

Town of Red Hook

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

Volume XI            RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTION

August 10, 1982 - 1985

Volume XI of the Town Board Minutes is post bound with leatherette binding in good condition with minor scuffing. There is an index in the beginning, with headings for A - Z, including Mc. There are no entries under Q. Entries are made by person's last name, by department, or by subject, not necessarily cross-referenced. (some examples: Appointments are entered under A, or by specific name; computerization of assessments is entered under C; bids are entered under bids awarded, or by the name of the specific item.)

There are 209 pages of records in very good - excellent condition. Entries are typewritten, with occasional corrections.

There are many inserts bound into the volume. They are photocopies of documents which were usually typewritten, but sometimes handwritten. They are in very good condition. Inserts include notices of public hearings, zoning amendments, resolutions, salary schedules, Supervisor's monthly statements, contracts and bonds. Pencil numbers were added to the inserts for purposes of microfilming and to prevent loss of order.

STRUCTURE:

The structure of the Town Board meetings continues as previously established. Regular meetings were held monthly, on the second Tuesday, with special meetings held as needed. Notation was made whether the meeting was regular or special, followed by the date, location (varying from the Town Hall to the Town Hall Annex, Tivoli Village Hall, Red Hook Village Hall, or High School Cafeteria) and list of officials present. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and the time recorded. Minutes of the last meeting or meetings were read and approved. Corrections, if any, were detailed. The Supervisor's monthly statement was read and approved. Correspondence and announcements were read. Public hearings were held at specified times. The body of the meeting included reports of Departments or Committees detailing the status of any business before them. Presentations or requests would be brought before the Town Board, discussed and usually tabled

for further information or referred to other relevant agencies or committees. Resolutions were passed on any issues or business that had received comments and recommendations from all interested parties. Bills were audited and paid (by abstract, Fund and total amount), followed by a motion to adjourn. Only the Town Clerk signed the minutes.

Resolutions have a more formal structure - Whereas... whereas... whereas... therefore be it resolved... In 1985, the Town Board sets procedures for presentation and adoption of resolutions, whereby all are numbered by year and order of approval. Motions are recorded by name of maker and second; occasionally roll call votes are listed, when issues are controversial.

Public hearings are frequent, and held at a specified time. Attendance is recorded by names for small crowds; numbers attending are recorded for large crowds. Opinions and comments of residents are detailed.

The first meeting of the year continues as a reorganization meeting, at which the official bank and newspaper/s are designated, appointments made, Town Board assignments made and salaries set.

#### CONTENT:

Volume XI of the Town Board minutes contains increased personal details of appreciation, recognition and even concern about a Councilman's illness. There are proclamations, and memorials to deceased officials. Public participation is frequent and documented. Discussions and reasons for decisions are detailed.

There is more information about State and County politics recorded in the minutes. Interaction with Federal, State and County agencies regarding many issues is reflected.

As Town business continues to be increasingly complicated, there are numerous approvals for officials to attend courses and seminars. It is now routine for the Town Board to recover some of the costs of administering programs and conducting reviews by charging fees from applicants (subdivision fees, building permit fees, appeals fees, water tapping fees, recreation fees).

DOG CONTROL: The Town Board approves a bid for the construction of a dog kennel at the Town garage.

ELECTIONS: Town Board responsibility for elections continues to be appointment and salaries for inspectors of elections (two Republicans and two Democrats per district for 7 districts).



Elections for Town officials have been biennial since 1899, though Justices of the Peace serve four year terms. In 1983, the Town Board proposes four year terms for Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent; voters approve a four year term for the Town Clerk.

**HIGHWAYS:** Maintenance and improvement of Town roads is an increasingly large budget item; more outside funding is used, such as Federal funds from the Dutchess County Urban Consortium Block grant and the Safer Streets and Roads program. The Town Board holds a public hearings for the use of Federal Revenue Sharing funds for the Highway Department.

In 1983, the Town approves the adoption of County Highway Specifications. The Town Board makes requests of the State and County for bridge repair on roads of their jurisdiction. NYS Department of Transportation surveys and reconstructs Route 9.

There is controversy over the ownership of Cruger Island Road, and responsibility for the repair of the Barrytown Railroad Bridge (Conrail, County or Town). The bridge controversy is resolved in 1985, with the Town Board accepting a bid for the repair.

Stealing of road signs continues to be a problem, though publicity brings the return of some. Littering and dumping on roads remains an issue, particularly on Freeborn Lane. The Town continues its policy of a spring clean-up (Though this policy allows residents to dispose of appliances and furniture at no cost, the main goal is to prevent those items from being dumped along the roads). By 1985, the cost of spring clean-up necessitates the change to requiring residents to bring their items to the Town garage.

With the recommendation of the Highway Superintendent, the Town Board approves setting speed limits on all town roads at 35 MPH. The Highway Superintendent also asks that the Town discontinue agreements for plowing County roads.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Public safety issues are fairly routine. The Town Board approves a few changes in street lights, and authorizes replacement of street lights as needed (1985). It approves Fire Company contracts. It authorizes a patrol, and discusses a curfew for Halloween.

**COURT:** Court issues are minor - Justice of the Peace complaints that not enough funds are returned from fines sent to the State and a Town Board decision on the allocation of revenue from traffic fines.

**TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT:** The Town Board signs an agreement

with the County for computerizing and updating assessments.

Senior citizens' tax exemptions are granted an increase, but veterans' exemptions are not approved.

**BUDGET:** Budget presentations and approvals are routinely recorded, with little information on content, except for increases and changes in tax rates. Budget adjustments replace transfers of funds and offer more detailed fiscal information. Federal Revenue Sharing continues as a budget item with a separate public hearing.

**PURCHASING:** The bidding process for highway materials, equipment and fuel oil is routine, and bids are recorded. Frequently bids are tabled for review prior to acceptance.

**PERSONNEL:** Town personnel, both volunteer and paid, continues to grow. Appointments and Town Board assignments are listed at the reorganization meeting in January, with all committee members and expiration of term included.

The Town Board sees a need to review disability insurance. By resolution on a Public Liability Law, the Town Board agrees to indemnify and defend public officials in lawsuits.

The Town Board authorizes funding of an Employees' Retirement System Account.

**TOWN HALL:** As a result of the increases in Town personnel, a new Town Hall is needed. The Town Board establishes a reserve fund for construction in 1983, and awards bids in 1985.

**INSURANCE:** Insurance issues take new importance. Increased amount of Town property necessitates review of insurance coverage. By 1985 the costs of insurance coverage, and difficulty in acquiring it, have reached a crisis level.

**PUBLIC RECREATION:** The Town Board has continued major involvement in public recreation. It awards bids for the Recreation Park concession stand. It approves programs for building additional facilities at the Recreation Park. It delegates authority for establishing policies and fees for use of tennis courts to the Recreation Park Commission. It oversees the maintenance of the Recreation Park, developing job descriptions for the Recreation Park Director and groundskeeper.

The Town Board approves and funds joint Town/Village youth, adult and senior citizen recreation programs.

**WATER SUPPLY:** Water supply issues are in the forefront of Town Board business. The Town Board negotiates for a site



for new wells. The Annandale Water Works Study Committee presents a proposed plan and schedule. The Town Board hires an engineering consultant for the plans for water service and development of wells and storage facilities.

In 1983, the Town Board approves the formation of Red Hook Water District No. 1. The official purchase of Annandale Water works is completed in 1984, along with the approval of a contract for drilling new wells.

Now that it is in the business of water supply, the Town Board sets policies for payment of water bills, sets tapping fees for the Water District, and hires an outside consultant for operation of the Water District. It also establishes a Water District Policy requiring all subdivisions within the District to connect to the water supply. The final activity of the time period is approval of a contract for water system improvement.

PLANNING: In 1982, the Town Board gives approval to the Hudson River Shorelands Task Force to apply for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant under the Coastal Zone Management Program. A formal agreement for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is adopted in 1984.

In 1985, the Town Board endorses the Mid Hudson Shorelands Scenic District Management Plan, developed for the 20 Mile Scenic and Historic District that was established by the State in 1980.

Other planning business is handled independently by the Planning Board, and generally is not reflected in these Town Board minutes. However, as noted above, planning issues have become more interrelated and influenced by regional programs and outside agencies. Additional evidence of increased demands of planning is the request in 1985 for the hiring of an engineer as a consultant, the approval of a planning review fee schedule, and the discussion of a moratorium on subdivisions (rejected).

The State Department of Environmental Conservation presents the Phase II National Flood Insurance Program, which the Town Board adopts in 1985.

ZONING: The Town Board hears a petition that an adult care home violates area deed restrictions and zoning. It discusses and tables a Zoning Enforcement Officer recommendation of an increase in trailer park fees. The Town Board hears rezoning requests and investigates complaints of shooting activity conducted by Counterr Group Academy at Sky Park airport.

The Zoning Commission reports a summary of 24 amendments to the Zoning Law, which the Town Board adopts in 1983.

Enforcement of action regarding zoning violations is an issue, as the Zoning Board of Appeals requests Town Board support for court action when ZBA decisions are ignored.

ENVIRONMENT: The Town Board approves the establishment of the Northern Dutchess Recycling Center, but also deals with problems of maintaining it.

The issue of the Consolidated Edison proposal to site a power plant continues to demand Town Board attention. The Town Power Plant Siting Law loses its final challenge in the Court of Appeals. The Town Board passes a resolution opposing the Con Ed proposal, and asks for support of the County Legislature.

The Town Board passes a resolution to support the adoption of a Scenic Road program.

Volume XI of the Town Board minutes continues the record of activities that define the community. Planning, zoning, water supply and environmental issues predominate. Public input is sought and encouraged for all issues, through public hearings and informational meetings. Interaction among Departments, Committees and outside agencies continues routinely, as issues involve more than one area of interest. Federal, State and County funding and programs remain a major influence.

END VOLUME XI RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTION