

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
DECEMBER 21, 2017  
7:00 PM**

Present: Ed Blundell, Trustee Norris, Trustee Laing  
Absent: DM Kovalchik, Trustee Trapp,

**COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT – TOWN WELL FIELD**

Mayor Blundell updated the Board on a recent meeting with Town Supervisor McKeon and Jeff Irish from Hudson Solar. This project involves placing solar arrays on our village owned land at our well field area. It had been discussed prior with the Board. Our contribution will be land value, under a lease, and our participation in the first grant award (\$35,000); plus pay future grants. The town is funding another portion of additional engineering for \$79,000 that will add on to the \$35,000 but it will be part of the project in the end. This involves getting three-phase capable lines connected to the array area and it looks to come through the Town Highway Garage area.

Plan is to save the Village about 15% on our energy now plus increasing that in the future but it all ensures from NYS law that allows regional energy production and outside investors. Hudson Solar is assisting and would likely build the arrays but an RFP must go out to get the financial investor to build the plant in accord with the law and new process. After 5 years of production and tax credits, the investor sells the array to the Town for half of the initial cost and more savings can be realized. Town seems to have financial strength and commitment to do this. Big need is for us to get lease and Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) set up in our favor.

Excess power will result and we need to configure a way to get other customers. Right now we are looking to supply three muni's in RH plus libraries. There will still be enough excess for about 250 homes. But, we need to define how to sort out customers. One suggestion is go to Historic District where they are prohibited from building solar(zoning) and to our village sewer service area customers to offset some costs.

**WATER DEPT OPS**

Mayor Blundell updated Board on changes. We are still in contract with CT Male but prime players have moved on to other firms. Bret Smith is still the certified operator but has less time available. Chris Coon is helping and has passed his test but still needs to complete a practical exam on site to get full license.

Mayor sees need to change ops to some degree and take more on ourselves so was asking board for input. Mayor will meet CT Male further and VRI, another contractor. One option is piggy back off Town contract with VRI but use our staff more as well.

**RESOLUTION – SET PUBLIC HEARING SEWER ASSESSMENT  
PROCESS/BASIS.(LETTERS REQUIRED)**

Paperwork is ready but we need to generate letters to owners in service area. Public hearing work will occur at our January meeting to set it for February meeting.

### **PANDA TV23 STATUS**

Mayor updated Board on a recent meeting with PANDA president Eric Ribeck. He feels PANDA continues to improve but only when we push them and with hold funding. To our surprise, Eric indicated he had attended a meeting where he learned that PANDA can accept sponsors/underwriting. This can be huge and offset costs only if they chase it down. We have paid PANDA 50% of their annual costs this year. There is no contract.

Mayor Blundell made a motion to pay them another 25% until March and keep the pressure on them to perform.

Vote – All in favor.

### **HIGHWAY SHARED SERVICES GRANT DISCUSSION**

In 2015 the village acted as lead with Dutchess County's shared services grant program and was awarded \$81,250 to continue working on highway shared services, in particular to follow up on phase one with some implementation. We did one RFP with no responses then another and we had a response from the initial consultant Rondout Consulting. But, they did not sign a contract and then the principal folded the firm to take a full time job with Ulster County.

The funds would never go directly to the Village, would only go to the consultant and to fund a part-time Town of RH staffer to do perceived data entry. A second complication was how to hire a person for a town position in highway and comply with all personnel matters. Tivoli was also a player but would get no funding or staff.

We consulted with the County quite often but the three muni's are very busy with other major projects and it seems that our village got the most benefit from Phase 1 highway shared work. We are in the garage, we share certain tasks and we got the asset identification work done.

Blundell consulted again with County staff recently and Mayor Griffith and Supv McKeon. Consensus is to let the County re-capture the funds for another project.

Blundell made a motion –

Allow Mayor to issue a communication to Dutchess County to advise them of our decision to have them recapture the 2015 Highway Shared Service Grant for \$81,250.

Vote – All in favor.

### **SEASONAL SIDEWALK**

Blundell updated the Board on legal steps and opinion on making West Market north side sidewalk a seasonal walk to relieve the abutting property owners from the duty of clearing snow within 24 hours of a storm. Primary basis was that the tall brick wall prohibits typical steps to clear and we built a new s/w on the south side; plus school campus has a network of walks that can be used.

Counsel had been asked to draw up a law amendment to allow this step by the Board. But, counsel posed opinion that enabling this section to go seasonal could pose more problems than it solves; e.g. liability for walkers that refuse to go across the street and go into the driving lane and creating precedent/tension for other owners on the state highway routes. Board concurred we will not move to make the seasonal sidewalk rule apply here.

### **ZRC – ZONING REVIEW GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

At our December 11, 2017 board meeting we passed a 6-month moratorium on expansion of automotive service stations and demolition of buildings in the General Business District. Part of the process includes creating a special Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) to help craft regulations to ensure that any changes stay consistent with our Pattern Book and walking style village with a strong center.

Motion by Blundell –

Consistent with the moratorium, the village will create the ZRC and it will consist of Mayoral appointments of members Jay Trapp, Brent Kovalchik and Ray Towle, with board concurrence. Mayor will advise the members of the appointment and let them work with counsel, if needed, so we can act within the 6-month period.

Vote - All in favor.

At 8:57 p.m., Trustee Norris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Laing seconded the motion. At 8:57 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Ed Blundell  
Mayor