

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
WORKSHOP MEETING
September 23, 2010**

Present: Mayor David Cohen, Deputy Mayor Ed Blundell, Trustee David Seymour, Trustee Brent Kovalchik & Trustee Jay Trapp

Workshop meeting was opened by Mayor David Cohen at 7:15pm.

#1 Agenda – SHARED PARKING – RED HOOK ELECTRIC

Trustee Brent Kovalchik and Deputy Ed Blundell spoke about the parking situation by Red Hook Electric. Ed Blundell had sent a letter to Mercato restaurant about setting up a meeting to discuss the parking situation. No one has responded. Trustee Seymour said that the Board needs to go out and make a meeting happen. Trustee Jay Trapp spoke of the danger of getting involved between two private entities. Trustee Seymour stated that this is a safety situation and there is a parking accident waiting to happen. Trustee Trapp stated that you can encourage them to do something about it and tell them that we will put “no parking” signs up in thirty days unless they can tell the Board that the situation is being dealt with. The signs are not the Village’s responsibility, needs a Village ordinance for NYS DOT to act. However the Board agreed that signs do need to go up. They should be 30 feet from the intersection each way (no parking signs). Mayor Cohen stated that it will take about nine months dealing with the State of New York. Trustee Kovalchik advised that this will be on the agenda for the October meeting. There will be a resolution to put up “no parking” signs. Trustee Seymour understands Trustee Trapp’s point, however, he sees this situation as being a safety issue and it needs to be dealt with. Mayor Cohen said to pass the resolution for no parking signs at the October meeting – after 30 days it will become law and the signs will get put up. The Police Department will be instructed to make sure it’s strictly enforced. Someone will complain. A letter can be sent stating that maybe they can make an arrangement here and that we are doing this for the safety of the Village residents. Trustee Kovalchik spoke with Nick Haddad back on Christmas Eve and he stated that he was all for it. He doesn’t want any parking on East Market. He doesn’t think there should be any parking there. Mayor Cohen wants another letter to be sent to Nick Haddad and David Borenstein. Deputy Blundell will draft the letter to be sent by certified mail.

#2 Agenda – PARKING LOT

Correspondence continues to go back and forth with Key Bank. This matter had been going on for the past seven years. Mayor Cohen recommends engaging a real estate agent to represent the Village – Tom LeGrand. It will not cost us anything, it will cost the seller. An agreement has been made on the green lot. Trustee Trapp mentioned that it had been \$68,000.00, but about 15 feet had been taken away. No deed restrictions. Mayor Cohen suggests waiting until the Village gets an agreement before moving forward with a taxing district. Trustee Trapp states that we be upfront about engaging Tom LeGrand to assist in this. Mayor Cohen confirmed that this is for both lots. Once it moves forward, then the Village will create the district. The maintenance of the lot will be included in the tax which businesses will be paying, not residents. Make sure that the taxing district has enough to support the bond. This will be going forward slowly as there is the easement issue. The Board is in agreement with

hiring Tom LeGrand. A parking lot update will be provided at the next meeting. Mayor Cohen to contact LeGrand tomorrow (September 24th).

#3 Agenda – ATV LAW

The Board in agreement with letting it go. ATV law is terminated.

#4 Agenda – SANDWICH BOARDS

Trustee Trapp stated that there have not been any recent requests before the Planning Board for the use of sandwich boards. He suggests that if it becomes an issue, then we will react to it. The Board's consensus is that we do not want the use of the sandwich boards to be abused. The Board had a discussion about how to be selective if this is something that is decided to be regulated. If regulated the language would need to be specific (i.e. not impeding pedestrian traffic on the street). Deputy Blundell would like to fold it into the major zoning revision. Trustee Kovalchik emphasized about being fair to all businesses. It is not possible for every business to have a sandwich board. Trustee Trapp again stated that nothing should be done about it unless it becomes an issue. The discussion continued on to how difficult it is to tell whether some businesses are open with the amount of signs covering the windows. CEO Harkins is going to be revisiting window signage as the zoning does not specifically address this.

#5 Agenda – NOISE ORDINANCE

The Board checked on the status of a noise ordinance and have decided to leave things "as is". It was decided that sending a warning letter works enough for now.

#6 Agenda – PANDA CONTRACT/BUDGET (1130.4)

Deputy Blundell led the discussion. The PANDA fiscal year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. When entering into the contract, the Village had gone by their own fiscal year. The Village received a bill from PANDA in August in the amount of \$11,926.00. Deputy Blundell spoke to Village Attorney Flood-Myers and according to the contract, the Village has to pay the amount (only have \$6,000.00 in our budget). Deputy Blundell sent a letter to PANDA reserving the rights to withdraw from the contract. Under the assumption that if the Village pulls out, PANDA will collapse as a lot of other municipalities are having similar complaints. Mayor Cohen feels that it is a huge expense for very little return. Budget line suggested of \$20,000.00 (police line). The Board discussed options for what to do next year. Dutchess County Legislature uses total web casting. This may be a possibility for the Village. Kathy Hammer (president of the PANDA board) willing to attend next meeting. Trustee Kovalchik pointed out that one meeting is covered under the contract. Any additional meetings the Village needs to pay for. Trustee Trapp recommends just staying the course for this year. Deputy Blundell stated that the five year Inter-municipal contract expires in April, 2011. Mayor Cohen agreed that we should hold our course to withdraw, let them know that we cannot afford it at this time and pay what we owe. Deputy Blundell stated that they reset their new contract for 2011 already. Mayor Cohen states that it's "not our problem". Trustee Seymour likes the web casting that the County does. Deputy Blundell says that it

takes \$3,000 to get started, obtain all the equipment, etc. and then \$250 a month thereafter. Trustee Trapp inquired as to what it would cost if the Village got a camera, recorded the meetings and placed them on the website. He will speak with Dick Wambach, the Village's webmaster. Board in agreement of staying the course of withdrawing in December and gathering information during that time. The Village will not go back to PANDA and will be investigating other venues. The Village will pay the balance (\$6,000.00 already sent). Deputy Blundell will send another letter to PANDA.

#7 Agenda – CATCH BASIN NYS

Trustee Seymour emphasized that we need to get the catch basins cleaned, Mayor Cohen said that we need the as-built plans because they will show exactly what was done on the project. Trustee Kovalchik spoke with Dan, Joe Hurley, Caroline Ryan, Tony Staffero and Bill Larose regarding the need to get the inventory of every catch basin installed on state route in the event that if they need replacement in the future we know which ones are our responsibility and which ones are DOT's responsibility. Mayor Cohen stated that we have maintained for the longest time that in 1985 every catch basin was re-built. Trustee Kovalchik stated that when he spoke with Joe Hurley and Caroline Ryan they stated that each catch basin had to be replaced not repaired. Mayor Cohen thinks that everything has been replaced here. Trustee Seymour inquired as to whether we're responsible for the catch basins on East Market Street which are filled with grass and silt. Mayor Cohen states that we need to get the as-builts first to show responsibility for maintenance. Trustee Kovalchik stated that if this is something that is the State's responsibility then the State's schedule may not coincide with ours. Tony had told Dan to put the cones out in the spring. Board agreed to wait on South Broadway catch basins. Trustee Kovalchik will follow up about getting the few with grass growing out of them taken care of as soon as possible.

#8 Agenda – PLOW GARAGE – HEAT \$8,000.00

Bottini bill for the heating season - \$16,000.00. Trustee Seymour and Blundell going over with Controller Zagorski who split everything apart. Village is about \$11,000.00 over budget on utilities. Trustee Trapp suggested possibly getting a space heater for highway superintendent's office. Trustee Seymour stated that the Highway Department's concerns were freezing of the hydraulic fluid and the sand. Mayor Cohen stated that if the thermostat is set at 55 degrees, freezing shouldn't be an issue. The thermostats need to be lowered. Trustee Kovalchik inquired about segregating the heat and creating separate zones – separate thermostat for office. Trustee Seymour emphasized that the doors should remain closed and lights off when no one in the building. Could use four inch screenings (look like vertical blinds). He also recommended new weather stripping and the possible installation of fans. Mayor Cohen said that the plow garage should be no higher than 50 degrees. The thermostats should be in a box that can only be opened with a key. Board in agreement with trying all of the methods suggested. Trustee Seymour is going to check with Allied about the cost to set up a separate zone for the Highway Superintendent's office and what would need to be done. Board also agreed to look into proposals regarding information on halo radiant heating. Trustee Seymour stated that the \$8,000.00 needs to be cut down. He discovered that we are not buying the propane on State contract. Bottini can give State rate to purchase fuel oil (State ID #1813).

#9 Agenda – BOND/BUDGET

Deputy Blundell said that the existing BAN on this building is going to convert to a bond next year. It looks to be about \$15,000.00 of new expense when adjusted, given a preliminary rate analysis done by Treasurer Cole. If buying the parking lot (#2) the Board would have to look to bond that somehow as well. Mayor Cohen said that it would be for this lot alone. Regarding the \$15,000.00, Trustee Kovalchik to check with the USDA. He will call George Popp to check on a better rate. Mayor Cohen thinks we should re-shop our whole bond package and see if there are any better rates out there. Trustee Kovalchik to check with George Popp.

#10 Agenda – ZONING FIRE INSPECTIONS

Trustee Seymour announced that there was nothing registered on last report and is wondering if it is possible to get a head count of how many inspections need to be done. Trustee Trapp discussed how Nassau is allowed to hand a fine to someone on the next visit after citing them. CEO Harkins is looking into this with Village Attorney Flood-Myers. If allowed, CEO could cite someone after performing an inspection and on the next visit he can fine them if violations are not cleaned up, in lieu of continuous follow up visits. Until then, Mayor Cohen states that a place should get a really big fee for a third time re-inspection.

#11 Agenda – WATER DEPARTMENT UPGRADE

Trustee Seymour led the discussion. He began by stating he is very pleased with how everything is coming together. The inspection is taking place tomorrow, Sept. 24th. He is looking forward to it stating that the guys did a great job. As of Sept. 2nd, the Village was delinquent in thirty areas. Twenty have been resolved. There are four areas that are questionable and six big ticket items which will be discussed with the inspector, Ron Miller. Trustee Seymour presented a suggestion to the Board about providing John with a little bump in his salary. He would like for the Board to think about it. Mayor Cohen said he will look at salaries tomorrow and think it out.

Other Business

Sidewalks – Trustee Trapp wanted to know if everyone had a chance to look at the text for the CDBG grant and made any necessary changes. Trustee Trapp did the map for Firehouse Lane. He needs to do the map for the spot right before Colburn's Laundromat, Park Avenue and Abraham's Park (\$150,000.00 is the maximum for the grant). In the end will have Park Avenue, Abraham's Park, crosswalk, Firehouse Lane and Colburn's. Whatever money is left over will do the patching with. Map will be finished by Monday, September 27th.

Trustee Trapp circulated SEQRA for zoning district revisions. He received a response from County Planning to "hurry up". He did not receive a response from the Town or the DOT. Trustee Seymour made a motion to accept. Mayor Cohen seconded. All in favor. Trustee Trapp read the negative declaration. Type I action. Conditioned negative declaration not issued. The

action takes place throughout the Village. The reason supporting this determination is the Village has held a public hearing, taken comments from all who wish to speak on the matter of the zoning district revisions in the Village of Red Hook. Village of Red Hook circulated Part I of the SEQRA long form, circulated document to involved agencies to assume lead agency status, waited thirty days for comments from all parties receiving SEQRA long form, no responses that wish to assume lead agency status on this application. Trustee Trapp finished up by stating that the Village of Red Hook declared itself lead agency on the matter of zoning district revisions within the limits of the Village of Red Hook and has completed Part II of the SEQRA long form finding no impacts associated with revisions to the zoning district with the Village, declared a negative declaration on this matter. Contact person: David Cohen, Mayor. Other agencies contacted: NYS DOT, Dutchess County Planning Department and Town of Red Hook.

Mayor Cohen made a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. Public Hearing closed.

#12 Agenda – HARDCRABBLE DAY

Deputy Blundell states that everything is ready. Parade begins at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Cohen will be riding in police car. The Tree Commission will be lined up in cars. St. Margaret's Committee has a mini ceremony at 1:00 p.m. Re-enactment, militia dress up, etc.

Other Business

Deputy Blundell announced that the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce wanted to hold a breakfast/meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. All in favor.

Mayor David Cohen made motion to close the workshop meeting at 9:21 p.m.; seconded by Deputy Blundell, all in favor. Workshop meeting closed.

Submitted by

Doris Balacic-Scheuing

Doris Balacic-Scheuing
Secretary