

VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
5-21-08
SEWER STUDY WORKSHOP

Present: Mayor Cohen, Trustee Blundell, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Kovalchik
Trustee Gilfeather: absent

Trustee Kovalchik opened the workshop with greetings to Todd Baright and Leigh Cookingham. The Proposed Intermunicipal Central Sewer and Waste Water Treatment System was the topic to be discussed.

The Village has applied for two grants to provide funding for the preparation of a Central Sewer and Waste Water Treatment System Facility Plan. The estimates for services was provided by C.T. Male Associates and the Town and Village Attorneys.

1. \$70,000.00 request from the NYS Department of State SMSI to finance an engineering study on proposed systems (\$34,500), SEQRA preparation (\$3,200) and associated legal fees for intermunicipal agreements (\$30,000). The Village and Town submitted this request for funding as a joint application. This grant application was not selected.
2. \$7,500 from the USDA Rural Development Pre-Development Grant. This is a Village application with a matching financial obligation of \$7,500. The Village allocated \$7,500 in its adopted 2008-2009 Budget to cover this obligation. The grant application was submitted to assist in the preparation of the Central Sewer System Facility Plan. This grant application was not selected because funds had been expended by mid-March 2008 and because the Village/Town had also applied for the SMSI grant.

Due to the lack of grant funding for the Facility Plan, the Village and Town of Red Hook and Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development are trying to raise money to finance the \$34,500 engineering portion of the Facility Plan. Probable contributors are as follows:

\$ 7,500 – Village of Red Hook
\$ 5,000-7,000 – Town of Red Hook
\$ 5,000-7,000 – Dutchess County

In conversations with the USDA, they may be able to contribute up to \$15,000 to cover the remaining costs to prepare the engineering portion of the Facility Plan. In order for this assistance to be realized, the municipalities must commit to their financial obligations.

Deadlines for submissions to the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, who administers federal dollars for infrastructure is as follows:

- August 1, 2008 – engineering portion of Facility Plan
- March 1, 2009 - completed SEQRA and Intermunicipal Agreements, treatment plant locations (if property allocations are required).

Proposed systems to be investigated include:

1. Gray water recycling system that will distribute pre-treated effluent to re-charge the Village aquifer.
2. A subsurface (septic) system with constructed wetlands to be located on properties off Linden Avenue. This system was included in the Feasibility Study. Other options discussed – the study included a shared Town/Village and Bard College Treatment System. It was determined that this shared system would not be eligible for Federal or State funding as a result of Bard College being a private institution.
3. A treatment plant that can be expanded on an “as-needed” basis and tied into an existing tertiary treatment plant located on the site of Red Hook Commons. This plant has already received DEC approvals, has an access road, electricity, as well as the area and capacity to be expanded.

Discussions concerning the proposed Village Traditional Neighborhood District (TND) followed. Mr. Leigh Cookingham mentioned that he has not been approached, except for contracts with Mayor Cohen and Michelle Gregg (Green Plan, Inc.), to discuss the Village’s Plan to provide zoning for a TND on his family’s property. Mr. Cookingham states that he does not want to be “pressured” to sell his property and has concerns about traffic with additional Village development. Trustee Kovalchik explains that the proposed TND is designed to connect streets of the TND to the existing Village road system. This is to help reduce traffic congestion on the main Village streets.

It was mentioned that the Intermunicipal Task Force (ITF) has had community meetings, advertised and opened to the public at various locations within the Village. The ITF’s Centers and Greenspaces Plan is also available on both the Town and Village’s website. Trustee Kovalchik will forward a copy of the Centers and Greenspaces Plan to Mr. Cookingham.

Discussions returned to the proposed Intermunicipal Central Sewer and Waste Water Treatment System. To date, a Feasibility Study has been prepared by C.T. Male Associates and the Rural Water Association has provided recommendations and oversight. Currently, the Village/Town of Millerton and the Village/Town of Red Hook are the only two municipalities in Dutchess County that do not have central sewer.

Trustee Trapp stated that the Town needs hotels rather than a sewer system. Trustee Trapp also stated that the Village has a failing water system. He is concerned that more emphasis should be placed repairing the water system and the central sewer should be secondary. Trustee Kovalchik stated that

current waste system maps do not agree with what is in the grant and grants have been applied for through the USDA Rural Development Fund. A comprehensive study of the current state of our water system needs to be completed before grant money to repair and maintain the water system can be acquired.

Todd Baright stated that a central sewer system is not crucial. Mayor Cohen stated that we must move forward with the Facility Plan to determine realistic capital and operating costs. Todd Baright agrees.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Submitted by

Cynthia Cole
Village Clerk