

**Village of Red Hook  
Monthly Board Meeting (ZOOM)  
May 11, 2020  
7 PM**

Present: Mayor Blundell, DM Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris, Trustee Laing, Clerk/Treasurer Chiarella. Ray Towle

Mayor Blundell opened the Zoom meeting at 7 pm stating the meeting was being held in accord with Executive Order 202.1, in virtual/remote format with notice and access to the public. As part of the remote meeting opening, a moment of silence was allowed to honor essential workers, first responders and those who have passed away from Covid19.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to approve minutes from April 16<sup>th</sup>. DM Kovalchik seconded this motion. All were in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Submitted by Treasurer Chiarella

ACCOUNT BALANCES

GENERAL FUND	\$ 471,324.24
WATER FUND	\$ 52,343.89
TRUST & AGENCY	\$ 18,436.91
PETTY CASH	\$ 71.36
VILLAGE GREEN	\$ 4,149.92
HARDSCRABBLE	\$ 4,243.11
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$ 9,321.40
SEWER FUND	\$ 30,260.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 00.00

RESERVE CHECKING BALANCES

FIRE DEPARTMENT (M&T)	\$ 5,022.24
POLICE (M&T)	\$ 14,553.00
USDA (M&T)	\$ 110,512.89
HIGHWAY (M&T)	\$ 20,740.98
SNOW RESERVE (M&T)	\$ 3,241.71
TOWER RESERVE (M&T)	\$ 17,702.09
UNEMPLOYMENT (M&T)	\$ 4,528.35
COURT RESERVE (M&T)	\$ 3,283.34
OFFICE RESERVE (M&T)	\$ 958.28

## MONTHLY EXPENSES

GENERAL FUND	\$ 93,311.25
WATER FUND	\$ 88,438.67
TRUST & AGENCY	\$ 18,436.91
SEWER	\$ 00.00

Mayor Blundell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as submitted.

Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell noted that during voucher review there needs to be a fund transfer of \$ 1,737.50, marked to be paid by USDA Reserve.

### **POLICE**

	Town	Village Red Hook	Village Tivoli
Incidents 426	108	314	4
UTT's 6	1	5	
Arrests 3		3	

Judge Triebwasser was on the meeting and stated traffic tickets are down due to low traffic.

### **PLANNING/ZONING**

Building Permits – 3

Certificates of Occupancy – 0

Certificates of Compliance – 1

Municipal Searches – 3

Complaints – 4

No Inspections due to Covid-19

\$ 2,126.13 was collected in fees.

### **WATER**

- During the month of April, the water treatment facility treated 7,008,800 total gallons which is an average of 233,600 gallons per day.
- All bacteriological samples for the month were collected and transported to Smith Environmental Laboratory, Hyde Park NY.

- During the month of April, the water treatment plant used 71 gallons of sodium hypochlorite. The average daily use was 2.37 gallons per day.
- Trustee Laing and the Mayor discussed discussed water consumption is remaining in that 240,000 gpd range. We were curious about consumption with more people home and business using less. Our water operator is calibrating and testing the main meter to see if it should be replaced.

• Tradition has their 1<sup>st</sup> occupant. DCWW is taking over as our customer there for the next quarterly reading/billing.

## **MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

We sold \$4,011 in garbage tags and paid out \$794.66 in tipping fees. We had 7.33 tons of garbage and 2.89 tons of recycling: 1.41 tons of commingled, 1.04 tons of newspaper and .44 tons of cardboard. Garbage tags will continue to be sold: please mail a check to the village hall and we will mail the garbage tags back to you to avoid physical contact. If you mail a check and order 10 tags, we will give you 2 more tags free. If the transaction is done in office, you will receive one free tag for every 10 purchased.

### **Hardscrabble Committee Announcement**

“For many years, the Village of Red Hook and its wonderful sponsors helped bring life and energy to our village with the annual Hardscrabble Day Festival. A key goal of our committee continues to be to provide you all with free, world-class music and other entertainment to attract folks to Red Hook and its businesses. It is all about celebrating our wonderful community with a full day of music, children’s events, vendors, and a themed parade.

The Hardscrabble Day Planning Committee has decided to postpone Hardscrabble Day 2020. It would not be prudent for us to sign large band contracts or other entertainment contracts in the face of the uncertainty and social distancing requirements of the COVID 19 pandemic. Right now, with the economy in peril, we must support each other and our businesses, but a large community celebration is not the best option.

Health and safety rules will be in place for the foreseeable future, and it does not seem with the new restrictions that a street festival can happen. Additionally, the committee feels that engaging in the fundraising efforts necessary to put on Hardscrabble Day, at this time is not feasible. We all thought that we concentrate on our local community resources such as Red Hook Responds, a volunteer organization that assists with grocery shopping, meal deliveries, medication pickups and deliveries, and friendly check-ins for those who need it. We intend to bring back Hardscrabble Day in September 2021. In the interim, we will look for opportunities to hold an alternative celebration, such as a Red Hook Block Party, if things change later in the year.

Please help us highlight, from the past Hardscrabble Days, photos of local vendors and musicians for our Facebook page and website. If you would like your information to be shared, please email [info@redhookvillage.org](mailto:info@redhookvillage.org) with the attention, Hardscrabble

Committee. With your help, we can create a virtual Hardscrabble Day and celebrate the energy and community our festival has had for over forty years!

We want to thank the many sponsors and contributors to prior Hardscrabble Day events and look forward to September 2021 and our famous, but not forgotten, community celebration! Stay safe, and please remember to eat and shop local!"

Judge Triebwasser announced on May 6<sup>th</sup> court clerks will be able to go back into the office one at a time. This will enable the clerks to continue to move payments along which in return will bring in revenue for the Village. Currently they are 2 months behind. It has been proposed that criminal court be done by mail.

### **RESOLUTION 13-2020**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Red Hook recognizes that the current COVID 19 pandemic is creating significant financial hardship for the residential and commercial property owners of the Village of Red Hook, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has the power pursuant to Real Property Tax Law §1434 to provide for the payment of Village Taxes in installments, but with limitations beyond our control, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby resolves to set the collection of Village Taxes as follows:

- A. On and after the adoption of this resolution the Village real property taxes may be paid in two (2) installments of approximately equal amounts.
- B. The taxpayer is not obligated to pay by installment and may pay the entire tax bill in whole by July 1 without penalty or interest.
- C. If any installment is not paid on or before the date it is due, additional interest shall be added as provided by §§1432 and 924-a of the Real Property Tax Law for each month or part thereof until paid. No such installment may be paid unless all prior installments, including interest shall have been paid or shall be paid at the same time.
- D. If paying by installment, the first installment shall be due and payable to the Village Treasurer no later than July 1, with no interest. Failure or neglect by an owner of real property to pay the first installment on time as herein provided shall be construed as an election to pay the total amount of taxes in one payment in the manner provided by law, and shall thereby disqualify the taxpayer from the installment payment option. Such failure and neglect to pay timely will result in the standard interest, penalties and other charges set forth in the Real Property Tax Law.
- E. The second installment shall be due and payable to the Village Treasurer on or before

September 1. Failure or neglect to make this second installment payment timely will result in the standard interest, penalties and other charges set forth in the Real Property Tax Law.

F. Taxes which are paid through a real property tax escrow account may not be paid in installments.

G. Unless renewed this resolution shall apply only to the 2020-2021 tax year.

Roll Call

Blundell AYE:  NAY:

Laing AYE:  NAY:

Kovalchik AYE:  NAY:

Norris AYE:  NAY:

Trapp AYE:  NAY:

Trustee Trapp read Resolution 13, 2020.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to approve Resolution 13-2020. Trustee Trapp seconded this motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell will draft a letter explaining tax payment options to be inserted into tax bills.

DM Kovalchik read Tree City USA Proclamation

April 24, 2020 was Arbor Day

The Village has been a member of Tree City USA for 20 years.

DM Kovalchik stated Central Hudson cut great trees. The Village was notified prior.

Mayor Blundell stated soon the water department will flush hydrants. Notice will be posted.

The Board had general discussion about the new normal and covid19 operations. Plus, Clerk/Treasurer Chiarella will be retiring June 26<sup>th</sup>. William Ray Towle will be taking on the Treasurer's role. Training had begun to utilize remote access on computers, phone conferences and eventual face -to face meetings. The Board has agreed that going forward Village Hall will be open from 11 am to 4 pm with continued locked door/intercom based communications. After Chiarella's last day we will use a schedule that keeps the 11-4 office presence with access dependent on re-opening phases of Covid19. Courts and other departments will be receiving guidance as time and recovery continues.

Red Hook Police contract will expire May 31<sup>st</sup>. Negotiations have been affected since we cannot meet in person but they are in progress.

AWQR (Annual Water Quality Report) has been completed and mailed to all water users.

Sewer – EFC – Phase II will soon be up for discussion.  
Sewer progress is moving along, SPDES permits have been approved.

On Line Payments should be up and running by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Pearson

- Regarding PFOA/s in the sampling two years ago. He was a fireman and recalls a foam test some years ago at the firehouse and one well is close to the Fire House. Mayor Blundell indicated that a first reaction back at findings was to contact the fire company and he was advised they do not use or train on foam. The level detected in the samples are far below current limits and none are found in our finished water. We are reviewing options and further analysis steps are underway.
- He'd like crosswalks at CVS – DM Kovalchik stated we are always seeking more walkability. Mayor Blundell pointed out we've examined a lot of North Broadway options but there are limited spaces that are able to meet ADA and also be safe.
- Speeding on Park Ave. Speed trailer was there for short time. Can it go back ? Yes, we will get it back there.

Pearson (Planning Board member) indicated some members circulated a sign violation complaint about internally lit signs to the village and wondered why no action yet. Blundell indicated that the PB is an administrative body; and the complaint was made in the pre-holiday timeframe when these businesses need to be known to be open to drivers. There was no certainty the list was all-inclusive. And, our Zoning Review Committee is working on revising the "open" sign options. Blundell pointed out that our street businesses, like all retail, are extremely weakened by competition and now covid19 related closings and limitations.

- Mr. Pearson recommends the highway department not prune any trees/bushes in any Village parks. They don't know how to prune. Mr. Pearson will do the job. Mayor Blundell pointed out that our staff knows what they are doing and will continue.

9 PM DM Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Blundell seconded this motion. All were in favor.

Submitted by

Cynthia Chiarella  
Clerk/Treasurer