

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK
WORKSHOP MEETING
January 20, 2022**

PRESENT: MAYOR SMYTHE, DEPUTY MAYOR KOVALCHIK, TRUSTEE LAING,
TRUSTEE KJARVEL & CLERK CAVANAUGH

Meeting opened at 7:00PM

Purchase voucher salt/sand spreader (\$2,800) reviewed. Village Highway currently has spreader and has been using it. Deputy Mayor (D.M.) Kovalchik asked to confirm that funding for the purchase come from scrap metal account. Voucher signed by Trustees.

Trustees discussed the sidewalk snow and ice removal code including clearing requirement within 24hr from end of storm. Two property owners on West Market had not cleaned sidewalks after the last storm which were subsequently cleared by Village Highway staff. D.M. Kovalchik believed this section on West Market was a 'seasonal sidewalk' as it's hard to clear (not enough room to pile snow). He stated that crosswalks had been installed so walkers can avoid this section. Trustees discussed the merit of installing signs or barriers to identify section as being "Temporarily/Seasonally Closed". The Village attorney will be consulted regarding liability concerns.

Trustees discussed a resolution to charge those who do not clear their adjacent sidewalks within the allotted time \$2/linear foot for the Village to clear. If this fee is not paid, it could be re-leveed onto the property owner's Village tax bill. This is a policy that has been used in the past. Trustees discussed enforcement and possible ways for residents to report problematic sidewalks including via the website. Mayor Smythe stated she would work with Trustee Kjarvel to find an appropriate reporting mechanism. **All Trustees were in favor and passed Resolution #4 – 2022 Snow Removal** (see attached).

Trustees discussed possible areas to extend sidewalks for improved walkability including extending north from the CVS property. D.M. Kovalchik stated that block grants have been used in the past for these types of projects.

Mayor Smythe reviewed the Village's current website. She stated that the Police section of the Village website went live 1/19/22. Mayor Smythe and Trustee Kjarvel would like to write a one year later report on police reform. Trustees discussed the 'Compliment and Complaint Form' that, once submitted, will go to both Sgt. Hildenbrand and Mayor Smythe. Form can be emailed, mailed, or submitted via the website (formal complaints are required to have physical or electronic signature). Until now, the formal complaint form had to be submitted directly to a police officer.

Trustees reviewed the Courts webpage, FOIL request and Security Check forms.

A 'Community Engagement' section will be added to the Police website in the future where pictures of bike rodeo etc., can be displayed as well as an 'Employment Opportunities' section and 'FAQ' page. Mayor Smythe stated that a crossing guard position is currently open and publicly thanked Trustee Kjarvel for all of her hard work on the website.

Trustees reviewed Sewer webpage. The need for more specific contact numbers and design edits to the webpage were discussed.

Trustees reviewed the Village's Newsletter and Recycling Calendar. Trustee Kjarvel stated that she would like to create a new annual recycling calendar instead of the current quarterly one.

Mayor Smythe stated that she is interested in budgeting for a webpage design revision. She stated that the Village originally bought the basic design package and an upgrade is needed. Trustee Kjarvel stated that she has cost numbers from the website company.

The Trustees discussed the sewer project. The Trustees discussed the schedule and the need to clarify the work hours with the contractor.

Mayor Smythe updated the Trustees on ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. Approximately \$99,000 has been received, with additional funds (approximately \$101,000) arriving this summer. The funds need to be spent by 2026 and eligible expenditure rules have been changing. However, the Village will not have trouble spending the funds on current and planned infrastructure projects. Possible projects include, but are not limited to, water valve emergency repairs to address leaking, Red Hook Commons wastewater treatment plant, creating a detailed asset inventory and maintenance plan with software accessible to Highway staff.

Mayor Smythe asked that Trustees think about what they would like to see included in the upcoming Budget (to be discussed in more depth in February). The tax cap may be 2% this year – will be confirmed. Established salary increases are 1.5% for 2021, 2.5% for 2022, and 2% 2023.

She stated that Sgt. Hildenbrand is exploring the possibility of having another vehicle – possibly leasing a new vehicle or refurbishing the unusable car currently stored at the Highway Garage (repair cost approximately \$7,500). Trustees discussed the need for a long-term vehicle replacement plan and ways to pay for new vehicles (possibly with Town assistance). Trustees discussed patrols of Village Police outside the Village and if numbers of calls are recorded.

In the future, the Highway Department may be interested in a smaller garbage truck with two compartments so that recycling and trash could be collected at the same

time when it's time to replace the current truck. The Trustees discussed the decreasing amount of collected materials. Trustees discussed: (1) the merits of eliminating trash stickers and having trash/recycling collection as a service provided as part of Village taxes and (2) ceasing the collection of trash and recycling. D.M. Kovalchik worried that, as was experienced in a nearby municipality, if the Village stopped collecting trash that the private haulers would increase their rates. Currently, bag tags cover disposal cost [i.e., tipping fees] but it may not cover all labor costs. During the last 12 months, tipping fees were about \$9,700. Bag tag purchases were about \$29,000 over the same period. Trustees discussed leaf pick up – costs, bagging vs. not, disposal, and what is done elsewhere.

As with the Police vehicles, Mayor Smythe would like to create a vehicle replacement plan for Highway Department trucks. Additionally, she'd like to set up a capital reserve to deal with surprises that come up.

Mayor Smythe asked Trustee to consider moving the day of the workshop meeting so there is additional time between the Board and Workshop meetings.

Trustee Laing discussed the street light project (converting to LED). Mayor Smythe stated that she continues to work on acquiring bond funding.

Mayor Smythe announced that the Town of Red Hook received a grant to install a new higher-speed EV charger (2, charging ports) at the Town Hall but that it was unclear if the Village's application for the same grant had been awarded. She also stated that the Town may be willing to pay for the repairs and annual service contracts required for the current EV chargers located in the Village lot.

Deputy Mayor Kovalchick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:41PM, Trustee Laing seconded the motion, all in favor, Aye. Meeting adjourned.

RESOLUTION # 4 - 2022
Dated: January 20, 2022
SNOW REMOVAL

A meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Red Hook was held on January 20, 2022. The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Karen Smythe.

MOVED BY: Trustee C.Laing SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor B. Kovalchik

RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM THE FEE CHARGED TO PROPERTY OWNER TO REIMBURSE VILLAGE FOR COST TO CLEAR SIDEWALKS IF THEY NEGLECT TO DO SO WITHIN 24-HOURS AFTER A SNOW/ICE STORM.

WHEREAS, as per Village Code Section 165-1, the owner and/or occupant of every building and/or lot of ground adjoining a sidewalk shall remove all snow and ice within 24 hours after a snow/ice storm. If the owner/occupant neglects to clear the sidewalk, the Village will clear it on their behalf to ensure public safety and send a bill to the property owner. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Red Hook hereby approves to affirm reimbursement for snow removal at the rate of \$2.00 per linear foot.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Red Hook hereby approves said Resolution #4-2022.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Smythe	<u>yes</u>
Deputy Mayor Kovalchik	<u>yes</u>
Trustee Laing	<u>yes</u>
Trustee Kjarval	<u>yes</u>

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION APPROVED.