

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORKSHOP MEETING
VILLAGE HALL
FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

Present: Mayor Karen Smythe, Deputy Mayor Melkorka Kjarval, Trustee Kym Bradley-Rickard, Trustee Steven Appenzeller, Village Clerk Jen Cavanaugh

Absent: Trustee Charlie Laing

Mayor Smythe opened the Village Board workshop meeting at 7:00PM.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the February 10, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion was made by Trustee Appenzeller and seconded by Trustee Bradley-Rickard. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Clerk Cavanaugh announced the five candidates for the two open Trustee positions in the upcoming general election on March 18, 2024. The candidates are Melkorka I. Kjarval; 7436 S Broadway, Camille M. Norvell; 59 W Market, Savannah Lucas Sanchez; 47 W Market, Frances Uku; 78 Fraleigh St, and Jason Baker; 45 Garden St.

Mayor Smythe introduced two members of the newly formed Hardscrabble Community Association (name may change) – Neville Smythe and Dan Pucci. Mr. Smythe stated that the incorporation statement of the nonprofit is to foster the sense of community and promote the general welfare of the Village of Red Hook through sponsorship of community events. The primary focus would be supporting the Hardscrabble event. He stated that they were in the process of requesting an EIN and securing a post office box. Once up and running, the nonprofit would start soliciting donations for Hardscrabble 2025. They welcome new members to the group. Mayor Smythe stated the Hardscrabble bank account, administered by the Village, would be transferred to the Association once formally established.

Mayor Smythe introduced a proposed health care opt-out policy for non-union fulltime employees. She stated that the two unions have a policy already. The policy would be to pay those that opt-out \$2,000 as an individual, \$3,800 for an employee and spouse or employee and child, and \$5,000 for a family. The policy would be to pay the employee at the end of the insurance year (May – April) as a single check.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to accept the Health Care Opt-Out Policy for Non-Union Fulltime Employees. The motion was made by Deputy Mayor Kjarval and seconded by Trustee Appenzeller. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Smythe introduced the proposed contract with the Red Hook Central School District for the Police Department to provide School Resource Officer (SRO) services.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to authorize her to sign the contract with the Red Hook Central School District to provide School Resource Officer services. The motion was made by Trustee Appenzeller and seconded by Trustee Bradley-Rickard. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Smythe introduced the proposed contract with the Village of Tivoli for the Police Department to provide patrol and court officer services.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to authorize her to sign the contract with the Village of Tivoli for the Police Department to provide patrol and court officer services. The motion was made by Deputy Mayor Kjarval and seconded by Trustee Appenzeller. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Smythe introduced the proposed contract with the Town of Red Hook for the Police Department to provide patrol services.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to authorize her to sign the contract with the Town of Red Hook for the Police Department to provide patrol services. The motion was made by Deputy Mayor Kjarval and seconded by Trustee Bradley-Rickard. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Smythe stated that 14 Blue Echo Road has asked that the Village Water Department provide their new home with drinking water. As the property is outside the Village bounds, the Village Board must approve the connection. Mayor Smythe stated that the Village is already providing water to the neighboring properties.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to allow 14 Blue Echo Road to connect to the Village's water system pending execution of a contract for service and payment of a tapping fee. The motion was made by Trustee Bradley-Rickard and seconded by Deputy Mayor Kjarval. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Mayor Smythe stated that she started drafting the 2025-2026 budget including a scheduling meeting with the Village's insurance broker to determine insurance costs. She also stated that based on the tax cap calculation, the 2025-2026 tax cap will be slightly over 2%. She stated that she will review the current fund balance with the Village's fund balance policy in mind.

Mayor Smythe updated Trustees on the progress in the rezoning project for the northeast quadrant/gateway north portion of the Village. She stated that they are planning a public informational meeting (special board meeting) on Thursday, March 13th at 5PM.

Mayor Smythe described recent and planning improvements at Village Hall. Bottle fillers were installed on the water fountains (2), a dedicated external Police phone and associated blue light will be installed near the backdoor/main entrance of Village Hall, and the new doors for the backdoor have been ordered.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to pay all Village bills after audit. Trustee Bradley-Rickard made the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Appenzeller. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Village Treasurer provided Trustees with year to date, income received and expenses incurred as related to approved 2024-2025 budgets (general, water, sewer)(on file).

No general business

In public comment, Savannah Lucas Sanchez (47 W Market) asked about early voting.

No executive session.

Mayor Smythe asked for a motion to adjourn the February 27, 2025 Village Board Workshop Meeting at 8:33pm. Trustee Bradley-Rickard made the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Appenzeller. All in attendance in favor. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Cavanaugh, Clerk