

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
4-29-2011  
7:30**

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Seymour, Trustee Norris arrived at 8:15

1). Budget Adoption: GENERAL: A budget was submitted to the board, after their weeks of input, with a levy increase of 4.94%. Mayor Blundell stated that this reflects our combined work to create sub-categories being added to the budget, which made each department better able to monitor their budget lines and helped build stronger numbers. Since the public hearing, we need to increase line item 1640.4 to show higher fuel costs due to the rising cost of fuel for the garage. Resolution made and passed to increase this line. Mayor Blundell explained that instead of taking out a TAN (Tax Anticipated Note) we increased the Fire Department line by \$ 23,750.00 to catch up on payments rather than pay interest on borrowed money.

Resolution made and passed to make this change. On the revenue side zoning fees were increased in anticipation of Anderson Commons building permits and more activity. Resolution made and passed. CEO/ZEO will be directed to be more proactive and start driving around the Village for violations. Mayor Blundell also modified the Mayor's contractual line for training for Village employees. (lunch and learn). David Groth is working with T-Mobile to place an antenna on the water tower which would net approximately \$ 22,000.00 to \$ 24,000.00 yearly. Clerk Cole thanked Mayor Blundell for his help and cooperation during the budget process. This year's budget seemed to go with much more understanding and better communication. Trustee Trapp would like to wait a year before purchasing a new police car. Mayor Blundell stated that he is not in favor of the 2 % tax cap that the governor is proposing. Village assessment is down over 10 million, an item beyond our control. WATER: Line 8420.4 was increased to reflect upcoming costs. Also, due to the medical and retirement lines were changed in the water budget. This will give the water budget a better control over water repairs. The new water storage tank is paid off in 2014. Trustee Seymour stated that the Panda and street lighting lines were supplemented last year, which was due to last year's budget being reduced too much.

On the police revenue side, The Aerodrome has shown interest in hiring the Red Hook Police Department for some weekend shifts for the air shows but this is not booked into the budget.

Trustee Seymour stated that electric bills are on the increase and he will be entertaining buying power from another source. Trustee Trapp stated that the Town and Village jointly applied for a NYSEDRA grant for solar power on the Fire House, the Village didn't receive anything from this grant.

Mayor Blundell asked the board to increase the Village tax rate to \$ 5.44, which is a levy increase of 4.94 % and accept the General Fund budget as written today. Trustee Kovalchik made this in the form of a motion. Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor. Trustee Seymour thanked the board for their efforts. Trustee Seymour made a motion to accept the water budget of \$ 292,300.00. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor. Trustee Trapp made a motion to accept the Resource Recovery budget for \$ 65,000.00. Trustee Seymour seconded. All were in favor.

8:20 Trustee Trapp made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss employee contracts. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor.

9:15 Trustee Trapp made a motion to adjourn from executive session. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor.

2.) Mayor Blundell has submitted a Memorandum of Agreement from United Public Service Employees Union (Highway Department). The modifications were negotiated by the Mayor, described to the board and acceptable to the board. Mayor Blundell felt that contract was a positive one. Some changes were with deleting double time to time and half, modifying health contribution, retirement health contribution and extending call in time to \$ 40.00. This is a two year contract at 1.5% increase and should be budget positive yet support the staff. Mayor Blundell made a motion to accept the memorandum of agreement for the Highway Department. Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor.

3.) WATER SURCHARGE – Trustee Seymour spoke to Central Hudson and back in February the meter that provides electric to the water pumps had been read incorrectly for 5 years. The Central Hudson meter has a multiplier of 40 that was not being applied. Therefore, bringing the monthly water electric bill to almost \$5,000.00. At this point Trustee Seymour is suggesting adding a surcharge on each residence water bill of \$ 13.00 to help defray the cost of high electric bills. This surcharge would affect all residents with no exceptions. The water tower also needs to be painted. Board will set a public hearing and scheduled one for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 to discuss this surcharge. Also, Seymour feels the annual quality review report should have not gone to Mark Day and instead should have been forwarded to C. T. Male because some information that is being requested by the county is in the report that CT Male has already done. Mark Day does not have this information. Decision had been made to use Mark Day by Mayor since he has done it in the past.

Trustee Trapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Kovalchik seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,

Cynthia Cole  
Clerk/Treasurer