

VILLAGE OF RED HOOK

BUDGET WORKSHOP

MARCH 11, 2015

7:10pm

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris, Trustee Zacharzuk. Clerk Cole was absent; notes were taken by Angela Jones and recorded.

Mayor Blundell opened the meeting at 7:10pm with budget discussion. He stated that CDPHP wants the Village to pay half the deductible with the employee to pay the remaining 50%. The Mayor questioned whether others were facing this and if it is even a legal request by CDPHP. He is in discussion with the Conference of Mayors and will report his findings. He also suggested that the Village look into using "The Marketplace" website to see if it would be any cheaper. MVP has also been looked at to see if it is a viable alternative.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik suggested several sub-budget lines and these will be inserted in the upcoming budget. He explained that this allows for better monitoring of details rather than having miscellaneous items. One of the changes was under Snow Removal. Miscellaneous was changed to GBD clearing.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik suggested increasing the budget for Highway equipment repairs and materials. The Village needs a new truck and also salt prices are increasing. Because of the severe winter weather this year the Village also has more pot holes to be repaired. Mayor Blundell Agreed.

There was discussion about the water availability at the Veteran's Park. It is available but unmetered. It would cost around \$1000 to install a meter. Brett from CT Male is to be asked for his input on this issue.

A staff pay rise was discussed and a 1½ % increase across the board was agreed upon.

Mayor Blundell pointed out that a DOS Celebrations Grant for \$5000 had been applied for and received. The grant spans two budget years and will expire in August 2015. It is a reimbursable grant and some of the suggestions for spending it in advance were: design, promotion, artists, and advertising. Other suggestions were to pay the deposit

for the band for Hardscrabble Day and also to pre-pay for fireworks for the 10th Anniversary of Hardscrabble. 2 new lines were added to the budget to accommodate the grant.

More money would have to be found next year for inspection and repair of the Village Building roof. There have been various leaks this year and only the interior damage is covered by insurance. The roof repairs are not. Budget line added at \$4,000 per a quote.

Mayor Blundell explained that cleaning costs were down mainly due to the fact that we are employing one of our own employees instead of contracting out the cleaning.

Trustee Zacharzuk asked if we could buy new machines for future elections. Mayor Blundell mentioned the possibility of changing the election date to November to fall in line with other elections. He stated that we could then be added to their ballots to save money.

Mayor Blundell stated that Arlene Harkins was unable to work the election on March 18 and made a motion to make a temporary emergency appointment of Angela Jones to enable her to work the election. It was seconded by Trustee Trapp and all were in favor.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. Trustee Trapp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Submitted by,

Angela Jones

Secretary.