

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
WORKSHOP MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2013
7:15 PM**

Present: Mayor Blundell, DM Kovalchik, Trustee Norris, Trustee Zacharzuk, and Sam (The Observer).
Absent: Trustee Trapp and Clerk Cole.

Mayor Blundell opened the workshop meeting at 7:15 PM with the announcement of Red Hook Halloween being held on Saturday, October 26th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Trustee Norris made a note to make sure it is placed in the paper.

Used Truck – Town – Mayor Blundell began the discussion about a used truck that the Town of Red Hook owns. The Town has the pick-up truck for sale for the amount of \$3,500.00. The Village Highway Department has expressed interest in buying it. Mayor Blundell stated that now that the Highway Department is doing more water work, the truck could be useful for them. The deal sounds good. The Town is going to hold it until after tonight's workshop meeting. Mayor Blundell would like to offer \$3,500.00 and also look for a tool box to attach. A Village of Red Hook decal will also be needed for the truck. Mayor Blundell estimates about \$1,000.00 for a tool box. Cost will be shared between Highway Capital and Water. Mayor Blundell made a motion to offer the Town of Red Hook \$3,500.00 for the used pick-up truck, to be allocated 50% Highway and 50% Water. Trustee Zacharzuk seconded. All in favor.

Backhoe Discussion – Mayor Blundell began the discussion about leasing a backhoe for the Village Highway Department. Highway Foreman Streib thinks that the current backhoe is going to break down any day. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik stated that the backhoe is used quite a bit. He went on to discuss the lease option which would be an annual payment of \$13,000.00 for five years with trade-in. Mayor Blundell stated that the Village may receive the County Shared Services Grant for the Highway Department. The three municipalities currently have three backhoes and Mayor Blundell thinks that it does not make sense to purchase one more now. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik advised that a new backhoe costs \$74,336.00. Trustee Norris' concern was regarding the fact that the backhoe should last more than the five years on the current one. Mayor Blundell agreed, said that it should last longer than seven years. Board reminded of need to think about tax cap, shared services pending, etc. Mayor Blundell stated that the backhoe is currently used primarily for brush pick-up. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik stated that it is also used in winter to clean catch basins. Mayor Blundell thinks that if we are going to be sharing more that it does not make sense to buy one. Trustee Zacharzuk asked if the backhoe will be used more with the additional water work. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik stated that it will. He also stated that we need to consider keeping an eye on rotating the equipment. Mayor Blundell stated that it is our intention but not in our budget right now.

Moratorium – Zoning Code Edits – Time Line – Mayor Blundell began the discussion stating that they have six months for the moratorium. He wants to shorten it by getting the work done quickly. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik continued the discussion by stating that he and Trustee Trapp have been looking at certain things in the Pattern Book regarding the General Business District. The items they have been looking at are drive-throughs in walkable communities - safety issues and traffic concerns with respect to same; parking upgrades – not number of lots, but quality of lots; off-street issues – loading docks, snow storage; increase in amount of lot coverage; bulk regulations; drainage. At the end of the current Zoning Law, they are also looking at removing all of the diagrams except for diagram 10. This is not going to be a full blown reworking of the

General Business District. Public hearings will be required. Mayor Blundell stated that the Board passed the moratorium in September and he would like to start setting public hearings in November – have it be finished in December.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik stated that the current Zoning Code is not healthy. There are a lot of gray areas which causes concern for the Zoning Enforcement Officer in making decisions. Mayor Blundell stated that he will give Deputy Mayor Kovalchik and Trustee Trapp the weekend to work over the document again. He will have a notice put in the paper for a mini-workshop which will focus only on this. Mayor Blundell advised the Board to pencil in the date of October 24th at 7:15 pm if we can get proper notice out.

Senior Tax Code – Mayor Blundell turned the discussion to the senior tax code. According to the Town Assessor there are approximately 30-35 residents who take the tax exemption. They do not qualify for it every year – need to re-submit income documents annually. Mayor Blundell read aloud the applicable section and scale in the Code. The tax exemption was enabled by the State and the Village allowed/adopted it in 1993, amended it in 1999 and did a resolution in 2005. The Village Code states one thing, but we do not know what values the Assessor is using. Mayor Blundell is looking at creating a tri-fold pamphlet similar to one he found for another village describing in detail the tax exemption and also providing a scale. He would also like to place this on-line. Mayor Blundell is checking with Village Attorney Olson on the matter. The Board would need to redo the Local Law and make a provision so that any future changes can be made by resolution. Trustee Zacharzuk stated that in order to get the senior water rate, a resident must be 62 years old, the other section in the Code regarding the tax exemption states that a resident must be 65 years old – both sections should be consistent. Mayor Blundell stated that he is going to be meeting with the Assessor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – REAL ESTATE – 8:43 PM

Trustee Zacharzuk made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Trustee Norris seconded. All in favor.

Mayor Blundell made a motion for authorization to negotiate on the parking lot in increments up to \$65,000.00. Trustee Zacharzuk seconded. All in favor.

9:27 PM – Deputy Mayor Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the workshop. Trustee Zacharzuk seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by,

Doris Balacic-Scheuing
Secretary