

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
SPECIAL MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING
VIA RING CENTRAL
May 17, 2021**

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

Mayor Blundell opened the meeting at 7:00pm and announced meeting is held in compliance with Open Meetings Law per Executive Orders 202.1 and continuing orders. Mayor Blundell advised that meeting has been noticed and complies with Executive Orders.

Mayor Blundell announced tonight's meeting is for the Red Hook Sewer Project and that notice has been sent to the press and all service area users.

Mayor Blundell said we will follow public hearing protocol and advised that Village IT Admin., Chris Donohue, was present to help with anyone who would like to make comment. Mayor Blundell went over public hearing protocol and that no member of the public is permitted to address the Village Board during a meeting or public hearing unless recognized by the Mayor and asks that all person speaking will be given respect and courtesy and in return are expected to be respectful and courteous; the use of profane language/slander or personal remarks and bothersome conduct including hand clapping is not acceptable and any person speaking to the Board, with consent of the Mayor, shall address remarks to the Board and not to members of the audience for a debate.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the 2021 Sewer Revised Apportionment Session. Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Kovalchik.

ROLL CALL:

Blundell – yes

Kovalchik - yes

Laing - yes

Noonan - yes

Kjarval - yes

Mayor Blundell said there is a quorum and that Mayor designee, Karen Smythe, is present.

Mayor Blundell said IT Admin., Chris Donohue is will assist the public in making comments. Mr. Donohue advised that persons wishing to speak to hit the "raised hand button" under participants. Mayor Blundell said Mr. Donohue is now co-host and illustrated some facts: 12 participants at this time; we are looking to reintroduce and revisit the Apportionment process for the sewer project which means changes in the pricing and changes in funding; and everyone listed as a service area user – about 135 properties were notified by direct certified mail.

Mayor Blundell gave a brief update on the project regarding bids, grants and funding.

Kathryn Serra, Project Manager/Civil Engineer with CT Male was present and presented a power point:

“Amended Map/Plan & Report”

Project Introduction

- * project history
- * Importance
- * Revised Map, Plan and Report
- * original – May 2017
- * Revised April 2021 for project budget

Project Budget

Annual Cost

Budget Project Summary

Possible Construction Schedule

Kathryn Serra said if all goes as planned this evening the Board may consider awarding the contracts which starts the process of going into contract.

Power Point/Presentation ended at 7:22pm.

Mayor Blundell advised that the Village Board has already increased the bond amount of 8.5 million dollars and certain steps are needed including portions of tonight.

Mayor Blundell asked for public comment.

Mr. Donohue asked if anyone was interested in speaking. No persons at this time.

Mayor Blundell spoke on the project and how hard they have been working on this project and spoke on the bid opening and that the bids ranged from 6.8 million to 7.5 million and announced that Carver Construction was the low bidder as general contractor and Sausto Contracting was the low bidder for the electrical.

Kathryn Serra said the bid from Carver was the low bid and the market is saturated and will get worse with the investment act coming and bidding was done at the best possible time in 2021, and although higher than expected, they are good bids and good contractors.

Attorney Polidoro said the Urbins have their hand up to speak and wanted to remind everyone in the public that the purpose of the hearing tonight is not about the cost of the project but to make that the EDU's are being fairly apportioned between the different property owners.

Mayor Blundell said the Apportionment is based on the new cost of the project and there is no change in the project service area.

#1. Jeff & Lori Urbin – 53 E. Market Street, Red Hook (Village)

Lori Urbin spoke and said with the scope of the septic this is an astonishing high price and very difficult to hear and said that the biggest concern is they are potentially on the verge of the largest infrastructure program that the United States has ever seen so would could happen here is we could grant this incredibly outrageous bid at this price and then find out a year from now that we are getting a 2 trillion dollar infrastructure program that could provide a lot of additional money for what you are trying to do.

Ms. Urbin said this has been in the works forever and remembers canvassing door to door for the 4 million dollar deal that would have been awesome and 2 people intervened and torpedoed that, and horrific, and something that the Village is partly to blame for, as the word was not put out there, herself included, and people should have spoken out during that awesome deal and this could have been done, and her comment is how are we going to protect ourselves, once again having missed the first opportunity, from missing another awesome opportunity that could be available to us within a year. Ms. Urbin said everywhere in the news they are talking about an infrastructure project and asked why do we have to award over an 8 million dollars as opposed to waiting and seeing if we could potentially get more money.

Mayor Blundell said we are enabled to keep the 1.2 million dollar and 925,00 grant we had and are looking at every other option we have and found that if you have a shovel ready project you are in the way better shape than if still in a projective stage and our project is far more than shovel ready and we as a Board have committed to finding each and every source of potential funding and the catch is it is never going to get cheaper and the government will only give so much money and the project has to still be designed and built and we cannot beat 0% interest.

Mr. Donohue said he did not see any other hands raised. (7:35pm)

Mayor Blundell asked for any other public comment.

Deputy Mayor Blundell said both he and the Mayor have met with Congressman Delgado and the deals struck with both USDA and EFC (IT issues at this time and we could not hear DM Kovalchik) – Mr. Donohue asked DM Kovalchik to log out on one of his log-ins. Mayor Blundell said they have sat with Congressman Delgado and funding agencies and the current money out there can get lined up for whatever they might ask for when we get to major infrastructure, but right now they passed the American Rescue Plan but is not enough money, even if the public hears there is an allocation for infrastructure, in our case it is not big enough to deal with the level of this sewer project. DM Kovalchik said the way our funding is set up right now is 0% and keeping the door open for additional funding, which could reduce the capital cost and we continue to search for funding.

7:39pm - No further public comment. Showing 15 participants.

Mayor Blundell asked for Board comment. No comment (7:40pm)

Mayor Blundell made a Motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:41pm. 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 said the Map, Plan & Report is on the Village website.

Mayor Blundell said Resolution #13-2021 was prepared by special counsel. *Resolution to Adopt Final Revised Apportionment Municipal Sewer System – Phase I.*

Attorney Polidoro read the Resolution aloud.

Mayor Blundell made a Motion to adopt Resolution #13-2021. Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Kovalchik.

Mayor Blundell referenced page “1” where it mentions project cost increased from 4,900,000.00 to 8,500,000.00 – that those are gross outlier costs and the math and everything is contained in the components of the project and documents where it reflects the actual amount we are borrowing is reduced by different numbers and in the last paragraph we want to reinforce that we will look for any and all other sources and we got that commitment from the current funding agencies that we can do that. Deputy Mayor Kovalchik said they are continuing with looking at a State level for additional funding and are trying to bring the price down and that any further delay would only create a higher cost for everybody and this is an important project for the Village to move forward and also protect our drinking water supply. Mayor Blundell said EFC said we can right-size the project – meaning Whatever additional funding we get we can put it back; and it is a project that we ask ...can we reduce the scope, but it is designed and approved by the regulated and self-contained with the design off hinges upon the web and volume and something that we have to improve at the Village center and antiquated in some areas.

Trustee Noonan asked when talking about effort to increase the financing as we go further is that consistent with #3 (in the Therefore Be It Resolved paragraph). Mayor Blundell asked counsel to comment.

Attorney Polidoro advised this Apportionment is conclusive until such time as the Village Board amends it, but what is important is that you cannot go above the amount but you are always free to go below it, and so this is the worst case scenario, and if we get funding it will just reduce in a pro-rated fashion what each homeowner or lot owner will pay.

ROLL CALL:

Blundell – yes

Kovalchik – yes

Laing – yes

Noonan – yes

Kjarval – yes

All in favor. Motion approved.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik thanked everyone.

Mayor Blundell spoke on bid awarding and advised we are not in contract but are accepting and awarding bids.

Mayor Blundell said two Resolutions have been prepared by Kathryn Serra of CT Male. Resolutions #14 and #15 of 2021.

Mayor Blundell read aloud #14-2021.

RESOLUTION #14-2021

Whereas the Village of Red Hook duly advertised and received bids on February 26, 2021 for the Village of Red Hook Sewer Project- General Contract; and

Whereas, said bids were opened and recorded at 2 pm on February 26, then reviewed by the Village Engineer C.T. Male Associates

Whereas, the Village of Red Hook acknowledges Carver Construction, Inc. as qualified low bidder and the Engineer has reviewed the bids for accuracy and affirms that Carver Construction, Inc is a firm known by them to be responsible and capable of doing this job;

Whereas, The Village of Red Hook offers and awards the prime General Contract to Carver Construction, Inc based on their bid document;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Red Hook, awards Carver Construction, Inc the base bid for the General Contract of \$6,797,145.00.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to adopt Resolution #14-2021. 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 read aloud #15-2021 – Resolution to award bid to Sausto Contracting as Electrical Contract of \$441,947.00.

RESOLUTION #15-2021

Whereas the Village of Red Hook duly advertised and received bids on February 26, 2021 for the Village of Red Hook Sewer Project- Electrical Contract; and

Whereas, said bids were opened and recorded at 2 pm on February 26, then reviewed by the Village Engineer C.T. Male Associates

Whereas, the Village of Red Hook acknowledges Sausto Contracting as qualified low bidder and the Engineer has reviewed the bids for accuracy and affirms that Sausto Contracting is a firm known by them to be responsible and capable of doing this job;

Whereas, The Village of Red Hook offers and awards the Electrical Contract to Sausto Contracting based on their bid document;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Red Hook, awards Sausto Contracting the base bid for the Electrical Contract of \$441,947.00.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to adopt Resolution #15-2021. Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Kovalchik.

Trustee Noonan asked if contractors are expected to pay prevailing wages. Kathryn Serra, of CT Male, said yes that is mandatory.

Trustee Noonan asked if there would be any bonus for early completion or penalty for late completion. Kathryn Serra, of CT Male, indicated they did not elect for a bonus due to concerns on budget and liquidated damages are assessed at \$500.00 per day which is the maximum allowed if they do not meet their substantial completion and final completion dates.

ROLL CALL:

Blundell – yes

Kovalchik – yes

Laing – yes

Noonan – yes

Kjarval – yes

All in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Blundell announced that there will be a swearing-in ceremony for Karen Smythe on May 21st at 12noon.

Trustee Noonan thanked both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and all for their work on the Sewer Project.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik thanked the Board for their help with the Sewer Project and thanked all the public for their patience.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the May 17, 2021 Village Board special meeting at 8:08pm. Motion seconded by Mayor Blundell. All in favor. Motion approved.

Submitted by,

Lara Hart
Village Clerk