

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 14, 2014
7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Norris, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Zacharzuk, and Clerk Cole.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to open the budget Public Hearing. Trustee Norris seconded. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell stated the budget is currently under the 2% tax cap at 1.69%. The budget has been submitted and reviewed. It has been a long winter and waiting for more sand, salt, and utility bills.

State Comptroller states we should have a large fund balance, which shifts the burden to the taxpayers unduly since the Village has long ago depleted any significant fund balances. Trustee Trapp stated there is pressure from Albany to stay under 2% yet have a 15-20% fund balance. The two do not go together well.

The Water Fund has paid off the water tower and will soon begin Phase II of the water upgrades.

George Beekman suggested making a snow district to help with snow removal, sand and salt bills. Mayor Blundell stated the Board will review this option, but there has been planning on this going back several years. The concept should go larger to a BID that could do other things like streetlight changes, parking options, common signs and events. In the past the economy was too weak to push the business sector into more costs.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Cole
Clerk/Treasurer