

Town of Red Hook

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

Volume XII RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTION

December 30, 1985 - 1988

Volume XII of the Town Board Minutes is post bound with leatherette binding in good condition, but some scuffing. There is an index with headings A - Z, including Mc. There are no X entries. Entries are by department, person's last name or subject, but are not necessary cross-referenced. For example, some bids are listed under B, some under the item bid upon, and some under company name.

There are 212 pages of records in very good - excellent condition. Pages have printed numbers from 209 - 226 and 1 - 194. Page 209 is the last part of the December 30, 1985 meeting. Entries are typewritten, with occasional corrections.

There are many inserts, some bound into the volume and some loose. They are all photocopies of typewritten, handwritten or computer printout documents. Inserts are in fair to very good condition; some have tattered edges. Pencilled numbers were added for the purpose of microfilming and to prevent loss of order.

Some loose inserts were found in locations not related to their information. They were relocated to the most appropriate area, with a notation of where they were found. Some inserts are mentioned in the minutes; some are not. As much as possible, they are located where they relate to discussion in the minutes. The types of inserts included are a list of attendees, comments and correspondence on various issues, reports, monthly statements of the Supervisor, petitions, a franchise agreement, budget adjustments and other fiscal information.

STRUCTURE:

The structure of the Town Board minutes continues in a manner similar to preceding years. Regular meetings were held monthly (second Tuesday), with special meetings held as needed. (In 1988, there were two meetings a month, plus special meetings.) There is notation of whether the meeting is regular, special, a public hearing, bid opening, or public information, followed by the date and location (Town Hall Annex, Tivoli Village Hall, the new Town Hall in 1987). The Town officials present are listed. The time is recorded for opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the previous meeting are read and accepted; any corrections are detailed. The Supervisor's

monthly report is read and accepted. The body of the meeting includes announcements, correspondence, reports and discussion of issues. Issues are either tabled for further study, referred to appropriate agencies or decided by resolution. Most resolutions have the formal whereas ..., whereas ..., therefore be it resolved ... structure, and are numbered by the year. At the end of the meeting, bills are audited and approved, with the total amount and budget category listed, but no details. The time of adjournment is recorded, and the minutes are signed by the Town Clerk.

The greater part of the Town Board meetings in this time period consists of announcements, correspondence, reports and updates on continuing issues. Meetings are used as a public forum for the Town Board to inform residents. For example, the Highway Superintendent asks residents not to shovel snow from driveways into the roads. Information is also reported about activities or events not directly related to Town Board business.

Public hearings continue to be held frequently, for the budget, for bond issues, for zoning issues and other issues of major consequence. They may be held at the beginning or a scheduled time in a regular meeting, or may be the subject of a special meeting. Some major issues may have more than one public hearing. Other informational meetings may be held for controversial issues. Names of the persons speaking and their comments are recorded.

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

Some areas of Town business show greater detail in the minutes, and some show less. The formal structure of resolutions details findings and actions leading to the resolution. By 1987, the Supervisor is receiving monthly reports from Department heads; these include details of the status of current projects, problems that occur and plans for future activity. Much of this information is reflected in the Town Board minutes. The budget, on the other hand, is now so complicated that it is not detailed in the Town Board minutes.

Continued and increasing influence of Federal, State and County policies, regulations and funding are reflected in the Town Board minutes.

There are many personal details included in these Town Board minutes - memorials, a request for public apology, an award for heroism. Personal controversy between public officials is reflected in the Town Board minutes.

CONTENTS:

ELECTIONS: Appointments of election inspectors and their salaries are recorded at the annual reorganization meeting in January.

DOG CONTROL: The Town Board approves funds for improvements of the dog kennel.

HIGHWAY BUSINESS: Speed limits continue to be a concern. In 1986 the Town Board approves establishment of a 35 MPH speed limit for all Town roads.

The Highway Department continues to hold a spring clean-up, allowing residents to bring large items to the Highway garage for disposal. Dumping along Town roads, particularly Freeborn Lane, becomes such a problem that the Town Board discusses closing Freeborn Lane.

To assure construction of new roads to Town specifications, the Town Board stipulates in 1986 that bonding will be required, rather than a letter of credit. The Town accepts several new roads with dedication papers and maintenance bonds.

There is concern about impacts from development on Town roads. The Highway Superintendent proposes that contractors be made responsible for damage to Town roads by construction equipment. In 1988, the Town Board establishes permit fees for driveway access to Town roads.

The Town Board approves the use of Community Development Grant funds for highway reconstruction.

PUBLIC SAFETY: New street lights are approved by the Town Board. Stealing of road signs continues to be a dangerous and costly problem.

The Town Board continues to approve contracts with the Red Hook and Tivoli Fire Companies.

For Halloween, the Town Board hires Sheriff's deputies and sets a curfew. It continues to appoint a Town police force.

A Disaster Preparedness Committee is established in 1987.

TAXATION: Revaluation of tax assessments is a controversial issue. A consultant is hired; reports and discussions are recorded; several meetings involve complaints of residents about the revaluations.

FISCAL/PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY: Year end reports are presented by the Town Clerk, Justices of the Peace, Tax Collector and Assessor, though not usually detailed. Supervisor's monthly reports give details of accounts

There is a question of conflict of interest raised when the Supervisor acts as a contractor on water system connections. The Board of Ethics is asked to review the situation, and reports a finding of no conflict.

FRANCHISES: The Town Board addresses requests for rate increases and franchise amendments by Kingston Cablevision. It discusses and approves the transfer of assets and assignment of the franchise to TCI of New York.

BUDGET: The budget process is routine. The only details recorded are questions of budgeted items, reasons for increases, tax rates and assumptions used in preparation. Budget adjustments begin to occur monthly in 1988 and are detailed.

PERSONNEL: Town government continues to grow. Appointments and wages are listed at the reorganization meeting in January, other recordings as they occur.

PURCHASING: Bids for highway equipment, materials and fuel oil are usually opened at one meeting and tabled for review, then awarded at another meeting. Details of the bids are usually recorded, including details of financing.

TOWN HALL: Bids are accepted and contracts approved for work on the new Town Hall. The Town Board makes arrangements to sell the old Town Hall.

PLANNING: Regular planning issues are generally handled by the Planning Board, with mention in the Town Board minutes through reports. As reviews are more time consuming and costly, in 1987, the Town Board adopts a revised Planning Board fee schedule.

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program from the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program is presented by the Planning Board for Town Board discussion and approval.

The Town Board approves the goals and policies of Directions, a Plan for Dutchess County, put forth by the Dutchess County Planning Department. In 1988, the County also asks for support of the formation of a Dutchess County Water Agency, which the Town Board does not support, based on recommendations by the Planning Board and Water Board that such an agency should be only advisory and informative, not regulatory.

The Town Board amends flood plain regulations to be consistent with the National Flood Insurance Program.

cluster housing proposals, and directs it to develop rules and regulations for such review. A resolution for Conservation Density Subdivision also directs the Planning Board to develop rules and regulations to promote conservation of large rural tracts of land.

Following recommendation by the Planning Board, the Town Board hires a Planning Consultant.

ZONING: The Town Board considers some major rezoning issues- a proposal for landspreading of septic sludge, a proposal for an airport Overlay zone for development and expansion of the Sky Park airport (approved), and a request by Historic Hudson Valley for rezoning Montgomery Place to an Historic Land District (approved). Many details are included for these issues.

In 1986, the Town Board appoints a Zoning Commission to review the Zoning Law and make recommendations. A developer requests zoning revisions to allow higher density development where central water or sewer are available, which is rejected by the Zoning Review Committee in 1988. The Town Board approves a motion that all revisions of the zoning code will be done with work on the Master Plan, to begin in 1989.

The Office of Zoning Enforcement is divided into two offices, Building Inspector and Zoning Administrator. The Town Board approves fees for the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.

Some issues of zoning violations are discussed by the Town Board. The issue of the Counterr Academy violation in conducting weapons training (from previous years) has developed into a court suit in 1986.

WATER SUPPLY: Water supply issues are a major area of Town business. The Town Board establishes regulations for water use in Municipal Water District No. 1, including a schedule of charges, tapping procedure and technical specifications. There is controversy about whether regulations are applied equally to developers.

Complaints of residents of the Water District point to the need for a water storage facility. There is information about the planning, financing and bidding for the Capitol Project, Water Storage Facility, including an emergency connection to Bard College.

ENVIRONMENT: Environmental concerns are increasingly reflected in the minutes. Residents oppose a septage sludge spreading proposal. The Consolidated Edison Company proposal for a power plant continues to cause concern, though the proposal now is for coal, rather than nuclear power.

The Conservation Advisory Council proposes designation of the Sawkill Creek as a Critical Environmental Area.

The Town Board approves agreements relating to the Recycling Center.

SOLID WASTE: As noted above, the Town Board deals with recycling issues and a septage sludge spreading proposal. In this time period, residents request assistance with the cost of garbage disposal.

The 1986 Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency proposal to use a portion of the Consolidated Edison lands for an ashfill/landfill brings another controversy before the Town Board. A citizens' group forms and a Town Landfill Advisory Committee is appointed. There are informational meetings, reports and discussions recorded.

Volume XII of the Town Board minutes reflects many controversial issues in the areas of planning, zoning, water supply, the environment and solid waste. All of the issues involve multiple agencies and are influenced by programs and regulations of County, State or Federal agencies.

END VOLUME XII RECORD SERIES DESCRIPTION