

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 21, 2013
7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Blundell, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris, Trustee Zacharzuk and Aiden O'Callahan, Reporter
Absent: Deputy Mayor Kovalchik and Clerk Cole.

Mayor Blundell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with discussion of the LGEG Program Grant application (Local Government Efficiency). The Village Board had applied for this grant a year ago with the Town of Red Hook regarding shared highway services and it was not accepted. The opportunity has come up again. The same grant writer is being used along with a lot of the same text, but changed it a bit. We filed the grant and what we are looking for is \$75,000 total because now we have the Village of Tivoli in the mix. The questions Mayor Blundell would like to address are as follows: Is there more of a way to save on the vehicles? Do we have to buy new vehicles someday down the road or can we buy a team approach on vehicles we can share? Vehicles like plows or equipment like mowing, backhoe. Mayor Blundell does not want to jump into this until it can be studied a bit. This grant is to get accountants and different people to look at it from a bunch of different angles. The Board would decide where they would want to go. We are applying for \$75,000 – shared evenly; \$25,000 by each municipality. There is 10% exposure to each municipality meaning that of the \$25,000 we would have to put in \$2,500 of our own money to get the grant. For example, if the Board were to pick an accountant and management firm to help design the plan, it would owe \$2,500 of it. Mayor Blundell went on to discuss the resolution prepared for the grant application. The State wants to see that each municipality is supporting this. We have been supporting it all along, but the State wants a new resolution restating that.

Mayor Blundell read the Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF RED HOOK, VILLAGE OF RED HOOK AND VILLAGE OF TIVOLI ARE INDEPENDENT MUNICIPAL ENTITIES WITH THE COMMON GOAL OF PROVIDING FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE RESIDENTS;

WHEREAS ONE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPALITIES IS THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND CLEARING OF ROADWAYS AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE SO THAT RESIDENTS MAY SAFELY TRAVEL IN THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES;

WHEREAS EACH MUNICIPALITY SEPARATELY EMPLOYS STAFF AND OWNS BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND CLEAR THE ROADWAYS;

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF RED HOOK HAS RECENTLY REPLACED ITS HIGHWAY GARAGE WITH A SAFE, MODERN, EFFICIENT FACILITY ON TOWN LAND;

WHEREAS THE TOWN AND VILLAGE OF RED HOOK HAVE PROACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE NEW TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL BAYS FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF THE VILLAGE HIGHWAY FACILITIES, AND HAVE DEVELOPED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SHARED SERVICES OF THE NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE FACILITY;

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF RED HOOK, VILLAGE OF RED HOOK AND VILLAGE OF TIVOLI ARE INTERESTED IN EXAMINING THE OPTION OF SHARED HIGHWAY SERVICES AND FACILITIES WITH THE VILLAGES OF RED HOOK AND TIVOLI FOR THE PURPOSE OF MORE EFFICIENT OPERATION AND SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS AND SHALL BE CO-APPLICANTS FOR THIS APPLICATION;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN AND VILLAGE OF RED HOOK AND VILLAGE OF TIVOLI ARE AUTHORIZED TO PREPARE A JOINT APPLICATION FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY GRANT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF EXPLORING THE OPTIONS OF SHARED OR CONSOLIDATED HIGHWAY SERVICES, AND AS A FIRST STEP WILL WORK WITH THE TOWN TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY GRANT TO STUDY CURRENT BUDGETS AND NEEDS TO ESTABLISH THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A SHARED FACILITY, SHARED EQUIPMENT AND SHARED STAFF, AND,

THE TOWN OF RED HOOK SHALL BE THE LEAD APPLICANT AND THE VILLAGE OF RED HOOK AND VILLAGE OF TIVOLI SHALL BE THE CO-APPLICANT, UNDERSTANDING THE LEAD APPLICANT SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AND EXECUTE FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES RELATED TO THE APPLICATION AND THE STUDY, AND,

THE STUDY AMOUNT SHALL BE \$75,000, SHARED EVENLY (\$25,000) BY THE TOWN AND THE VILLAGES, WITH 90% OF THE COST (\$22,500) FOR EACH MUNICIPALITY PROVIDED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AWARD, AND,

THE TOWN/VILLAGES SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR 10% OF THEIR PORTION OF THE STUDY AMOUNT (\$2,500).

EACH MUNICIPALITY RESERVES ITS RIGHTS BUT WILL WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND PLANNING DATES TO FACILITATE THE STUDY.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mayor Blundell wanted to make clear about the portion in the resolution which states, "... for the purposes of exploring the options of shared or consolidated highway services ..." We are not stating we are doing it, we just want to look at options of sharing.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to accept resolution; Trustee Norris seconded.

Trustee Trapp inquired as to whether it is grant money or reimbursable, wants to know how it works. Mayor Blundell advised that it is true grant money.

Roll call vote: Mayor Blundell – aye; Trustee Trapp – abstain; Trustee Norris – aye; Trustee Zacharzuk – aye.

Mayor Blundell continued the meeting with budget discussions. He wanted to point out a minor correction made to the budget – not substantial to the policy side of it. The first line – tax levy line, real property tax, increase/decrease column, the number should read \$34,926.00. Assessment number went down a little bit which means property assessments dropped – outside of our control. Take \$6.09 minus the old levy of \$5.83 – \$0.26 divided by the old levy – rate increase of 4.45% on the levy. Mayor Blundell brought this up because the Board had the tentative budget in on March 15th as required and next week he is meeting with Dutchess County Workers' Comp pool people – March 27th. We can change this by rule, but have to do it by resolution. April 8th is the budget public hearing which has been noticed in the papers. On that same day we may vote on the cap override law, the tax 2% cap override documentation was given to the board for proper notice and aging. By rule when we do a local law, and a tax override falls into a local law categorization, we have to put something on the Trustees' desk, just so they have it, in a blank format. We have the budget public hearing at 7:00 p.m., talk about the local law, vote on it and then later in the main meeting we vote on the budget. Mayor Blundell feels that we will not get below 2% and wanted to have the local law prepared and ready. The local law is not something that is to be voted on tonight, but it needed to be distributed to the Board members prior to the April 8th public hearing on the budget.

So far, Dutchess County Workers' Comp has given a very positive signal. They like us as a risk, they can place us in the pool – question as to what the rate is going to be. Mayor Blundell went back to the budget stating that it had been gone over carefully and any changes have been looked at. He noted that the Board took out a fair amount of Court revenue. He is waiting to hear about the outcome of the State budget – may need to adjust the Court line again.

Trustee Zacharzuk inquired as to whether the Town of Red Hook and the Village of Tivoli are entering into the Dutchess County Workers' Comp pool. Mayor Blundell has not heard.

Trustee Trapp pointed out two typos. One is under Police Contractual Expenses (A3120-41) – equipment is spelled incorrectly. The other one is under Maintenance of Streets (A5110.46) – line for catch basins – catch is spelled incorrectly. Trustee Norris questioned line for election expenses. Mayor Blundell explained that one is for the election inspectors and the other is for meals for them. It was also thought that they may possibly need to pay for the machine (thought that they may need to use the scanning machine). This amount will be brought forward if not used.

Mayor Blundell expects to hear back from Dutchess County Workers' Comp regarding the pool by the end of the month.

Mayor Blundell continued the meeting to discuss Code 200-41 – Sculpture Show. RHCAN is looking to place sculpture exhibits on private and public property beginning in June and continuing through November. According to Mayor Blundell, after looking at the zoning – Section 200-41 – Temporary Structures, essentially a sculpture is a temporary structure. Mayor Blundell feels that the arts are helpful to the Village. Technically, the zoning law does not like a temporary structure. Mayor Blundell is looking to see if a section could be made in the Code,

similar to the section regarding Yard Sales, which would require an organization to approach the Village Board for a permit (for a fee) to place a sculpture. The Mayor would also like for the organization to then approach the Planning Board to discuss issues regarding the size, site plan safety, etc. This is something that would need to be made doable, yet regulated. Nothing is going to be voted on tonight – just discussion. This matter would need to be a local law event. Mayor Blundell advised that he had spoken with Dutchess County Planning who came up with the special permit idea. Questions arose regarding liability. Issues to be discussed included: traffic, safety, size of the structure, permit, temporary display – time frame. We would not want something to be displayed for a long time. Perhaps 90 days, 120, days, now through Hardscrabble Day, etc. It was also brought up that care needed to be taken with respect to trying to define art.

Mayor Blundell brought the discussion to the next item on the agenda, Code 200-10, 200-16 and 200-5 (definition of drive in). This is in regard to the proposed move of CVS – buying, demolishing the IGA building and building a new store there. Their initial proposed plan includes a drive in prescription dispensary. According to the Village Code, the definition of drive in includes outdoor theaters, refreshment stands and banks. Deposit and pick-up services are not drive in, per our definition in the code. Then under Section 200-16 (Site Plan Approval/Review) the following: Drive up windows shall not be permitted except for financial institutions. According to the Code, the drive in proposed by CVS is not defined as a drive-in but then other wording seems to indicate it is not allowed. The matter needs to be addressed on the code level. A use variance would need to be applied for, however it is a very difficult variance to obtain. The applicant would need to pass all of the tests. Purchasing the site, while knowing that the proposed drive in is not allowed, would constitute a self created hardship. A use variance would not work.

Mayor Blundell does not want to lose CVS because of differing opinions and the Code's definition of drive in and would like to codify some way to clean this up. He will forward to the planning attorneys in order that they may review clean up the technical way of drive in.

Mayor Blundell then moved the meeting into Executive Session for collective bargaining discussions at 8:23 p.m. Trustee Norris seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Blundell moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. Trustee Norris seconded. All in favor.

Trustee Norris motioned to close the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Trustee Zacharzuk seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by,

Doris Balacic-Scheuing
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Secretary