

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 19, 2012**

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris

Mayor Blundell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed approximately 90 people, members of the Safety First Committee. Mayor Blundell stated that the Village cannot run in a deficit and has old money owed to the Fire Department.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

1. Jane Diamond – Village resident – stated how does the Village Board maintain a vibrant Village and provide little to no police protection. Ms. Diamond was robbed 8 months ago and the robber waited for the Red Hook PD to go off duty before entering into the house. Recently the City of Kingston replaced 6 officers and feels the Village should follow the same “do more with more.” Mayor Blundell stated that it is not the intent to disband the Police Department and would never consider it.
2. Linda Keeling – Town resident – member of the Safety First Committee – after reviewing the budget why does the Village pay \$ 12,000.00 to Panda, garbage is not cost effective, and why does the court have unprocessed cases dating back to 2004. Ms. Keeling feels the Board should not cut the budget.

Mayor Blundell stated that last year the Board attempted to disband Panda and there was a huge back-lash. If the Village pulls from the contract then the other municipalities would have to pay the Village’s financial obligation. Also, if the Village got out of the garbage business then the general fund would have to absorb \$ 30,000.00 for highway and office payroll.

3. Ken Cooper – Town resident (Bard College, Director of Safety) 3000 students on campus, concerts with as many as 1500 people for each show. Red Hook helped stop drug dealing problems on campus. Red Hook PD is needed at Bard and would like to contract them on a regular basis. Maybe a grant would be possible.
4. Todd Baright – resident of the Town, owns several real estate properties in the Village. Concerned about the rising cost of the budget, you do not spend more than you make. Village is broke, owes the FD \$ 40,000.00 in back pay. Village spending is up an average of 80. Some expenses over budget or high are building repairs, interest on debt, and health insurance. The police budget is \$ 375,000.00 and the Village budget is over \$ 50,000.00 this year.

Mayor Blundell stated that it is unacceptable to run a deficit. The Mayor met with the Red Hook FD to discuss the payment due.

5. Robin Rogers – Village resident – must get the budget to work and should cut all departments. Does not feel the PD should have 5 police cars, feels this is a bit excessive.
6. Rose Zengen – Town resident – read a letter from Kelly Flood-Myers in support of the Red Hook PD and all that they do. Ms. Zengen also is a member of the Safety First Committee and will be conducting a survey with Marist College in regards to the needs of the Village residents and the

Police Department. Ms. Zengen also recently had an incident (Town) when a police officer was polled (State Police and Sheriff's) and for 45 minutes no one showed up. Officer Sterritt of the RH PD finally polled for the call. Rose is in favor of the Police Department and feels they are a viable asset to both the Town and Village.

Mayor Blundell stated that he is not trying to disband the Police Department, just repurpose.

Mayor Blundell extended the public hearing (7:30).

7. Kathy Douris – Village resident – the Red Hook Police saved her life during altercations with a neighbor dispute. She feels great comfort when she sees the police car drive by and feels the Board should find a way and go through the budget to find a way to keep the hours.
8. Don Douris – Village resident – has lived in Red Hook for 32 years and asked the Mayor how the Police Department went over budget. Mayor Blundell stated that somehow the rumor on the street is that the PD is going to be disbanded. Mayor Blundell stated that he has asked the department to do foot patrols and walk the Village more with no resolution. He also stated that it is not fair that the Village taxpayers pay for Town calls. To this day the Mayor still does not have a new budget model from the Police Department.
9. Father Patrick Buckley – Village resident – feels the RH PD is very professional. Recently there was an EMS call to a home in Red Hook Estates where a 6 month old baby was not breathing. When Father Buckley arrived Sergeant Hildenbrand was exiting the home carrying the baby to the ambulance. Another incident was when a man was having a heart attack in front of the Parish Hall. The ambulance was delayed and therefore, Sergeant Hildenbrand put the gentleman in the car and drove him to the hospital with him.
10. Officer Mike Brown – Town resident – Red Hook PD – After reviewing the budget he stated that there are some salary lines that have increased 200 %. Recently police officers took a \$ 4.00 an hour cut in pay than the prior year. Feels there is a lot of room in the budget for improvement. There is no price on safety.

Mayor Blundell stated that the employee members of the bargaining unit agreed to give up the \$ 4.00 hourly rate.

11. David Fell – Town resident – owns Village business – Mr. Fell stated that the Police Department is in the Village not the Town. Why is the Village in arrears to the Fire Department and how does this happen? The Red Hook PD gets whatever they want and why was there enough money to purchase a new Tahoe?
12. Allan Sassor – Village resident – what was overlooked? Was it pension, health or the Fire Department?
13. Todd Baright – Town resident – Village taxpayer – the Board is not asking for much of a salary change, one hour out of a 10 hour shift. Todd also stated that he has great respect for the RH PD.

Mayor Blundell stated that he is still waiting for some definitive shift changes from Chief Truitt.

14. John Douglas – Town resident – Understands Mr. Brown’s point as to taking a pay cut and why do other employees get a 200 % increase. Clerk Cole stated Mayor Blundell did not take a pay increase. The increase in pay was just a budget move. Moved his health insurance buy-out to his salary line. This decreased another budget line. Also, only the two unions (highway and police) will receive pay increases.

15. Karen Jurro- Town resident – read letter of support from Bruce Troy.

Mayor Blundell agrees the Police Department does a wonderful job, but the problem still remains and that is the budget.

16. Carl Krupski – Town resident – strongly stands behind the Police Department and feels the Board should find a way in the budget to keep shifts.

17. Arleen Harkins – Town resident – Village taxpayer – Thanked the Fire Department that saved her diner several years ago. Would like to see the Police Department that supports the community as it did when she was a child.

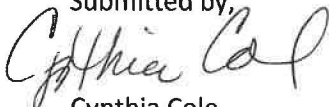
18. Rose Zengen – Feels that the Town did the Village an injustice when they decreased their patrols.

Mayor Blundell stated the Police Department has recently received a \$ 25,000.00 grant for computers in 3 police cars and the PD and court will now be equipped with e-tickets.

The modems will be purchased by money that was donated by Fastracs.

8:20 Mayor Blundell made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,



Cynthia Cole  
Clerk/Treasurer

**Village of Red Hook**  
**April 19, 2012**  
**Village Workshop Meeting**  
**8:35 PM**

Mayor Blundell stated that the Village is approaching the last quarter of the budget year. Sales tax is left to come in.

Mayor Blundell discussed to move CD (Insurance Deductible) from Key Bank in the amount of \$ 7,245.10 into the general fund. This will be marked to pay for MVP for the month of April. On a motion by Trustee Norris and seconded by Trustee Trapp, approval was given to move insurance deductible CD into the general fund. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell discussed to move CD (general office - M & T Bank) in the amount of \$ 6,654.23 into the general fund for various expenses. On a motion by Trustee Kovalchik and seconded by Trustee Norris. All were in favor.

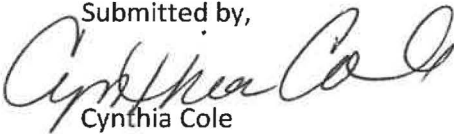
Mayor Blundell scheduled a budget workshop for Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Members of the Red Hook Fire Department asked what safeguards the Board had in place to make sure their financial obligation to the Fire Department was met. Clerk Cole suggested that the Fire Department were made in 2 payments rather than quarterly.

Mayor Blundell stated that he has been in touch with Key Bank in regards to the sale of the Village parking lot and the green lot next to Key Bank. May make an offer to Key Bank and work into the next budget.

Mayor Blundell stated that he still has not received a template schedule for decreased shift from the Police Department. Would like permission of the Board to send a second letter to the department requesting this information. A motion was made by Trustee Trapp and was seconded by Trustee Norris. All were in favor.

Submitted by,



Cynthia Cole  
Clerk/Treasurer