

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 14, 2011

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
Councilman James Ross
Councilwoman Micki Strawinski
Councilman Harry Colgan
Councilman William O'Neill
Town Clerk Sue McCann

Also present: Attorney for the Town, Christine Chale
Business Manager Deborah Marks
Town Accountant Rae D'Achille
Town Accountant Partner, Mark Posniak

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Supervisor's report dated May 31, 2011 was read as follows: Opening Balance - \$3,281,398.51; Receipts - \$373,740.52; Disbursed - \$409,265.89; Balance - \$3,245,873.14. There are the following budget adjustments: General A Fund – reduce appropriations \$3,403.00. Total increase in appropriations - \$16,500; General B Fund –increase in revenue - \$11,928.00, reduce appropriations - \$323.00, total increase in appropriations - \$13,143.00, appropriate the fund balance - \$892.00; Highway DB Fund – increase appropriations - \$5,959.00; Other funds and Capital Projects – total increase in appropriations - \$242,116.00, offset to the fund balance is to appropriate the fund balance \$4,244.00 for HA Capital PDR and \$36,113.00 for HS Capital Highway Garage.

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to accept the Supervisor's report with budget adjustments.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O'Neill
 Nays 0

Copy Attached

Supervisor Crane referred to several items that related to the budget. One is a comparative expenditure report from May 2010 to May 2011. It is important to keep an eye on that as we approach the budget season. There is also a sales tax and mortgage tax revenue report from Business Manager Deborah Marks and a graph of planning related spending from 2004 through 2010 which was prepared by Business Manager Deborah Marks. Supervisor Crane would like to ask the Board to consider taking a hiatus from any intense zoning and planning for a while because we need the relief for the budget.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report for the period May 1, 2011 to May 31, 2011 was read as follows: Total local shares remitted to the Supervisor - \$1,172.50; Amount remitted to NY Ag. & Markets - \$39.00; Amount remitted to NYS Dept. of Health for Marriage Licenses - \$135.00; Amount remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation - \$886.22; Total State, County & Local revenue - \$2,232.72.

Town Clerk McCann made the following announcements:

- Residents are reminded that even though burning is now allowed we can only burn brush. No leaves, paper, or garbage can be burned, please be considerate of neighbors and have water or shovels handy. Call her office if you have any questions.
- There is a fundraiser for a little boy in Red Hook who is afflicted with AMC. It is a 5K run on June 18 starting at St. Christopher's School at 8:45 a.m., a 5K walk at 9:00 a.m., and a 1 mile run at 10:15 a.m. The website is: www.rogersrun4amc.com for more information. The money raised will go directly to the AMC organization. Brochures will be available at the Town Clerk's window.
- Hugs-From-Home is going very well. They are processing their 54th shipment. Let the people overseas know we are thinking of them.

Councilwoman Strawinski made the following announcements:

- June 17th will be an Earth To Table event from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Red Hook Community Garden located north of Hardscrabble Plaza. Dinner is served at 7:00 p.m.
- Thanked the volunteers who worked on the photovoltaic grant

Supervisor Crane made the following announcements:

- Tomorrow is the Senior Picnic sponsored for DC Office of the Aging. The picnic is at Wilcox Park. She thanked Key Bank, M&T Bank, Mid-Hudson Valley FCU, Rhinebeck Savings, Trustco and Ulster Savings for their support of \$150 from each for the picnic and for their services for other senior activities.
- There will two Planning and Zoning summer schools. Registration can be done on line. Classes are presented by the Association of Towns and New York Planning Federation.
- A NY State Urban & Community Forestry conference at SUNY New Paltz July 14-16
- Noela Hooper published a piece in the DC Planning Federation newsletter which clarifies the difference between agricultural districts and agricultural assessments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Supervisor Crane opened for public comments.

Linda Keeling announced that she is running as a candidate on the Save Our Town line. In regard to the Traditional Neighborhood District south of the Village, she feels that it would increase the volume of people and cars and decrease the amount of farmland available. It would decentralize the Village center. She cited a book by Al Norman titled "Slam Dunk". It indicates that once you build outside a Village center you eventually kill the Village.

There were no more comments.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT REPORTS TO TOWN BOARD – RAE D’ACHILLE

Supervisor Crane introduced Town Accountant Rae D’Achille and her partner Mark Posniak who were here to lead a budget discussion.

Town Accountant Rae D’Achille began the budget presentation by explaining the process. She referred to the Supervisor’s report and the comparative report. She explained the status of the Town’s cash flow as well as the status of the fund balance, assets and liabilities. Rae thoroughly reviewed the budget. Regarding the promise of grants from the state she suggested keeping documentary evidence of that. Another point she made is that she doesn’t know of any job that gives employee’s free health insurance. That is something to think about and she pointed out options for savings comparing them to the costs the Town now pays. Revenue increases were suggested. Without drastically reducing your services, funding has to come from the user. It is a balancing act. You keep hitting the fund balance and at some point you can’t use it. Then you see the property taxes rise. A two to five percent increase is always recommended because if you have no increase then the fund balance is gone. She explained why the Town should raise taxes and keep a healthy fund balance.

Supervisor Crane is very grateful for the presentation given by Rae D’Achille. We are starting to look department by department to if there are any lines that we can stop spending on. We are going to ask the department heads to be creative and we are going to have to be very strict. It is clear that it is not going to get any better. She told the Board that she asked Business Manager Deb Marks and Budget Officer Rose Rider to begin exploring how other Towns in Dutchess County are handling medical insurance. They will meet on Thursday and hopefully we can negotiate together for better rates next year. There are two major providers, MVP and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. We are taking a look across the county which plans and which brokers they use.

CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC – ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM – JOHN MASERJIAN

Supervisor Crane introduced John Maserjian from Central Hudson who is here to report on the Energy Saver Program and discuss how the program will work and its benefits.

John Maserjian introduced Mike Mollihan who is with Consort. It is a company who developed a technology that Central Hudson is very interested in testing in New York State. NYSERDA has reviewed their programs and would like to roll it out. They can see how it would help homeowners and small businesses save energy and it gives some control over energy use during times of peak demand. It is called "Home Energy Saver" and Central Hudson is rolling it out as a pilot program in the Red Hook area. He explained why this area is ideal for testing. They are looking for about 200 homes and business to participate. Specific areas have been identified and customers have been identified. He explained how the program would work in the homes or businesses. The owners could go on line and see their electric usage. It is a way to save energy

and to be more aware of their energy usage. As part of the program, Central Hudson has the ability to control appliances remotely and they'd like to test that. During days of peak electrical use, they'd like to see if they are able to influence or turn down those appliances to reduce the overall demand. They want to see if they can affect a drop in demand and if a homeowner will be open to it. It is a pilot program that is a test technology and also a test of customer behaviors and attitudes. The program will last six months to a year. It may or may not be extended. NYSERDA is very interested in seeing how this works and what the results will be. He explained the work they are doing towards recruiting residents. They have a website www.centralhudson.com/homeenergysaver established with information about the program and the link for those who might be interested in signing up.

Councilman Colgan asked who the high energy users are.

John explained that they'd have to be within a certain geographic area. If they have high usage appliances like central air conditioner, electric water heater, they would qualify. Some people are very good at containing their costs and using appliances efficiently. We still have to see if the technology can assist those owners in further reducing their energy use and see if Central Hudson is able to moderate demand during those peak times.

Supervisor Crane asked if he is looking for people to contact Central Hudson or are you going to contact people based on your knowledge.

John has emailed those people whose addresses they have and they are also calling people to explain the program and let them know what it's all about. This technology is the next step to smart meters and allowing two way communications between the utility and the customer. The Climate Action Committee has been great in coming up with ideas as to how Central Hudson can further do outreach. Their telephone number for anyone interested is 845-452-2010.

MASS GATHERING PROPOSAL – TERRAPIN RESTAURANT

Supervisor Crane introduced Christen Wagner who was at the meeting with a proposal for a Hudson Valley Green Festival. This is the Board's first look at the proposal. She asked Christen Wagner to tell the Board about the proposed plans.

Christen Wagner of Terrapin Catering explained that this would be the second year they are doing the festival. They are trying to get the sustainable resources in the area together to allow people to access them to try to get people to incorporate sustainability in their everyday lives. They are proposing using Migliorelli Farm on Guski Road on September 18th, 2011. It will be a one day festival ending at 6:00 p.m. and they are anticipating about thirteen hundred people.

Supervisor Crane contacted Terrapin's reference. She asked Christen if she works for Terrapin or is a consultant.

Christen works for Terrapin.

Councilman Colgan asked who the participants will be.

Christen answered that they are contacting local farmers, and organizations that are making some sort of effort in sustainability. There will be vendors.

Supervisor Crane asked about security

Christen explained what they did last year. They are looking into a private security right now.

She's also contacted the Village Police Department but has not heard back from them yet. The D.C. Sheriff's Office said they cannot guarantee someone on site for the six hour period.

Supervisor Crane said we have to look into traffic control. She asked if Christen is asking that the Town Board consider a contract with Terrapin Catering. She asked the Board if they had any concerns.

Attorney Chale suggested reviewing the mass gathering law.

Supervisor Crane wants to meet with the Code Enforcement Officer. She asked if any of the Board members would also like to meet with him.

Councilwoman Strawinski will meet with them. She asked if Christen had a deadline.

Christen said they'd need the information as soon as possible.

Supervisor Crane scheduled a meeting on Monday at 2:00 p.m. with the Code Enforcement Officer.

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM: ZONING REVISIONS

Supervisor Crane shared communication from June 7th. The Planning Board took another look at the proposed amendments and made some recommendations. They reconfirmed that there is consistency with the determination.

Attorney Chale said the Planning Board provided a couple of corrections and pointed those out.

Supervisor Crane reminded everyone that at the June 22 meeting there will be a public hearing at 7:45 to take comments on the zoning revisions.

TOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE/REVIEW OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Supervisor Crane asked Attorney Chale if she has been able to prepare anything about the expectations of a Town’s advisory committee’s activities.

Attorney Chale prepared a memo about procedures. She said they would normally not be subject to open meeting law requirements however the Town Board has asked them to conform to open meeting law requirements as a matter of Town Board procedure. As such they need to be aware of requirements of open meetings. She explained what that consists of. Committee members must vote at meetings, not by e-mail. The Ethics Board provided a summary of the process for meetings, etc.

Councilman Colgan asked the period of notice for a meeting change.

Attorney Chale responded generally 72 hours.

RESOLUTIONS HONORING JAMES PRESCOTT SPANO AND JESSE K. KASSNER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

Supervisor Crane read the resolutions regarding James Prescott Spano and Jesse K. Kassner’s achievement of Eagle Scout.

RESOLUTION 2011 #59

On the motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilwoman Micki Strawinski moved to approve the resolution honoring James Prescott Spano for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

Copy Attached

RESOLUTION 2011 #60

On the motion of Supervisor Sue Crane seconded by Councilman Harry Colgan moved to approve the resolution honoring Jesse K. Kassner for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Linda Keeling asked if residents will be notified prior to the Hudson Valley Green Festival and will the American’s with Disabilities Act be considered to make sure that everyone has full access.

Supervisor Crane said those items are part of the mass gathering law.

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Colgan moved to go into Executive Session/Attorney Client at 9:05 pm regarding a personnel issue hiring or firing a particular person.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

On a motion of Supervisor Crane seconded by Councilman Ross moved to close the Executive Session.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

On a motion of Councilman Ross seconded by Councilwoman Strawinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Adopted Ayes 5 Crane, Ross, Strawinski, Colgan, O’Neill
 Nays 0

Respectfully submitted,

Sue McCann, Town Clerk