

VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
PUBLIC HEARING
CENTRAL HUDSON/STREET LIGHTS
5-20-10

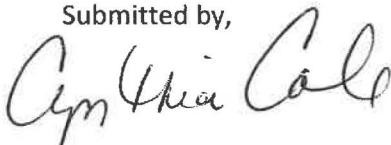
PRESENT: Mayor Cohen, Trustee Blundell, Trustee Seymour, Trustee Kovalchik,
Trustee Trapp was absent:
Sam Rosenberry – Central Hudson Gas and Electric (CHG&E)

Trustee Blundell stated that the Village currently has 275 street lights at a cost of \$ 50,000.00 a year. The system was designed and built in 1986 when fuel and utility costs were far less than today. Electricity prices will only continue to go up and we need to develop a plan to control this part of our budget, reduce our carbon footprint and move toward a more modern and efficient light system such as LED.

Trustees Blundell and Seymour walked the Village in the dark to see where lighting was the brightest and most feasible for reduction. A spreadsheet of the lights to be turned off was developed. The Village Board would like to immediately turn off 30 street lights at a savings of \$ 5,700.00 and down lamp others to save further money, approximately \$4,800. There would be subsequent reviews of the lights to get another 60 taken off line. We are looking to reduce the CHG&E bill by \$20,000 this budget year. Safety and liability are very important considerations and will be addressed. Sam Rosenberry from Central Hudson stated that he will accommodate the Village's needs and wishes. CHG&E had a recent meeting with an LED supplier of American made light bulbs. Trustee Blundell pushed Rosenberry for a pilot program. The utility has no rate tariff yet for LED and is still looking at it. The Village must submit in writing their request to turn off certain street lights. Trustee Seymour stated that lighting can be reduced by re-bulbing known as down-lamping. This would lower the wattage and cost. Sam stated that you cannot just replace with a lower wattage bulb. You must replace the whole head. Also, you can't remove more than 5% of your street light within a calendar year. There is no fee in removing the fixture. CHG&E stance is that once a fixture is removed it cannot be replaced for 5 years. Trustee Blundell challenged this stance and pointed out that CHG&E has been taking our payments for years and has not volunteered any method or modernization that would help reduce their revenue stream but save RH money. Trustee Seymour and Blundell will generate a letter to CHG&E and get their paperwork, sign wavier and submit letter of intent. It will take 3-4 weeks for a response from Central Hudson.

Trustee Kovalchik made a motion to close the public hearing at 8:15 pm. Trustee Seymour seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,



Cynthia Cole
Clerk/Treasurer