

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK VILLAGE BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
VIA RING CENTRAL
April 29, 2021**

Present: Mayor Edward Blundell, Deputy Mayor Bent Kovalchik, Trustee Charlie Laing, Trustee William Noonan, Trustee Melkorka Kjarval and Village Clerk Lara Hart.

Victoria Polidoro, Village Attorney was present.

Mayor Blundell welcomed all and opened the Special meeting at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Blundell did a roll call for attendance.

Blundell – present

Kovalchik – present

Laing – present

Noonan – present

Kjarval – present

Mayor Blundell began discussions with the update on funding for the sewer project. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik advised originally we were funded 3.7 million dollars in a loan from USDA plus a 1.2 million dollar grant – since that time we have received a \$925,000 water infrastructure improvement grant.

Mayor Blundell shared a screen for all present to view “Estimated Project Costs”.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik advised we received good news in that not only can we keep the \$925,000.00 but in addition we will get 1.2 million grant from the USDA and the short term will be financed by EFC at 0% interest. The Board congratulated both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor advised we will have to close one more time and that the USDA will release money per Resolution and Secretary Hart will do the mailings. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik advised once the project is in the ground we can move on to Phase II, but if we have surplus capacity in the tank and they are in the service sewer area, such as a restaurant coming in, the more users and the more benefitted/ dwelling units will add to the deducted amount from the capital cost.

Trustee Laing asked if this would be re-calculated once a year or when there is an event. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said they will re-look at assessments of water usage and will look at the language in the Sewer use Law which states there will be a periodic review of assessments.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik advised that they did get an email from Kathryn Serra, who advised they did get a response from Lee Velchin, with the Dutchess County Department of Health, that they do not review the budget.

Mayor Blundell reviewed proposed Resolution #12-2021 and asked Attorney Polidoro for clarification of the last WHEREAS paragraph. Attorney Polidoro said it could be changed to remove the dollar amount. Mayor Blundell agreed. Attorney Polidoro advised she will prepare the Notice of Public Hearing.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to adopt Resolution #12-2021. Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Kovalchik.

ROLL CALL:

Blundell – yes

Kovalchik – yes

Laing – yes

Noonan –yes

Kjarval – yes

All in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Blundell announced that he will be relocating and moving out of Red Hook and retiring as Mayor and will be submitting his letter of resignation which will take effect on May 21, 2021.

Mayor Blundell said he would be willing to offer his services to help with the transition and proposed being appointed by the Board.

Mayor Blundell said the regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 10th and another special meeting on Monday, May 17th.

Mayor Blundell advised the remainder of the meeting will continue being hosted by Clerk Hart and run by Deputy Mayor Kovalchik. Mayor Blundell left the meeting at 7:30pm.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik announced we are here for the appointment of an interim Mayor designee and that the interim Mayor will take office at 12:01pm on May 21, 2021. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik read from New York State Municipal Law for Villages Section 3-312 and advised that Red Hook Village legal counsel has also been consulted in the procedure.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said that in consulting with Village Attorney he suggested it would be good for someone on the Board to step up as interim Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik asked each Board member, on record, on appointment of interim Mayor:

Trustee Laing – has had many discussions since Ed’s announcement but declined.

Trustee Noonan – declined due to being relatively new to the Board and health considerations.

Trustee Kjarval – declined due to being a new Trustee and excited for work to be done as a new Trustee.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik – declined due to full time employment in another State and feels that the Village needs someone in constant communication at the helm.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik advised that 2 people have stepped up to this transition, but one had to decline due to issues with employment with the State and unable to get clearance in time; and the second person being Karen Smythe, who is present this evening.

Karen Smythe introduced herself at this time and spoke with the Board.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said since there is only one person, an no need to deliberate further, he would like to do a Vote with the Board on the appointment of Karen Smythe as interim Mayor to take office effective May 21, 2021 at 12:01pm.

Laing – yes
Noonan – yes
Kjarval – yes
Kovalchik – yes

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik and the Board congratulated Karen Smythe on her appointment. Karen Smythe said she looks forward to working with all.

Deputy Mayor advised 2nd part of this meeting is to discuss the transition of office and asked the Board to enter into executive session and read Open Meetings Law Article 7 Section 104.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Motion seconded by Trustee Laing. All in favor.

Board entered into Executive Session. Clark Hart ended recording at this time. All persons present outside of Village Board left the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik made a motion to end Executive Session at 8:02pm. Motion seconded by Trustee Laing. All in favor.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said as a result of executive session this Board has determined that Mayor Ed Blundell upon leaving office will continue with the Village as a member of the transition team and will be available to answer questions of the interim Mayor on an as needed basis, and Village will coordinate with IT in obtaining all of his information to share with new interim Mayor.

Trustee Melkorka said she sent an email which she would like to discuss. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said this is a special meeting and can be addressed at the Board meeting when we have a full board. Trustee Kjarval said it can be discussed later but said she was surprised at what she learned in the email and asked if the Board knew about this and approved this. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said he would like a full board to discuss this and can be added to the next agenda for May 10th.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the April 29, 2021 Village Board Special Meeting at 8:05pm. Motion seconded by Trustee Laing. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Lara Hart
Village Clerk