

VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MARCH 29, 2012
7:15

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris. Trustee Seymour was present via phone. Chief Truitt was also present.

Mayor Blundell stated that a tentative budget was submitted to the Clerk by March 20th. A public hearing will be for April 15th and a completed and approved budget by May 1st.

Mayor Blundell stated that the police retirement is up from last year. There are 3 police officers that are not in the proper retirement and this has increased their retirement \$ 9,000.00. This process must be made a local law. Clerk Cole explained that the current retirement bill is high due to the fact that it runs from April 2010 to March 2011 and police payroll was higher at that time. Mayor Blundell stated that currently the budget is up 14 % and it is not acceptable. The Village may be forced to exceed the 2 % tax cap but we are not going that high. Mayor Blundell will meet with the Fire Department next week to discuss a contract. There were unexpected expenses with the storm Irene. FEMA money will be in sometime this summer. The special prosecutor Kelly Flood-Myers is requesting a promised a health insurance buy-out when she was the acting judge years ago. These are a few of the unexpected expenses. Clerk Cole stated that in the current police contract officers receive 2 raises a year up to five years. Chief Truitt stated that is standard in police contracts. Mayor Blundell feels one raise a year is what is stated in the contract and police officers also receive longevity. Chief Truitt stated that the last contract the police officers gave back their 3 % health insurance pay. Mayor Blundell is asking the Chief to run the department with \$ 40,000.00 less in their personnel line starting with Sergeant Hildenbrand to go to one admin day a week. Chief Truitt explained that it is impossible to do without comprising the health and welfare of the community. The Mayor stated the management is tasked with designing the proper program and money should be enough. Trustee Kovalchik states that with the new computers in the cars it should cut down on paper work in the office. This new way of writing tickets should also speed up the process in the court office. Currently the court office is still behind on tickets dating back to 2007. Mayor Blundell has met with the court and discussed this back log.

8:25 Trustee Trapp made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor.

9:10 the Village Board reconvenes from executive session.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to ask the management team of the police department to review their budget and what can be developed to run the police department on \$ 220,000. This would result with the Village Police working with the State Police and Dutchess County Sheriff's Department to fill in the shifts, if needed. Mayor Blundell is asking for this in writing from the Chief. Chief Truitt has requested from the Mayor in writing exactly what his requests are and how much. Mayor stated our options are limited and worse would be lay-offs. Chief Truitt has agreed to take a cut in his salary from \$ 30,000.00 to \$ 18,000.00.

Trustee Trapp stated that if a police officer comes in for court and works for 15 minutes the Village is contractually obligated to pay that officer for 3 hours. Chief Truitt assured the Board that he makes sure the officers stay to do paper work.

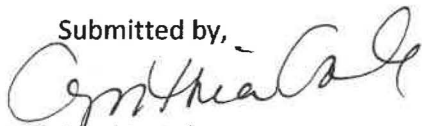
Mayor Blundell stated the zoning office has a back log which results in unpaid fees and also effects the Village's assessment. Mayor Blundell made a motion to hire Gary Beck of Poughkeepsie who will review the Village's fee schedule and also review outstanding cases. Mayor Blundell and Trustee Trapp will meet with Mr. Beck on Saturday. Trustee Trapp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to meet with counsel and consider options to get the court backlog cleared up including the ability to generate an audit of the court office with OCA. We have had meetings with the court, the staff and authorized and run more court sessions, hired a staff assistant and still see backlog persisting and it appears fewer cases will be heard this year than last year. The Judge is a separately elected person and not within the direct employee line to the MayorTrustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell asked the Clerk to schedule a budget public hearing for April 12, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Trustee Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn at 9:45. Trustee Norris seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,



Cynthia Cole
Clerk/Treasurer