

VILLAGE OF RED HOOK  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2016  
7:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Norris, Trustee Trapp, Clerk/Treasurer Chiarella, Trustee Zacharzuk arrived at 8 PM.

Mayor Blundell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with news from the NYS Comptroller's Office that the Village is no longer on the susceptible to fiscal stress list. He congratulated the Board and staff since this is huge news and reflects the incredibly detailed and hard work we had to do to correct budgets and practices. Plus, we did it while maintaining services and staying within tax caps.

Budget discussion:

Mayor Blundell stated an expense line should be added for General Code – the e-code firm to get our local laws updated in texts/web site.

A brief discussion was made on whether or not to keep Panda. Consensus is to move off and do our own work.. Budget expense is \$11,875 and we now can do it with less cost and go to YouTube. Further discussion will follow.

DM Kovalchik wants to add a sub-line A1640.4 for Noble Gas (welding)

A discussion was made in regards to the Police Department – two members expressed concern with the size of that budget in our operation. Blundell indicated this comes up annually and years ago we looked at options and did streamline the department. It is currently functioning well and providing necessary work to keep the village residents protected. In the past we looked at costs to contract with other agencies. Blundell reminded the board that those costs were quite high for direct other agency attention. Taking known shift needs, court time, etc the internal costs are about equal to what it would cost to contract out to the Sheriff. In the end, Blundell indicated we should go to a Town Police Department where a larger tax base/population could cover the costs and we would contract for the village. This is a long-term plan and we are not going to do that in this budget year. He also indicated tuning the Town contract may be warranted since we do not want to be giving them services over and above their shift payments.

He stated Muni-city has a program to put trackers on the cars that monitor routes and other categories. Board members requested consideration be made to increase the hourly rate of the Town and School police contract. We currently charge them \$50/hour. Blundell pointed out that our costs are less than that amount, including fringe benefits.

DM Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10. Mayor Blundell seconded this motion. All were in favor.

Submitted by

Cynthia Chiarella  
Clerk/Treasurer