

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 7, 2009

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 Sue Crane
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman Robert McKeon
Town Clerk Sue McCann
Absent: Councilman James Ross
Also Present: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale

Supervisor Crane welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING – ENERGY STAR

Supervisor Crane opened the meeting for comments regarding the Energy Star Program that the Board will vote on at the next meeting.

Phil Seymour commented that the cost of a modular retrofit for Energy Star would cost \$3,000 to \$3,500. The basic package through Excel cost him \$2,082 right up front, then you have to add overhead and profit. That is not counting extra costs of heating equipment, etc. If you want to get the economy going you have to get, especially young people, in houses. He asked the Board to vote against the Energy Star proposal for now and take a look at it again after the economy gets going again.

Supervisor Crane asked the size of the house Mr. Seymour is talking about.

Phil Seymour responded that the modular program cost has a basic cost, it doesn't matter what size of house.

Supervisor Crane asked if that cost takes into account, Energy Star furnaces, refrigerators or other appliances.

Phil Seymour answered that most people are buying Energy Star appliances.

Supervisor Crane wanted to clarify that it is just the construction costs he is talking about.

Councilman Colgan asked if modular costs more. Do you pay that much extra for an Energy Star modular unit?

Mr. Seymour answered yes. The point is that a lot of people have to start with modulares because that is what people can afford.

Councilman McKeon asked why it would be more expensive to buy that house.

Mr. Seymour responded that it would be another obstacle. When you are starting out the modular construction is such that it is less expensive. You have closing costs, a down payment and then you would have to add the \$3,000 to \$3,500.

Councilman McKeon said looking at the analysis of the monthly savings for an Energy Star manufactured home versus the additional cost of that \$3,000 rolled into a mortgage, says that the savings from the efficiency is far greater than that minimal addition of that cost. Energy Star has two mortgage products that are available through many lenders that don't take into account that additional cost. Someone who qualifies for a \$200,000 home would qualify for a \$203,000.

Bruce Williams is concerned that the Town Board has a charter to mandate something that may be a good idea. Energy Star is great however he thinks mandating it is way out of line and doesn't think it is something the Town Board is charged to do.

Brad Mitchell looked into the cost of an Energy Star home. The answer is “it depends”. That is troublesome in itself. If the State can’t give him a range of what it would cost, how can you do an analysis? To mandate Energy Star becomes an economic issue. He isn’t sure what Councilman McKeon said. You are raising the cost of a home for a new home buyer. That new home buyer is the most fragile part of society that we are trying to help. If you pass a law that increases the cost of a new home it will make it unaffordable. That \$3,000 to \$3500 is a substantial amount of money to some of these young people. He suggested possibly allowing the Building Inspector to offer a waiver that would allow a lower end house to be built that isn’t up to Energy Star standards. He would encourage new buyers to go with Energy Star but at least that would offset this issue. You are making it unaffordable for young people.

Councilman McKeon disagrees with the analysis but agrees that we need to make home ownership more affordable. Energy Star provides more savings on annual basis than not. The savings on energy costs far outweighs the expense of the \$3,000.

Denis Collet said that Energy Star is a holistic approach. The point is the long term savings outweigh the initial cost. From the stand point of building laws and regulations, it is really to protect the home buyer that it is going to meet a minimum standard. The idea of creating a practice that is enforced by local legislation is a good thing. That is the way we should approach this, not by purely economic criteria. The second thing he addressed was the potential benefit to builders. If everyone is required to bid like for like, it is a benefit to the builder that they level the playing field. The quality and standards by which a house is built and designed, everyone will have to meet.

Bob O’Keefe doesn’t agree with waivers. He thinks they are incredibly discriminatory. If we want to get young people into homes, it isn’t if they can get into homes, it is to keep them in homes. He used the cost of heating a home as an example. The idea of a level playing field would be an advantage to builders.

Mike Ignatowski, CAC member, addressed the natural reaction that people have against the Town Board mandating new things. This isn’t a completely a new mandate. The building codes already require energy efficiency. Following the building codes would get an energy efficiency rating of 80 while Energy Star just means that rating has to go from 80 to 84. It is not entirely new it is an improvement on what is there. People are not aware of what is possible or what the cost is. The goal is to kick start the whole thing.

Phil Seymour explained that adding in the air exchanger which you don’t need for a basic house but you do need for an Energy Star house, is another \$2,200. Now we are talking about \$5200 to \$5500. As far as above entry level housing, no problem, the builders are doing it. For entry level housing those costs can be a problem.

Supervisor Crane asked if the air exchanger is required. Her understanding is that it is required for an Energy Star home.

Denise Barton, CAC member said it depends. When you build an Energy Star home it is evaluated by a HERS rater in the design phase. They look at the plans, the heating system, even the siting. After the home is built and a blower test is done that is when it will be determined if additional ventilation is needed, if the house is too tight. It can range from just running a bathroom fan for a half hour every day; it can mean basic external air ventilation or a more costly heat recovery ventilation. It is one of those things you have to ask how much you can afford at the time you are doing the build and what the house requires.

Denis Collet said a point that Phil Seymour raised is that more expensive equipment would be required. When you have an energy efficient home, the size of equipment needed could be significantly smaller. It comes out that the method of heating is smaller and more efficient, therefore less expensive to run over a long period. That increases that payback time.

Councilman Colgan built his own house a few years ago and is probably way past Energy Star. A problem he had was finding a small furnace. His propane bill is next to nothing; that is the kind of savings you get from this.

Al Trezza commented on what Denise Barton said. Regardless of what you can afford or not, if an air exchanger is needed you have to buy it.

Phil Seymour commented that when you talk about heating, cooling and ventilation, he is basing his cost on the lower cost heating system, not a warm air/ac unit. The size and cost of a unit is negligible. You can't buy a small enough unit.

Bruce Williams asked if you can have a fireplace in an Energy Star home.

Councilman Colgan said you need an outside air source.

Brenda Cagle said there is no restriction. There are energy efficient mortgages and she explained one through FHA. She said the Energy Star program provides a certification from a qualified inspector.

Councilwoman Strawinski read an e-mail from John Wright dated March 30, 2009. Data he has seen that analyze the return on investment of Energy Star is about two to three years. Today's New York State building energy codes are outdated and if we are serious about energy conservation the first step should be to improve on our local energy code.

Supervisor Crane offered handouts to anyone who wanted them. There will be a final public hearing next week before the Board votes on this.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Albert Trezza commented on the recent appointments. Patrick Kelly, Jim Brudvig and Paul Marienthal are all associated with Bard College. Over the years Bard College has been in front of Board's involving site plans, permits, etc. in their building. Bard is continuing building. He doesn't think it is proper for Bard employees to be on Boards that will ultimately review Bard College applications. Bard College has elected a compliant Town Board, one of whom happens to be an employee. In doing so they've done two things. One is to try to move a polling place to Bard which will ensure greater availability of voters on the campus. In addition they are carrying out the mandate of Bard College. They want for people in power on the Town Boards over activities that Bard College has to have reviewed by those Town Boards, namely the Planning Board and the ZBA as well as the EDC. He thinks that is improper. Councilwoman Strawinski, as an employee of Bard, voting for these appointments is fostering the benefit of her employer. She should not vote on these things. She is cementing her relationship with her employer by placing other employees on Boards before whom Bard College will have to appear. An example is site plan approval on every building. It has the appearance of impropriety. These three Board members have to do this now because in November Councilman McKeon is up for reelection. If he is not elected they no longer have the power to do this. By moving the polling place they are trying to ensure their own reelection. He again, wants to address the issue with the Board of Ethics over the latest vote because he thinks it has the appearance of impropriety.

Councilwoman Strawinski will carry Mr. Trezza's comments to Bard College administration. Chuck Simmons has served on the ZRC for a number of years.

Al Trezza is glad to see her go to the Bard administration. As far as Chuck Simmons on the ZRC, Bard College doesn't have to appear in front of the ZRC. They have to appear in front of the ZBA for a variance and must appear in front of the Planning Board on every building it puts up.

Patrick Kelly is not an employee of Bard College; he is a student there for five more weeks. He abstained from voting at the last Planning Board meeting on a project that Bard College had before the Board and he also abstained pending a response from the Board of Ethics as to whether it is a conflict of interest. The Board of Ethics already made their decision regarding the question of Councilwoman Strawinski voting. He doesn't understand how people can keep complaining. It sounds a lot like bitter partisan politics.

Rosemarie Zengen doesn't understand what happened last week when a member of the Ethics Board said the behavior of the Ethics Board was unethical. That letter was read in front of this Board. Are we going to sweep that under the carpet? She disagrees with Mr. Kelly. Linda Keeling got up and said it wasn't a fair vote. It was buffaloeed through. She has a real problem

with that. Another problem she has is that Tim Ross was not reelected Chair of the ZBA. He's done a fantastic job, he is extremely qualified, is diligent, and gives up his time to do this.

Patty Gordon moved here 36 years ago when her husband got a job at Bard College. It upsets her to hear that Bard is being turned into a "they" kind of situation. Bard is part of this Town. A lot of people from this Town work there. The fact that she has a connection with Bard doesn't mean that there is some kind of group that represents Bard. She considers herself a part of the Town. She wants to be loyal to the Town and every time this comes up it breaks her heart. We should all be working towards the same goal.

Al Trezza corrected something that Mr. Kelly said. Mr. Trezza said the appointees were associated with Bard, not employed there. Mr. Kelly is a student at Bard. He's been very active and he spoke in defense of Councilwoman Strawinski at the Ethics Board meeting. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Trezza doesn't have a problem with Bard. They are the biggest economic engine in the Town. He objects to Councilwoman Strawinski using her position as a Town Board member to further enhance herself before her employer by appointing these people. He objects to that and he thinks that she should abstain from anything to do with anyone associated with Bard. That is his issue in front of the Ethics Committee. Just as Patrick abstained and rightfully so, she should abstain.

Patrick Kelly responded that he abstained pending an answer from the Board of Ethics. He told Mrs. Zengen that if there is a concern about the structure of the Board of Ethics certainly that is a debate this Town Board should have. That said it doesn't nullify the legal standing of the Board of Ethics as it is currently constituted. It is simply untrue that Councilman McKeon was elected on the Bard vote.

Richard Gordon spoke last week about this. We seem to be stuck in a groove. People have different points of views. This is divisive and is dragging people through the mud. We should have an elevated discussion; everybody is here in good faith. He feels that bringing up personal issues about where people work is not appropriate. We are all intertwined, let's stop the attack politics and move on. You do us a disservice by hanging on to these issues.

Phil Seymour explained that if there wasn't a push to allow the students to directly sway a local election, the majority of people in this Town have no problem. Most residents do have a problem with student voting and determining our future taxes.

CHOYE PRESENTATION – TED SAAD & EDWARD GUSKI

Supervisor Crane introduced Ted Saad and Ed Guski who gave the presentation.

Councilman Colgan asked what Choye means.

Ted Saad explained it means "pampered" or "with a silver spoon". He moved forward with the presentation. Choye will be a hotel, restaurant, spa and conference on a working farm. It is a concept that has been successful and is something this area is in desperate need of. People come to Red Hook and there is no place to stay. They hope to increase tourism to this area, provide approximately 100 jobs, address the shortage of upscale or just hotel rooms in general, provide additional tax revenue, attract special events and the conference industry, provide housing for Bard College, Dutchess County events and bring in more people to support the local businesses. They hope it will have 100 rooms and will be a world class spa with all the amenities. It would also hold a conference center that would hold about 300 people. There will be a videotaping facility, a restaurant that would feed 100 and the working farm will serve a number of purposes. One would be a training program for farmers and it would provide food for the restaurant and treatments for the spa all done in an organic way. The proposed location is at Sky Park which is adjacent to the golf course which is a very good thing. It is bordered by the Sawkill and has Catskill Mountain views. The property is quite amazing. He showed a picture from there. They hope to be a leader in sustainable hospitality and in helping people understand how sustainability helps the community; how they recycle water, how they deal with sewage treatment, how they are cautious and careful of the environment. They hope to add an architecturally important building. As of yet there is nothing that takes all these elements and makes it one. An amazing thing about Red Hook is that it has its own aquifer and has been trying to grow and be conscious about how it takes care of the environment. They plan to develop no more than twenty acres leaving eighty acres untouched for a trail open to the

community. They want to keep that a place where people want to come. They will have sustainable conferences, they want to do weddings, yoga retreats, and they want to be an educational center in terms of food, how to cook, how to be organic and grow gardens. They can get a lot of attention for this with the media because they would be a first. They have an architect involved who would be interested in the project. They also have a group of people on board that are willing to make this happen.

Supervisor Crane opened for questions after the presentation.

Richard Gordon thinks this is a very exciting idea and commended them on their vision. He asked if this idea has been discussed with people at Bard College.

Ted said yes, they have met with Bard. They've been talking for a year and a half.

Denis Collet asked if there is a presence in another area and if they had a model.

Ted Saad explained that in terms of a spa/resort, they are all over but the difference here is that they are putting it on a working farm and keeping open space. They have a list of experts who are interested in working on the project.

Ed Guski explained that most people have done projects in the past and gave an example of an architect who did the largest skyscraper in the world who is from Red Hook originally. He is very intrigued by the idea and wants to be on the project. When he initially talked to Bard they were very excited about this. It is a desirable spot for them.

Susan Simon thinks this is a great idea. She would also like them to consider our local public access television station.

Bob O'Keefe would love to see local contractors used in building it. His personal taxes have grown in eight years. He thinks this would have low impact and anything at this point that can keep the taxes down should be looked at.

Ted added that their goal is to be community oriented. Even though they will be upscale, they live here to. They want this place open to the community and will make programs available in that way.

Rosemarie Zengen thinks it is a fantastic idea. There are a number of tourists that come to the area and this would satisfy a lot of the people who have to go across the river. It is a great idea.

Linda Keeling asked that they would use the history of the airport when they decorate.

Denise Barton asked if they investigated any overlap or competition with Omega.

Ted thinks they would actually benefit Omega because we'd have space to accommodate the people who would go to Omega.

Tom Mansfield asked the timing of getting this going.

Ted responded that they are trying to get this done as soon as possible. They are in a massive fundraising effort.

Tom Mansfield asked what the charge would be for a nights stay.

Ted responded for a regular suite room, \$350 - \$650. In the beginning, they would discount the rates to get the business in there.

A resident asked if they've purchased the property yet.

Ted answered no, they have not purchased the property yet but they are speaking with the owner about putting an option on it right now. They have engineering plans for the property and know it will handle the kind of sewage they want, they know that it can sustain the kind of building they want to put on it, they know about the wetlands, they know it has good farming soil. All the

things they know they want to do on this property so they are in the process of working out an agreement.

Councilman Colgan asked if they have a sense of a timeline.

Ted said they would like to start as soon as possible. Their goal is to have it up and running in the next year. They are enthusiastic to move this as quickly as possible.

Al Trezza asked if they would need a zoning change.

Ted told him that it is an RD 3 zone, there might have to be a few variances.

Supervisor Crane thinks it would need a special permit.

Councilwoman Strawinski asked Ted to talk about how he envisions this to be.

Ted responded there will be eating gardens and gardens that will provide produce and food for the restaurant. Everything else will be provided locally. They envision the entire hill to the runway to be a farm all the way up. When you come down Route 199 you would see a farm. They spoke to the people at Glenwood about the possibility of having a farm training program there. That might also change maybe how much they farm and what they farm. There is a spa they're talking to that grows their own treatments.

Rich Biezynski spoke to Ted before and told him there is a pig farm next door.

Ted responded that isn't a problem so far.

Supervisor Crane thanked them for their presentation.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE – CENTERS & GREENSPACE SCOPING REDLINED DOCUMENT

Supervisor Crane introduced this item to Michele Greig.

Michele Greig presented the final scoping document and addressed the changes that were made in response to comments. She prepared a separate table in response to comments not related to the scoping process. Michele did explain that the municipal sewer system being explored in the Village area is a separate action and is not part of this proposal. It would be subject to its own SEQRA review. She thinks all the comments made by the public were addressed in the final scoping document. Michele asked if there were any additional comments or concerns, they've also prepared a resolution adopting the Final Scoping Document if the Board chooses to take action on it tonight.

Al Trezza asked if the general public will have an opportunity to look at the scoping document.

Supervisor Crane answered that we can put it up on the website and hold the resolution until next week.

Councilman Colgan told him they already had the public comment period on this and as a result this is a revision.

Al Trezza understands that and made comments. He'd like to see if they were addressed and would like an opportunity for the public to see if their comments were addressed. You're pushing this through a little too fast.

Rich Biezynski agrees with Al Trezza and would like an opportunity to review the document.

Councilman Colgan has had this for a week. All the changes were based on the comments from the Public Hearing.

Michele Greig said it is important to bear in mind that this is just information about scoping. Some comments made really had to do with the proposal itself.

Rich Biezynski thinks the Ag Committee should have had that document for review.

Michele Greig explained that there is a process to include additional information at a later time if some things have been overlooked. She explained the process.

Attorney Chale asked if the Board is ready to move forward with the beginning of the drafting of the EAF based on the scope in front of them. She thinks there are some substantive comments and Michele has identified those. The question of scoping is if all the issues to be addressed have been identified.

Supervisor Crane asked how long we have to receive comments.

Al Trezza read the first response and he read the law. He doesn't agree with the change and thinks these things should be clarified.

Supervisor Crane is willing to wait one more week and adopt the resolution then giving everyone the opportunity to review it.

Al Trezza doesn't think we should close the scoping hearing without having the opportunity to review Michele's report.

Supervisor Crane explained that the scoping hearing was opened, held open, and has been closed. The question now is whether or not the Board is prepared to vote on a resolution to adopt this scoping document as it is. She has no problem waiting another week.

Councilman McKeon sees both sides and understands the public needs time to review the changes made to the scoping document. On the same token this is the very beginning of the study that will really analyze. To continue to drag it out will become very expensive, yet we need to make sure the public is involved in the process. He suggested that this is held next week.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to have the vote on the Final Scoping Document at the next meeting on April 14th.

Adopted	Ayes 4	Crane, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays 0	
	Absent 1	Ross

Michele asked what documents are to be put on the website.

Supervisor Crane suggested the Draft Scoping Document with the red lines, the response to comments on the draft scoping document and the proposed Ag Business District.

Councilman Colgan explained that the public hearing is closed so people will have to comment during the public comment period.

Supervisor Crane suggested reviewing the document on the website and at the next meeting during the public comment period comments can be made.

LITTER PICK UP DAY

Councilman McKeon explained that the Town clean up will be on Sunday April 19th and April 26th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Meet at the Elmendorph. Donations were made by Macs Agway and Michael Pollack. He hopes this will be an annual event. They hope to do as many roads as they can.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessor's Report – Jeff Churchill summarized some of the things the office has been concentrating on over the past several months. He highlighted that at this point in the year the office is responding to better than 1,000 applications that went out for exemptions. They have to be processed and be in by March 1st. Most of them are finished. They have been very cognizant of the fact that they are here to serve the community and provide an open door for anyone who wants to discuss assessments. We are in the middle of a revaluation program started in 2005. We will try to maintain the 100% equalization rate. He spends a lot of time in the field. This time of year what is most pressing to the Assessor's Office is getting the tentative tax roll

finished by May 1st. Grievance Day is the fourth Tuesday of May and the final roll is filed July 1st. During the past several months they finished up the small claims assessment reviews from last year with hearing officers. The last decision came down at the end of January. Other things they do to try to look at the roll and maintain an equitable roll is to look at the 4500 plus or minus properties and say let's look at the 200 at the high end or 200 at the low end and compare their values to the medians to see if they should make some adjustments. They look at the sales that occurred over a longer period than just the past year to determine that they were good sales, that they can be used in trend analysis, that there wasn't something unusual. They are reviewing various properties in the Town to find out whether or not the raw data entered in 2005 is accurate. When reveals take place sometimes homeowners let them in, sometimes they don't and sometimes they don't want anyone on the property. Consequently sometimes they find errors in raw data. This time of year is very busy for their office and they only have one and a half people doing it.

Rosemarie Zengen read how MJ Watch has a bad reputation. Is everything the Assessor is doing is because their work was faulty.

Jeff Churchill said MJW did have problems in some communities. He hasn't had problems with them since he's been here. We still use them with the trend analysis and to look at where the market is going in Red Hook. Things are pretty solid in Red Hook. By and large real estate values here haven't taken nearly as much of a hit as other places. He has not had any particular problems with them.

Rosemarie Zengen asked with the amount of foreclosures in Red Hook, what is the formula for fair market value. She asked Mr. Churchill to explain.

Jeff Churchill explained that market value is established based upon arms length transactions. A foreclosure is not an arm's length transaction; it is a forced action usually by a financial institution. The property owner is under what is called "undue stress". Those types of transactions don't work into market value. They may impact market value because of impact on neighborhoods and values in similar areas. We have not had many foreclosures here.

Linda Keeling asked if someone went to Dutchess County Tax Parcels and submit to him parcels they thought were under assessed, would he look at those.

Jeff Churchill responded yes. He's looked at the three she submitted.

Supervisor Crane thanked him for his report and the confident way he handles his job.

Senior Services – Chair Andrew Kehr, reported on the following activities and projects the committee is working on: Senior Services Brochure modification; Lift and Assist Calls to the RHFD from the Red Hook Commons – there were 53 since the inception of the housing program versus 600 from the rest of the Red Hook community; Food Drive to benefit Community Action on April 21st and 28th from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the RHFD; Read Aloud Program/Senior Reading Program for the K-2 Mill Road School; Mission statement, PANDA Project – re: senior activities; Transportation Committee – trying to facilitate transportation for Seniors in our community; Committee Appointments – Susan Goldstein; Free performance of final dress rehearsal of the High School's Spring musical Peter Pan on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:30 p.m. Future projects for the Senior Services Committee include an emergency preparedness plan for seniors in the community, strategies for hiring/selecting support services, and food drive. Andrew read a letter from Dutchess County Department of Health Office of the Aging from Jean Curlee warning of scams aimed at Senior Citizens.

Budget Officer's Report - Budget Officer Rose Rider reported that she, Supervisor Crane and the Business Officer began meeting with the Department Heads to review the first quarter budget reports in order to identify any overruns as well as any areas for possible cost savings. In order to keep abreast of the financial situation on an ongoing basis, they will be presenting detailed budget reports quarterly. The first quarter report will be presented later this month.

Supervisor Crane said that Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand identified two road upgrades that he will be willing to postpone until 2010 resulting in a savings of \$15,000 to

\$18,000 to the Highway Department for this year's budget. That will hopefully make up for the additional cost from the recent ice storms.

Purchasing Presentation - Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy reviewed the Town's purchasing policy and procedures with the Town Board. There have been some questions lately and Supervisor Crane thought this would be a good idea. First, he mentioned that the Town is governed by New York State General Municipal Law #103 which requires competitive bidding. They want to increase competition, eliminate fraud, prevent favoritism and so on, and at the same time get the best product for as low as possible cost. New York State law says that for any material purchased in excess of \$10,000 or any public works project in excess of \$20,000 must be publicly bid. Another law we are bound by is 104B. That says that each public subdivision, such as a Town, must have written procedures on the books for those purchases under the limits he previously stated. In Red Hook we lowered the limit so we are much more stringent. Any material purchased in Red Hook over \$5,000 and any public works project over \$10,000 we bid. Furthermore, for any material over \$2,000 we must get at least three quotes and over \$5,000 for public works we must also get three quotes. Those are the State laws that govern us. Another portion of the State we utilize frequently is called State Contract. NY State Office of General Services goes out periodically and offers requests for bids on thousands of materials. They get these bids, summarize them and make them available to us on the internet. For many items we can buy under State Contract. What that means is that he does not have to go through public bidding; it is an exemption from public bidding because the State has literally done it for us. This is terrific because it saves us a tremendous amount of time, effort and money. Under State Contract we buy fuel oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, and road salt. Those are the four biggest ones we buy under State Contract. Other State Contract pricing he uses is for Highway Department trucks. We get excellent prices on them. We also buy a considerable amount of office supplies. It is a good deal for the Town to utilize State Contracts. Also we've bought copiers, computers, picnic tables, athletic equipment and a Ford pickup for the Building Inspector at considerable savings. We bought a chipper, carpeting, furniture, and defibrillators, all under State Contract. We buy some software too. We are allowed to buy under a Dutchess County contract. We do most of our printing through Dutchess County and Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand used them to do reclamation on a road. That too saved considerable time and money. Ted has also used the County for salt when they had a cheaper price than the State did. Regarding oil, gasoline and fuel oil, they are based on what they call a "spot price" at the Port of Albany. The charge is what the current price is at the State. Other public bids we do specifically for the Highway Department are gravel, stone, culvert pipe, cold patch, tree removal, road oil, top soil and so forth. When he goes out for bids, they come back, are opened by the Board and you approve them. He also goes out for a separate bid for sand and hot mix. Other examples of public bids have been for fencing, tennis court repair, coating of the roller rink, and skate park equipment. Someone asked once if you can buy locally and the answer is no. It is against the law. The vendor on the skate park came out of Joplin, Missouri. The vendors come from all over the place. We are involved in lawn maintenance and snow removal with a local contractor. We do an RFP for professional services also. RFP stands for Request for Proposals. They are a fair amount of work to do because we have to write the specs, then search for vendors, write the RFP, send it out, advertise, receive them back, have a selection committee, review the RFP's then make a selection. It is a terribly lengthy process. We did RFP's for the accounting system, the Justice Court system, Town Clerk's system. We use local computer services, we don't RFP them because it is very difficult to estimate. We use them mostly for breaks or problems we run into. We also picked up Time Warner for our internet service; we've had RFP's for our legal service, engineers, CPA's, water district operator, planners and so on. Several questions came to Mr. Kudzy's attention on the cleaning service. They were picked prior to his tenure here. However, it is one of those things that they have been a satisfactory service. We intend to go out with an RFP on that this year. Recycling was the same situation. Years ago the Board set up with Royal Carting. Now once a week recycling is hauled away. We don't have a contract with them but as long as they are reasonable we pay that. The same for the Recreation Park; there is a dumpster from Royal Carting that is donated and they haul that away once a week. Regarding the website, seven years ago the IT Committee received a reasonable proposal and it was chosen for the job. When the previous Supervisor asked if we should go for an RFP on that, we had just picked the design firm; it seemed satisfactory so he recommended staying with it. On RFP's you asked if you go out for them every year and the answer to that is no. Certain professionals retain tremendous amounts of knowledge about the Town and its workings and it is kind of foolish to throw that knowledge away. Mr. Kudzy checked on this and the State says "whatever you feel is practical". A good example is Michele Greig's firm who was originally picked on an RFP. She

has a tremendous amount of knowledge and it would be a shame to waste that, but we can do it if the Board decides they want to go out for an RFP on that. The other services we use are relatively small; we use plumbers here and at the Recreation Park. Todd Abrahams and Red Hook Plumbing have done work for us. We do a lot of printing at Dutchess County and we do small amounts at Copy Cat, F&M Printers and Tri-State in Kingston. Lastly, Mr. Kudzy spoke about P.O.'s in terms of control. In your procedure there is a write up on PO's. Normally a department will ask him to purchase something or, in Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildebrand's case, he will write up a P.O. and Ted reviews it. Ted then searches out a vendor and issues the P.O. The material comes in; the receiving department signs the receiving report which is sent to Business Manager Deb Marks. Deb puts the documents together and writes the check. There is an excellent separation of duties there which is what auditors look for; do you separate the duties to prevent any possible collusion and fraud? He asked if there were any questions.

Supervisor Crane thanked Purchasing Agent Kudzy for his report and for reminding the Board how thorough we are in keeping everything under control and following the law. His record has been impeccable.

Councilman Colgan thanked Mr. Kudzy for keeping us honest day after day.

Business Manager Deb Marks referred to a letter that alluded or insinuated to "cloudy or murky purchasing procedures". She doesn't know where someone would get an idea like that.

Purchasing Agent Kudzy said he has no idea why that was said.

Councilman McKeon told Ted that there is a group called the Mid-Hudson Purchasing Group which some communities use cooperatively. He asked if Ted heard of the organization.

Ted responded that yes, he's heard of them, he knows the President. It is out of Poughkeepsie and they also do electronic bidding. That scares Ted from this respect: Doug Strawinski, John Kuhn and Ted went out for bids on the Recreation Park extension. We got 19 responses. Although the electronic bidding is good, he alone cannot handle thousands of responses coming in on some of those items. Ted does sign an interagency agreement which allows him to participate with Dutchess County on their purchasing.

Councilwoman Strawinski said that she sat with Ted, Deb, and Sue McCann to go over this same information in greater detail and answered all of her questions. She thanked them for all of their time.

Rosemarie Zengen asked Mr. Kudzy what his opinion was of the chances of someone who donates to a particular political party, either getting a job with the Town or keeping a job with the Town.

Ted Kudzy responded that first, he doesn't care if a person is a Democrat or Republican, and second he thinks that is a political discussion more than a financial one and he really can't comment on it.

Recycling – Councilwoman Strawinski reported that Town Clerk McCann sold 72 recycling permits this past Saturday. There are some concerns about potholes which were addressed by the Highway Department.

Purchasing Report – Councilman Colgan reported on the Purchasing Activity for the period of March 4 to April 6, 2009. There were 49 Purchase Orders issued last month in the amount of \$23,172.99, the largest being to Red Wing (\$4,786.00) for 793 tons of washed gravel. They issued addendum #1 and #2 to our RP for the Recreation Park design to cover questions that arose during the site visits. The RFP's are due back on April 17th. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy is writing an RFP for a Town Planning Consultant, and an RFP is in process for a Phase II review of the Rokeby Road site. This year a replacement of our computer system server is scheduled. He is getting quotes for this replacement.

Supervisor Crane asked Mr. Kudzy if it would make sense to get the owner's permission to enter the Rokeby Road site before we spend a lot of time on the Phase II review.

Councilman Colgan is working on that.

St. Margaret's – Supervisor Crane followed up with Senator Saland's office regarding the grant for the stabilization of the roof at St. Margaret's. It should have come in this year. His office said that the Governor put a freeze on those spending plans for now and until he lifts that ban we will not receive that funding.

Ag & Open Space Committee – Councilman McKeon announced that Craig Vogel passed away and he will be sorely missed. He was an active participant of the Ag Committee for many years. He and his wife Patsy were two of the best volunteers in our community.

Supervisor Crane also said Craig Vogel will be sorely missed by all of us. He was a wonderful man and they are a great family.

Conservation Advisory Council – Denise Barton reported that they have been working on Energy Star. They have also been collecting data from the solar panel and should have a draft to post tomorrow. If anyone is curious about the energy production from our new solar panel it will be up and available. The recycling brochure is being updated and modified. The electronic wire has been run for the display.

Intermunicipal Task Force – Chair Bill O'Neill thanked the Board for listening to the update on the scoping and presented a report dated March 27th. We will present the final resolution for adoption next week. We appreciate the work Michele Greig did. The part of the report he emphasized was that the Red Hook sewer project which is not part of the Centers and Greenspace Plan but is a coordinated effort along with the plan will have a scheduled public informational hearing on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7:30 at the Red Hook Firehouse. The Task Force will be presenting the status of that sewer project. Recently Dutchess County has jumped in and they have been tremendous in their efforts on the Town's behalf. He said the Supervisor has shown concern regarding the cost of the Centers and Greenspace Plan and the expenses that have been presented to the Town by the Attorney and the professional Planner. The Task Force is concerned about that as well. The only thought the Task Force has is they are not sure what the expense has been over the years. It is in the nature of long range planning that it is going to be expensive and he apologized because they never really made an application to the Town Board to include them in the Town's budget. It was never a budgeted item for the cost of the Planner and the Attorney who reviews the work of the Task Force on behalf of the Town Board. Zoning documents are practical documents and Towns have to do them. We are concerned with the Board about the expense. There will be expenses for the public hearing. He talked to the Supervisor who is willing to do some of the mailing and the Task Force will do some of the publication.

Supervisor Crane talked to the Mayor in that regard and he has agreed to cover the cost of mailings that go to the people in the Village. Her concern is that when we began this Intermunicipal Task Force we recognized that it would involve the Village and the Town and she regrets that they did not negotiate with the Village for some of the fees involved. The Town has pretty much borne those fees.

Bill O'Neill said you have to bear in mind that the Intermunicipal Task Force was really a Town initiative, begun four or five years ago. The Village of Red Hook will have to pay for their services concerning the Centers and Greenspace Plan. With the sewer project they've spent more money than the Town has and as far as shared services go, the Dutchess County Planning has borne expense. He also mentioned that Craig Vogel always worked a lot with the Task Force. He did a lot with his volunteer time and they will miss him also. The Intermunicipal Task Force has met with Ted Saad and Ed Guski and we favor your project.

Recreation Department – Chair Doug Strawinski reported that the park is active. Park cleanup was started on March 16th. Three fields are set for HS baseball and softball practices. Leaves were removed, the walking track was rototilled and rolled and the restrooms were opened the week of March 23rd. The High School tennis team is also practicing as well. They installed the electric for the new baseball scoreboard that was donated by the Interact Club from Red Hook Schools. Carl Dowden is the adult representative for the club and they are having the dedication on April 22nd. The time is tentatively set for 3:30 or 4:00 pm. Fencing has been installed for the

pitcher and warm up area, the practice pitching mound has been moved and reset for the baseball field. Today the property is being cleaned up around St. Margaret's and they hope that someday it can become a park. It is a great piece of land. If we are not getting the repair grant they will try to do some patching to prevent the building from getting into worse shape. Howie Callies and Wint Aldrich offered rubber roofing as a possible patching material. They sent two addendums for the rec. park bids and they are scheduled to come in by April 17th. The park is in great shape.

Greenway/Trails Committee – Chair Howie Callies said in relation to the roofing at St. Margaret's, since he just heard this evening that the funds will not be available to repair the roof, he will investigate to see if we can get more for the repairs. He will talk to several people about it. In regard to the Trails Committee, their clean up day is April 19th to coincide with the general Town Cleanup day. Their cleanup will start in the morning. There are now funds available through the new Energy Efficiency and Conservations Block Grant program and those funds can be used for bicycling and pedestrian improvements and other smart growth initiatives.

Tree Preservation Committee – Chair Nancy Guski reported that they are working on their spring planting and Arbor Day observance. The committee will plant a "Fall Fiesta" maple tree by the tennis courts and add some seedlings to the Wetlands Walk Trail. On May 6th the DEC "Trees for Tribs" initiative will plant 150 trees and shrubs along parts of the Saw Kill Creek to strengthen the buffer. They will need 15 volunteers for that day. Eleanor Friery, the committee's liaison to Mill Road School has been working with the K-2 classes with several ideas. The Kindergarten classes with the help of teacher Alicia O'Shea and volunteer Ted Saad developed a film short with the children singing and commenting on the importance of trees. They hope to use it as a "green spot" on PANDA. The Middle School "Who Cares?" environmental club will help plant on April 25th. The Friends of the Red Hook Public Library have donated \$550.00 to various tree causes. This year they bought 70 tree guides to be distributed on April 25th in front of the library along with tree seedlings they donated. It will take place from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or until they run out. A Robin Hill Serviceberry will be planted on the road in front of Half Pint Day Care. They hope to apply for the Urban Forestry Grant in April and Linda Keeling is ready as soon as they are accepting applications. A major part of the grant will go towards tree inventory. The committee will join the CAC in raising awareness of watershed issues. On May 23rd author Hudson Talbot will do a book signing about his book, "River of Dreams" and on May 16th, Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension will do a presentation about rain gardens. Nancy thanked Eleanor Friery for representing the committee at a daylong workshop on rain gardens. Nancy also thanked Linda Keeling for attending the Tree City celebration to honor those towns, villages and cities who have received Tree City certification. She returned with a very thorough report of the events. She showed the film short she referred to earlier in her presentation.

Zoning Review Committee – Supervisor Crane explained that the Chair of the ZRC, Susan Simon met with her to discuss a couple of issues. The ZRC feels that it would be an asset to the committee if we had liaisons from the Village. Is that a precedent or is there anything in Town Law that prevents a Village liaison participating and voting on a Town committee. She'd like Attorney Chale to look into that.

Attorney Chale will look into it and explained that this is an advisory committee, they are not public officers.

Supervisor Crane explained that Susan Simon is going to check on the availability of Brent Kovalchik and Doug Dundas would be the representative from Tivoli. They also discussed the problem of adult usage. We've been wrestling with language about adult usage in the Zoning Code, we have no prohibition or guidelines in the Zoning Code regarding adult usage and the committee simply doesn't want to take it on. It is a thorny issue and fraught with all kinds of issues. The committee doesn't feel they can take that on. They are tabling it until the Centers and Greenspace plan has materialized. Regarding the existing Zoning Map, there is an area in the Spring Lake Road area where the maps do not reflect the properties designation appropriately. We need to make a correction to that map.

Susan Simon explained that it seems to be a color designation error.

Supervisor Crane said there was also a discussion about commercial vehicles being identified as greater than 20 feet and the committee recommended that the commercial vehicles be considered 24 feet in length. The weight would be 18,000 pounds as opposed to 10,000 pounds. We will have to craft a local law if the Town Board wants to do that. Supervisor Crane will put that on the agenda for next week's meeting.

Councilman McKeon would like to see the recommendations in writing.

Susan Simon will provide that as well as an explanation as to why.

Supervisor Crane said the final recommendation is there needs to be a change in the language of the Red Hook Code 143-136 where there is an incorrect guideline for a majority as being three. That would be true if the ZBA was made up of five members, but our ZBA is made up of seven members.

Attorney Chale said it is true that we need at least four.

Supervisor Crane also announced that Paul Fredricks will no longer represent the EDC on the ZRC committee.

Water Department – Councilwoman Strawinski read the March 2009 water report submitted by Carole Little, Secretary of the Water Department. The April 2009 work schedule was cancelled due to a System Operator meeting. All items were within normal range. The 1-micron filters are operating satisfactorily; regarding the 5-micron filters – 10 were replaced. Total filters on hand are 20 1-micron filters and 10 5-micron filters. There are three additional hydrants that need to be painted and will be scheduled for spring 2009. Tom Kelly from Pendragon Associates reviewed our pump house and tank equipment and will send a proposal for replacement. They will look into putting a Ross Valve back in service. It's been out of service since 1998. Hydrant flushing is scheduled for April 14, 2009 from 1 – 5:00 p.m. Notice has been posted in the Freeman, Poughkeepsie Journal, PANDA, the Town Website and Town Calendar.

REORGANIZATION

Supervisor Crane reviewed the vacancies and is waiting for resumes. Ag & Open Space – 2 vacancies; Community Preservation Fund – 1 vacancy; Disaster Preparedness Committee needs a Red Hook Fire Company representative and a Tivoli Fire Company representative, Police Department representative; EDC – on hold; Ethics Board – 1 vacancy; Farmland Protection – 2 vacancies; Intermunicipal Task Force has just been listed; Planning Board – 1 alternate vacancy.

Councilman McKeon would like the topic of alternates placed on the next agenda.

Supervisor Crane explained that her understanding regarding alternates is that they were to attend meetings, fill in where there was no quorum and be up to date on what was going on. When the Board determined to have alternates they would be first consideration for vacancies and that did not happen this year. She regrets that because she feels there were a number of well informed people who could have been considered and were not.

Supervisor Crane returned to review of the committee vacancies, Senior Services Committee – 1 vacancy.

Councilman McKeon said that the Senior Services Committee would like to appoint Susan Goldstein to that committee. They would like to have a member from the Red Hook Commons.

On a motion of Councilman McKeon, seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski, moved to appoint Susan Goldstein to the Senior Services Committee.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Crane, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Ross

Supervisor Crane announced that the Zoning Review Committee has a vacancy to be filled by a member of the Economic Development Committee. She announced that if anyone is interested in serving to contact Town Clerk Sue McCann, Supervisor Crane or any of the Board members.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Crane received the following correspondence:

- Morris Associates regarding the monopole cell tower. Cell armor at the top of the pole will be removed and an antenna will be installed on an elevation of 125 feet so that no support or new pads will be needed. Attorney Chale explained this is not the Omnipoint tower; it is trading out equipment that is already there.
- The Quadra centennial Celebration notified Red Hook that its opening ceremony is on October 3rd, at 11:00 am at the Walkway over the Hudson.
- Michael Pollack wrote regarding dumping and littering on Whalesback Road
- Eleanor Friery thanked the Highway Department for picking up limbs and debris.
- Census 2010 employees will be visiting households in order to conduct the census.

On a motion of Councilwoman Strawinski, seconded by Councilman Colgan, moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 PM.

Adopted	Ayes	4	Crane, Strawinski, Colgan, McKeon
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Ross

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk