

VILLAGE WORKSHOP MEETING
APRIL 20th, 2017
7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Blundell, DM Kovalchik, Trustee Laing, Trustee Norris, Trustee Trapp, Assistant Clerk Drewes.

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Blundell made a motion to open the meeting. DM Kovalchik seconded this motion.

BUDGET REVIEW– PRICE INCREASE: Mayor Blundell opened a discussion on a price increase for Village garbage tags. Trustee Trapp asked about a projected benefit to the budget. Mayor Blundell showed a spreadsheet showing the budget and explained that increased price will cover new processing costs being charged to us for recycling, as well as buffering other departments. Trustee Laing asked about whether there is a cheaper Columbia County alternative. Mayor Blundell said alternative processing centers were investigated, and nothing was in close range for Village vehicles. Tags were last increased 6-8 years ago. The increased prices of tags will be \$2.75 from \$2.50 for small tags and \$5.50 from \$5.00 for large tags. Mayor Blundell introduced a resolution to increase the rates. DM Kovalchik seconded this motion.

Resolution # 10- 2017

Increase Pay As You Throw Tag Rates For Village Materials Management Program.

Whereas, the Village of Red Hook provides curb-side household garbage and single-stream recycling pick up under its pay as you throw tag system;

Whereas, the Village uses the Highway Department staff to transport the household garbage and recycling materials to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) where fees are incurred;

Whereas, UCRRA has recently instituted a charge for accepting recycling materials when they had accepted them free of charge in the past;

Whereas, there has also been a gradual increase in the charge for UCRRA accepting household garbage and the continuation of a fuel surcharge;

Whereas, the use of UCRRA is still the most viable site due to its proximity to the Village and fees charged;

Therefore be it resolved, the Village will increase its fee for garbage tags. Blue/small tags will be \$2.75 and red/large bag tags will be \$5.50. This will allow the Village to continue the program and absorb increases in costs. The rate increase will be effective **June 1, 2017**.

All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell – Aye

DM Kovalchik – Aye

Trustee Laing – Aye

Trustee Norris – Aye

Trustee Trapp – Aye

BUDGET

Mayor Blundell reviewed the final proposed budget with the board. Trustee Laing asked about the zoning salary budget line – is there any room to pay consultants? Mayor Blundell stated that the Village uses its engineering firm, C.T. Male, to consult and that outside counsel is not often necessary.

Mayor Blundell made a motion for the Village Board to adopt the 2017-2018 Budget as follows:

General Fund, Exhibit A, dated 4/20/2017 with a gross revenue of \$1,194,202.00.

Water Fund, Exhibit B, dated 4/20/2017 with a gross revenue of \$532,000.00.

Materials Management Fund, Exhibit C, dated 4/20/2017 with a gross revenue of \$50,400.00.

Trustee Trapp seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to introduce Resolution 11- 2017, to rescind the Village tax cap over-ride. Trustee Trapp seconded the motion.

Resolution # 11- 2017

Whereas the Village of Red Hook passed the enabling local law to allow a tax cap over-ride;

Whereas the final version of the budget has remained within the 1.15%tax cap;

Whereas we need to rescind the over-ride law passed as Local Law # 1 in 2017;

Therefore be it resolved the Village Board herein votes to rescind the tax cap over-ride law passed in 2017.

Mayor Blundell – Aye

DM Kovalchik – Aye

Trustee Laing – Aye

Trustee Norris – Aye

Trustee Trapp – Aye

Mayor Blundell mentioned the Red Hook local clean-up, taking place on Earth Day, April 22nd, and the Village Green Committee's spring planting day. 12 trees will be planted throughout the village.

GOVPAYNET: Mayor Blundell discussed GovPayNet, a new system for court clerks to digitally accept credit card payments from a third party company. He explained that this will be used as a supplemental fee collection service, and that the court will still accept credit cards in the office. There will be no cost to the Village for authorizing this service for the Justice Court.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to introduce Resolution # 12-2017 to utilize GovPayNet. DM Kovalchik seconded this motion.

Resolution # 12 – 2017

Authorization For Village Justice Court To Utilize GovPayNet (Government Payment Services, Inc.)

Whereas, in the course of adjudication of vehicle and traffic cases the Village of Red Hook Justice Court levies fines on defendants;

Whereas, the defendants have a duty to pay these fines based at the direction of the Judge, either on the night of the court session (cash or credit card) or in an installment plan approach, as assigned by the court;

Whereas, the Justice, his staff and the Mayor have reviewed a third party payment option offered by GovPayNet that enables defendants to pay the fine on line and this system comports with New York State rules and regulations; and the review, approval and processing of payments resides within the Court staff, not general Village staff;

Whereas, the GovPayNet system is web based, does not tie in to any Village software, is secure and does not create any costs or liability to the Village and fees are only incurred by the Defendant;

Therefore be it resolved, the Village Board will authorize the Village Justice to set up and utilize the services of GovPayNet, upon approval by counsel after a review of the participation agreement.

All in favor.

Mayor Blundell – Aye

DM Kovalchik – Aye

Trustee Laing – Aye

Trustee Norris – Aye

Trustee Trapp – Aye

RHFD: Mayor Blundell reviewed prior discussions with the Red Hook Fire Department and the impasse at the moment (FD is rejecting coordinated Town/Village negotiations and equity on rate increases). This status led to further review of legal requirement and found reference to Article 10 of Village Law (NYS) and input from the NY Conference of Mayors. Materials from the NYS Comptroller's office were projected. According to this data, the Village has apparently migrated away from proper relationship with the fire department over decades. For example, the Town fire protection contract looks to need to flow with village in the loop and deciding the rate/costs but with FD input. The Village is also either required to appoint Fire Commissioners or decide to utilize the Village Board and a Council of the Fire Department for inter-relationship dealings. The Clerk has been queried and does not recall that ever happening. Charts and regulations indicate that questions need to be reviewed with the fire department. Trustee Trapp questioned whether the Village's past contract actions set a precedent for current negotiations. Mayor Blundell responded that the law and current conditions are being reviewed by counsel. DM Kovalchik asked whether the FD had problems with members volunteering for their board. Trustee Trapp expressed concern that if the Village establishes its authority with appointments, the FD will resist. However, the answer seems to be that the village is bound by law to act as described in that law. Trustee Laing asked how the RHFD can operate without a specified fire district, and DM Kovalchik answered that towns must set fire protection districts, which they have. Mayor Blundell

indicated that the RHFD is a Village Fire Department; the fire company later formed a not-for profit entity, but the underlying entity is designed to protect the village and can contract out to other municipalities but with village inter-action under municipal law.. Since there are significant questions we have written a letter from counsel, written to the FD's attorney, seeking a review and devise the best way to establish a stronger working relationship for the best interest of all parties that also satisfies NYS Village law. NYS Comptroller information on the overhead was also sent to the FD Board Chair. Mayor Blundell then showed a PowerPoint presentation from NYCOM in reference to administering a FD. He suggested a summit in the next 10 days to sit and discuss all of these arising details with the FD. The mayor would like to direct the working relationship back into compliance with NYS law. Trustee Laing expressed that a gradual transition would probably be best. We are still paying all our costs to RHFD and honoring the terms of the contract. Negotiations remain underway and this new aspect will have to be included.

HIGHWAY SHARED SERVICES– PHASE II: DM Kovalchik and Mayor Blundell discussed a meeting with the Benjamin Center for data studies. Dutchess County is holding money available for us, and the Village is trying to re-establish a consultant so we can take Phase 1 recommendations to fruition. Namely, identify assets for the GADSBY 34 accounting process and better develop capital replacement plans and shared assets. Mayor Blundell has not heard whether another RFP must be done.

HOFFMAN FARMS PROJECT: The water rate has been set for this bulk customer at 1.525 multiplier of the village rate and construction of part of a loop to be joined by others in the south TND, and paperwork has moved on to the DEC and DCWWA.

As outlined in the agreement with Hoffman Farms, two other customers are looking to get master meters and complete the water main loop. Mayor Blundell has been working with the parties and counsel to develop a contract and master agreement to have the developer to pay for the costs in Hardscrabble Plaza and the Ross property. As part of the deal the three parties (Hoffman/Hardscrabble Plaza and Ross) will pay for engineering, materials and construction costs so a full water main loop can be created which will benefit the village and the town. We will get more customers to help mitigate rates, get a loop which helps our system.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to enter into executive session for personnel at 8:38 p.m. Trustee Trapp seconded this motion.

At 8:50, Mayor Blundell made a motion to enter back into regular session. DM Kovalchik seconded this motion.

At 8:51, DM Kovalchik motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Norris seconded this motion.

Submitted by,

Arie Drewes
Assistant Clerk