizens with their taxes by freezing their assessments. Councilman Ramsey thanked his fellow Board members, Town Clerk Sue McCann, Deputy Town Clerk, Business Manager, Confidential Secretary to the

Supervisor, Purchasing Agent, Building Department, Assessor, Highway Superintendent and the highway crew. He thanked all of them and wished the newly elected officials good luck.

Councilwoman Pullaro thanked the Board and said she enjoyed her experience. Her fellow Board members were a tremendous support system for her. Councilwoman Pullaro said the volunteers are the unsung heroes who keep this Town running. She enjoyed working with the CAC especially Brenda Cagle, Hank Van Parys of the Water Department, and TJ Hackett of the Recycling Center. She looks forward to continuing her work with Neighborhood Watch.

Supervisor Blum Bump thanked Attorney for the Town Christine Chale and Business Manager Deborah Marks for graciously helping her.

Linda Keeling asked the Board what had to be done to volunteer for open positions on committees. Should interested parties send a letter of interest to serve on a committee.

Supervisor Blum Bump agreed that interested parties should send a letter of interest.

On a motion of Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilwoman Pullaro moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Blum Bump, Ross, Ramsey, Pullaro
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Crane

The next Town Board meeting will be on December 27, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk