

APPROVED
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Jacob Testa, Chris Klose (Secretary), Marty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, George Verrilli, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Executive Director, Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce)

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Verrilli and second by Chair Dousharm, the Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- **Coronavirus Update** – Chair Dousharm: update from Ed on Village; Ed: down to one holdout on the sewer; going to bid soon; VZitz = lone holdout/recidivist = outlier on community participation; keeping in touch with other mayors/not much change on the street/some funding for meals; starting to consider re-start; State looking at redevelopment zones but Dutchess County is in-between with southern part in the dark zone, so we'll probably be with them; Village working with reduced staff (one person tested negative); looking at the upcoming tax year (begins 06-01) and maybe do a 60-40 phase in but must comply with state regs; goal = breaks for the landlords in staggered payments; Village needs cash at start of fiscal year;

Sewer would start in the fall, depending on legal proceedings; goal = exception letter (for Zitz) and to get the Community Center in the sewer system;

Bodian: possible to offer discounts on taxes if they pay by 07-01? Municipal law doesn't permit; Village expenses set first, then the rate per-thousand set; we need to reinvent Red Hook/sort out what savings can be made by cutting what we can; August 2021 = Village renovation bond over and will save \$250K; tax rate now down .3 cents/1000, which will lower taxes for 2020;

Sewer project will help to rejuvenate business in the Village, ballyhoo with a marketing campaign (Red Hook Reopens Now for the Future!); doubtful about Hardscrabble Day but could inaugurate the sewer – We're investing in our future!

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New consignment shop tenant in the former Board Room – very positive sign for the Village; mother-daughter combo with nail salon in the back, consignment up front.

Kim: access to Community Access Funding; \$10K for all the restaurants/rolled into Red Hook Responds (RHR); will run for three weeks, so far; variety of restaurants; RHR gone from 40 to 100 meals/day; each restaurant is responsible for a day (YumYum prepping 100 meals today, for example); working with Dan Budd to coordinate among eight restaurants (one in Tivoli); provides some support/drop-in-the-bucket; County stats: restaurants at 30 percent of normal; Modern Taco, other small operations are on day-to-day status; PPP loans are helping but the top industries = construction, manufacturing; not helping small businesses, especially restaurants.

Marty: following through with Card Boon? Nice thing but why not promote gift cards from the restaurants directly; Ed: altruistic, yes, but with a profit motive (7% fee) so Village couldn't promote; critical to know what's up with Bard; staff meeting Thursday with Pres. Botstein, so Jacob will report outcome; everything up in the air about SummerScape; Marty: planning both for shutdown or opening.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2020 via RingCentral.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary