

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**JUNE 11, 2009**  
**7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Cohen, Trustee Blundell, Trustee Seymour, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Kovalchik  
Mayor Cohen opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1). ROKEBY ROAD TOWN/VILLAGE HIGHWAY SITE –**

Mayor Cohen began by stating that he is not in favor of the Rokeby site due to the fact that the cost is too high and it would be at a historical corridor. Mayor Cohen is in favor of shared services.

Trustee Seymour stated that there should be more choices than the Rokeby site. This site will not get his vote.

Trustee Trapp stated that since Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand is not in favor of this site it will not get his vote. A site would be more suitable if it were closer to Tivoli so that the Village of Tivoli, Village of Red Hook and Town of Red Hook could all share.

Trustee Kovalchik feels shared services is warranted but he is concerned about the cost. Trustee Kovalchik is also satisfied with the distance away from the well heads (300' is required and the new site is approximately 800' away).

Trustee Blundell approves of shared services and would like to assure Village residents that there would be no highway trucks on Village streets. Also Trustee Blundell would like to draft a letter to the Town stating that the Village is in favor of shared services but they are not in agreement with the Rokeby Road location.

**2). RESOLUTION # 6-2009 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM – School Crossing Zone.** Trustee Blundell made a motion to approve resolution # 6-2009 for creating a School Crossing Zone the Safe Routes to School Program. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor. A copy of this resolution is on file.

**3). POLICE CHIEF – James Truitt –** Mr. James Truitt presented the Village Board with a power point presentation to introduce himself: Mr. Truitt is a Village resident of 5 years – his entire adult life spent in public service – retired from the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and currently teaches at SUNY New Paltz. Mr. Truitt would be hired as Police Chief which is a non competitive class with civil service. OIC Hildenbrand would be moved to Sergeant – which is competitive (OIC Hildenbrand would be required to take a civil test within a one year time frame). Currently the RHPD has the bare minimal of training to their officers. At this time this bears a great liability for the Village of Red Hook. Mr. Truitt would oversee the department along with OIC Hildenbrand. This would also allow OIC Hildenbrand to be on the road patrolling instead of doing administration work. Mr. Truitt is not allowed to make any more than \$ 30,000.00 with his current retirement and will not be allowed to work more than 20 hours a week. This position comes with no benefits. Officer Jared Griffin has left the department with a salary of \$64,500.00 and with Mr. Truitt's salary of \$ 29,800.00 there is a surplus of \$ 34,700.00.

1). Trustee Kovalchik stated that a supervisor position is very necessary in this line of work and Mr. Truitt is qualified to train the department. There should be no outside training.

2). Trustee Trapp agrees that Mr. Truitt is qualified but does have some budget concerns. Mr. Truitt explained that since Officer Griffin has left the department it leaves the budget with a surplus of funds to cover his salary.

3). Trustee Seymour feels the police department is very important to the Village. The department needs some safeguards in place. In case of death – everything must be in place – the Village is liable.

4). Trustee Blundell stands behind the board with the decision to have a qualified supervisor of the RH Police Department. Crime is on the rise and the Village must be qualified and prepared.

Resident Jim Burns was present and simply stated just hire Mr. Truitt.

5). Mayor Cohen stated that OIC Hildenbrand is spending too much time doing paper work instead of on patrol. Mayor Cohen is recommending the hiring of Mr. Truitt with a six month probationary contract. This contract will be reevaluated at that time. Also, that Mr. Truitt attends each monthly Board meeting for a report. The Village Board can create and abolish any position at any time.

Mayor Cohen made a recommendation to appoint Mr. James Truitt as a part-time Police Chief – this appointment is contingent on a 6 month probation that will be reevaluated at that time. David Wise will draw up a contract. This position will be at a salary of \$ 39,800.00. Trustee Blundell seconded. All were in favor.

Mayor Cohen made a recommendation to appoint OIC Hildenbrand into the position of Sergeant of the Red Hook Police Department. This appointment is provisional of Officer Hildenbrand taking a civil service exam for the position of Sergeant within one year. Mayor Cohen will meet with Officer Hildenbrand to determine a salary for this position by June 18<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Blundell made this in the form of a motion. Trustee Seymour seconded. All were in favor.

Trustee Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Cole  
Clerk/Treasurer