

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 18, 2013
7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris, Trustee Zacharzuk, Severn-Trent (Dale Post, Senior Area Manager; Mike, Area Manager and Fernando, Project Manager) and Sarah Imboden, Reporter (Red Hook Observer)

Absent: Clerk Cole

Mayor Blundell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with discussion of the Water Operator position and introduced Dale, Mike and Fernando from Severn-Trent (office in Carmel, NY). Mayor Blundell reminded the Board that C.T. Male is only handling the position of Water Operator on a temporary basis until May 31, 2013. He would like to get someone on board between now and the end of May, 2013. The Village has two phases to the water operation. Phase I is the day-to-day operator checking the pumps, etc., and Phase II is the "out-in-the-street" repairs. Severn Trent has a vast skill set and protocol set which Mayor Blundell feels we are a little slack in these areas. Mayor Blundell had previously met with the members of Severn-Trent and wanted them to meet the rest of the Board. After introductions, Dale Post gave bios and passed out a booklet regarding the company. Dale discussed their operation and what items they cover as Water Operator: under Phase I, they offer 24 hour emergency service; check the plant every day; take monthly samples which they would submit to the Village and the Department of Health; prepare the annual Water Quality Report; etc. They would use local contractors and are up-to-date on all Dutchess County laws. They agreed to match the existing rate paid A.W. Coon and temporary successor C.T. Male. After their presentation, the members of Severn-Trent left and further discussions were had regarding preparation of an RFP. Mayor Blundell stated that the position of Water Operator is a professional position and not necessarily subject to a bid rule. The people have to be skilled and certified. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik would like to see comparative costs with other companies who have expressed interest. He emphasized that an RFP should be done, otherwise, when a Federal funded project is being undertaken, the Village may not get reimbursed for whatever work was done by the Water Operator. He experienced this through the sidewalk project – the reason was due to not following procurement policy – an RFP never having been done for our long tenured water operator and maintenance firm. While it is not necessary to do in order to fill the position, it should be done in order for the Village to be reimbursed for any work done on funded projects (Federal, State or County). Mayor Blundell was inquiring as to the cost of an RFP being prepared and who should do it. Trustee Trapp indicated he would draft an RFP. It was agreed that an RFP will be prepared.

The meeting continued with review of the 2013-14 Budget. Discussions were had regarding the \$5,000.00 diminishment in the court office line. Trustee Trapp stated that due to the elimination of one of the court nights there should not be much prep time needed anymore,

etc. Court was objecting to the diminishment, but Board agreed that there should be no change to the amount.

The County has committed giving the Village the work comp program, however, nothing has been received in writing. Mayor Blundell and the Board are not ready to vote on the budget until the comp matter is resolved. Discussion continued with police grant lines. Under income, inserted into A2260, A2260c \$3,000.00 grant money (STEP and BUNY) and inserted into A2261a \$4,000.00 grant money (school activities). Under expense, A3120.11c – school activities, \$4,000.00 and A3120.11g - \$3,000.00. Mayor Blundell made a motion to have both amounts logged in as revenue, then logged them out as expenses. Trustee Trapp seconded. All in favor. Mayor Blundell scheduled a short meeting for Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to approve the budget.

Mayor Blundell advised that another mandatory NYMIR Workforce Training Session has been scheduled for Tuesday April 30, 2013 from noon to 2:00 p.m. for all employees. Pizza from Two Boots will be served and all staff and appointed/elected members have been advised.

Meeting continued with the discussion of Item No. 3 on the agenda – Sculpture Show – Code Insert Options. RHCAN will be conducting a sculpture show in the coming months. The idea is to have sculptures displayed on the lawns of private businesses and public places. This is something which is currently not in compliance with the Village's zoning law. A local law would need to be done in order to allow for the display of sculptures. Mayor Blundell had drafted an insert for the Code. Revisions were made by Trustee Trapp and Deputy Mayor Kovalchik. Lengthy discussion followed regarding language to be used and where we needed to be careful with respect to exceptions. Trustee Trapp recommended looking at other municipalities who have this and see what language they used. The big issue that the Village is concerned with is liability. We need to make sure all liabilities are assumed by the applicant, put the burden on the artists. Some insurance information should also be added to the insert. Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik and Jay Trapp like the idea of the sculptures and would like to see it work. The insert will continue to be worked on and submitted to the Village Attorney for review.

Mayor Blundell brought the discussion to the new water meters and their installation. There have been concerns from residents about allowing the workers to come in. One resident inquired as to whether the workers had been fingerprinted and if their fingerprints were on file. Mayor Blundell discussed this issue with the Village Attorney. What can be done if the residents will not permit the workers inside their home? Village Attorney stated that the water could be turned off. The Village Board does not like that option, but will keep it. Otherwise the Code would need to be revised to add a provision such as resident must pay \$250.00 if worker is not allowed in within 60 days or something to that effect. Another possibility would be to have someone present from the Highway Department as well, may feel comfortable with a familiar face. Mayor Blundell will look at Code further.

Surplus Land – Firehouse Lane: Mayor Blundell stated that he was approached by someone inquiring to purchase the vacant parcel of land on Firehouse Lane, or be given a right-of-way. There was a question as to who owns the land. Originally, it was the Village, but Deputy Mayor Kovalchik stated that there was an abandonment clause and the property reverted back to the Church. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik will look for the documentation and provide it to the Board.

Central Hudson/Fortis Merger: There is a buyout taking place between Central Hudson and Fortis, a Canadian company. Different municipalities have taken a formal stance. Mayor Blundell does not want to wait for the May meeting, but write a formal letter to the Public Service Commission to consider a variety of points, etc. The Village has a strong personal and local relationship with Central Hudson. Mayor Blundell would like to ask the PSC to consider all of the negative modifications a merger would cause and objections, etc. Members of the Board are not comfortable with the merger. Mayor Blundell agreed to send a letter on behalf of the Village.

The Village Board received a letter from Church Street Community Nursery School requesting that Church Street be blocked off during Apple Blossom Day, May 11th. Board is in favor of blocking off Church Street for that date.

Code Revisions – Noise: Mayor Blundell has been receiving complaints regarding trucks at UBS making noise at 6:30 a.m., Welsh garbage trucks making noise at 5:30 a.m., and barking dogs. Village Attorney recommends staying away from decibel meters and instead use the word “reasonable”. A draft law was circulated from adjoining municipality for text review and future action.

Mayor Blundell made a motion at 9:41 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for collective bargaining discussions. Trustee Trapp seconded. All in favor.

10:30 p.m. Mayor Blundell made a motion to end Executive Session; Trustee Trapp seconded. All in favor.

10:30 p.m. Mayor Blundell made a motion to end the meeting; Deputy Mayor Kovalchik seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by,

Doris Balacic-Scheuing

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Secretary