

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2012
7:15 PM**

Present: Mayor Blundell, Deputy Mayor Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp, Trustee Norris, Trustee Seymour was absent but joined the meeting through conference call. Also present was Yinan Hu (Bard Intern)

- Red Hook Fire Department Contract: The Village has two contracts with the Fire Department.
 - 1) Contract with the Town for fire coverage, compensation, and LOSAP.
 - 2) Between the Village and Fire Department which has expired. Under this contract the Village is obligated to pay the Fire Department \$ 91,800.00 annually. A 5 % increase in this contract is being requested but subject to discussion. A sampling of calls shows trips to the Senior Housing were 100 and calls to Bard were 230. Mayor Blundell stated that an easement had been executed to allow the Fire Department to install 12 solar panels on Village property as approved and panels are coming on line. FD is to file the easement at their cost to county records. He will remind FD.
 - Police/School contract: This contract expired on December 31st and is for the SRO and school special events. Clerk Cole has asked Officer Hildenbrandt to keep up to date on the school billing. This is to keep a better money flow in the Police Department. Mayor Blundell will meet with the Police Department next week to further discuss renewing the school contract.
 - Fire Department Solar Panel – 12 solar panels have been installed to provide electric for the fire department. There will a ribbon cutting ceremony – a date has not yet been determined. Northern Dutchess News is doing a story on these panels that should be in print in the February 29th issue. Trustee Trapp is requesting a site plan be updated for the trench from the panels to the building. (Where the line is underground). Mayor Blundell requested this from the FD.
 - Local Flood Law Damage Prevention: The Village has no flood plains in the Village – the closest flood zone is by the Sawkill. Trustee Kovalchik stated that if this law is added to our current zoning law who will benefit from this law and who will enforce it. Mayor Blundell stated that he building inspector would be the enforcer.
 - Budget: Mayor Blundell stated that garbage tag sales are dropping. The current garbage budget is \$ 68,000.00. If garbage tags continue to decline and the Village does not pick up garbage then the general fund would have to absorb the garbage budget. Trustee Seymour asked if the Post Office would sell garbage tags. Currently tags are available at the Village Hall, Mac's Agway and Red Hook Natural Food Store. Also, Mayor Blundell stated that burning brush is going well at the landfill.
 - Chief Truitt handed the board a copy of a State of New York Purchase order for 3 computers for 3 police cars totaling \$ 19,005.81. These computers were purchased on a full grant and are to no cost to the Village tax payers. This grant also provides docking station, power supply, mounting brackets and antennas. The computers that are mounted into police cars will be able to download information directly into the court program. These computers are also equipped with a GPS system so communications will always know where the police officer is. The Red Hook Police Department is the only department in the county without this system.
 - Village of Red Hook contractual obligation is behind two payments, one from 2006 and one payment from 2009. (\$43,575) The prior Mayor was on the Fire Departments Board and was aware of this financial obligation. The missed payment will be included in the next several budget years.
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- Urban Community Forest grant was received and Mayor Blundell made a motion to move the amount, \$13,610.00, to budget line 8560.4. This grant was applied through the Village Green. The Village Green will be installing several benches throughout the Village. The cost of these benches is projected at \$418.00. The locations as to where the benches will be installed have not yet been determined. Clerk Cole who is the liaison to the Red Hook Rotary as stated the Rotary will purchase two benches for the Village. Trustee Kovalchik will notify Clerk Cole as to where these benches will be installed. Trustee Trapp seconded. All were in favor. The Red Hook Garden Club would like to take care of the flowers in Memorial Park. Mayor Blundell stated that the VFW should also be contacted. Also the Garden Club has requested water hook up in the park to water flowers. Mayor Blundell stated that there is no water main in the park and to get water in the park the road would have to be dug up. At this time the Village will allow use of the water trailer to plant the flowers. Garden Club also requested tree trimming but this has to be reviewed for costs to village.
- Mayor Blundell stated that the Dutchess County Sheriff recently had a bigger than usual presence in the Village. Mayor Blundell met with the Sheriff's Office last week to discuss why there is tension between departments. Recently the Red Hook Police Department had an informational session that was on Panda and can be seen in its entirety from the Village web site. The Sheriff's Department took this meeting as negativity about their department. Also that the Village wants to push more Town patrols and push out Sheriff's patrols. Mayor Blundell told them that the Village is not trying to become the Towns only police entity but each year the Village has been given less funds to use for patrols from the Town. Mayor Blundell is also concerned with several negative rumors about the Red Hook Police. Mayor Blundell stated that there are the Village police, Sheriff's Department and State Police for the protection of the Village and Town and he is proud of our Village policing. This is a tangible issue and we should work through it.
- Mayor Blundell received a call from the union representative to meet in regards to the police union which expires June 2012.
- Trustee Seymour stated that he is in receipt of a memo from the Mayor in regard to changing police shifts and more street foot presence and is in favor of more bike patrols, shift starting at 7 am. This shift realignment does reduce early week coverage and will rely upon outside agencies cooperation. Chief is in favor of shifts starting at 7 am since there is a large population of students and residents walking in the Village. But to keep in mind when you start earlier you end the shift earlier. The evening shift would end at 10:00 pm. Trustee Seymour stated that he is in favor of bike patrols, he feels the store owners would appreciate it. Chief Truitt is in favor of an officer parking the patrol and walk to check doors of business owners. Mayor Blundell will meet with the State Police Commander to gather information in regards to their shifts and to compliment each agency and work together. Chief Truitt stated that tensions between the Village and Sheriff's office started when the Village Police Department changed changed their telephone number to dispatch with the State police. At that point the Sheriff's Department put a large road sign when entering into the Village stating if anyone needed any help to call the Sheriff's Office. Chief Truitt stated that within the last month there was larceny taking place someplace in Dutchess County, Officer Hildenbrandt heard the call on the radio and tried to call dispatch 3 times to state that that is the same case he had been working on in Red Hook and was hung up on 3 times. Also Chief Truitt stated that the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office is a political organization and look at public safety as a competition. State Police have a policy that they dispatch the closest car possible and their philosophy is the same as the Village's. An incident in 2009 with the Sheriff's Office when a Red Hook car was available the County dispatch

called their car in from Pine Plains. Chief Truitt called a road supervisor and was informed that was their policy.

- LOOP System – Mayor Blundell is receipt of an intermunicipal agreement LOOP bus services. This agreement shows existing and future shelters and their locations. Currently the stop is Rt 199. Clerk Cole stated that she is not aware of any such agreement in the past. Mayor Blundell will call county to discuss stops.
 - Trustee Kovalchik briefly discussed: What is the status of the FEMA application? CPF MOU has not been received yet. Also the possibility of a recreation fee for Village residents. The Safe Routes to School grant for sidewalk should be re-written. This federal grant still exists but it is being funded under a different name. Trustee Trapp stated that the CDBG is requested to do Phase I Archeological survey. This set back should not delay the sidewalk project.
 - 9:20 Trustee Kovalchik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Norris seconded. All were in favor.
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Submitted by,

Cynthia Cole
Clerk/Treasurer
