

**Village of Red Hook
October 17, 2019
Workshop Meeting
7PM**

Motion to open meeting 7PM

Present: Mayor Blundell, DM Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris, Trustee Lang, Secretary Larissa DeLango

Credit Card/On-line Payment Research

Heartland Billing Solutions

Representative Amy Byrne from Heartland, was present to inform the Board on how Heartland can assist in credit card processing for the village. Mayor Blundell reiterated a prior conversation pertaining to the use of a credit card system to pay for garbage tags, water bills and tax payments through website and on-site. Payments could be processed through Heartland. A web link will provide Heartland to access customer payments. Village clerk's office would receive a report from Heartland to assist us in updating our paid records. Board requested clarity on how clerk's office receives information. Mayor Blundell and representative Amy Byrne are awaiting word from Municipality for verification of a possible link from their software. Merchant guidelines differ for a municipality versus a retail store and fees would vary depending on credit card used. Municipalities are not able to reduce the bill by the fee; they have to apply this fee to customers as either a service or convenience fee. In house terminal payments could be an exception for garbage tags but would require a purchase cost and swipe fee paid by Village. The terminal would be hard wired to existing cable/phone line. In person payments cannot be charged a convenience/service fee. Interchange rate for different cards vary, that charge passes to the municipality. Customers will be alerted when paying Village bills from home that they will incur a charge. Board opinions varied on whether or not customers would utilize this service. Amy Byrne informed Board that it is an option to start out with just one or two types of services to see if it fits Village needs. Credit card payment options are also being explored through different companies.

Solar Project Update - Power Connection

Community solar project has been working with Central Hudson on interconnecting the solar array with the existing power lines. Original approved Site Plan displayed the interconnection by the Town highway garage. Central Hudson conducted a detailed design layout for the utility poles. Portions of the electrical equipment would cross over private property; an aerial easement would be required for completion. Property owners are non-responsive to request for easement. Other options were explored through Suncommon. Modified plans were displayed to the Board. New utility poles would be placed south of the highway garage. There will be an underground connection from last pole to the arrays. Suncommon is looking for the Site Plan to be re-endorsed. SEQR findings will not be changed and there will not be a change in cost. Suncommon identifies this as a modification not an amended Site Plan. DM Kovalchik questioned the availability of the service road that contains existing underground utilities. Suncommon discussed concerns of creating physical conflicts with the existing utilities. Suncommon reviewed the

area in which the new poles will be placed. Board will get assurances that height and sagging of wires along with placement of wires in vicinity of highway garage will be fine and talk to Highway Foreman. Each pole contains equipment that will allow shut off of array. Board discussed safety precautions of pole fall zones and that looked fine. Existing and abandoned wells around the area were identified and will need to be reviewed by Suncommon. Building permits were pulled by Suncommon when approvals were given. Landscaping and screening have been installed. Racking will begin later this month. Interconnection of the array will need to be installed prior to end of the year due to a financial tie that expires at year end. Re-endorsement will be considered and may be voted upon at next meeting on November 4, 2019.

Discussion of other matters:

Insurance matters and costs were discussed. Police training regarding EVOC classes will be offered to officers.

Icy sidewalks on the north side of Village Hall need attention. We spent time and money creating downspouts that push water to a new buried pie and collector. Some icing still occurs, caused by leaking gutters corner connections will need to be addressed. Options and various products of how to rectify situation were discussed. Steps will be taken before winter.

A letter was submitted to Village Board by D. Wheeler regarding neighboring property. The Board will respond via a letter by Blundell; namely contents of the letter will be directed to the Building Department.

R. Flores will be attending a scheduled water meeting on Friday to assist in outstanding water work orders and meters. An existing property in village that utilized well water will need to be re-assessed in where it stands with tapping into Village water. Technology of meter reader may need to be upgraded.

Board discussed sign violations. Approvals are given through PB for proper signage throughout Village. Discussion of violations versus fragile business district continued. Zoning Review Committee is in the process of reviewing and revising the sign code regulations. Code Enforcement would be the leading entity in sign violations. Gary Beck has been informed and has been directed to review complaint.

The Comptroller response letter for NYS was circulated. The Village has the opportunity to respond to the auditor's recommendations. Mayor Blundell reviewed his responses for Board. Professional services utilized by Village were discussed within the auditor's recommendations. Position of Board is that professional services are thoroughly vetted prior to approval. Mayor Blundell continued discussion regarding the auditor's responses.

The ZRC will be submitting phase 1 of the rezoning map without attached text. Specific provisions were discussed with Board.

Motion to adjourn by DM Kovalchik and seconded by Trustee Trapp. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

