

TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 15, 2015

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2015 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance:

Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer - Absent
Councilperson Kyle Barnett
Councilperson Diane McCord

Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the community attended the meeting to speak about the Pipeline. Supervisor John Coutant addressed the audience and asked them to keep their comments brief and not repeat what has already been discussed in prior meetings. Supervisor Coutant said he is looking at this matter very objectively and can see both sides. He is not willing to take any stance until he has heard from the pipeline people. He would like to see the positive and negative documentation before a decision can be made.

Linda Sakai resident of Rifton said a common misconception is the pipeline would replace the barges. There has been no evidence to prove the pipeline will relieve the river traffic.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett said the good news is it appears we have quite a bit of time because the Board is unaware of any approvals or engineering plans being presented before any Planning Boards. Councilperson Barnett said this gives our Town Board time to read through the documentation that has been provided and hear what the Pilgrim Company has to say. The Board is taking this matter very seriously.

Kathy Adin and Joanne Steele, Town Residents who previously attended meetings to also expressed their concern with the pipeline.

Jonathon Ridgeway, Town of Plattekill said he also felt it is only fair to hear both sides of the proposition. Pilgrim Pipeline was contacted and asked to attend their Town Board Meeting however did not show up. The Town of Plattekill was contacted by a representative for the pipeline and was told the Pilgrim Company does not have any applications pending. The representative supposedly claimed Pilgrim will not be applying until they have their ducks in a row and until it is too late for any Towns to take any contrary action.

Councilperson Barnett questioned Mr. Ridgeway, “The Pipeline representative actually said we are going to wait until it is too late for any Town Boards to do anything about it?” Mr. Ridgeway confirmed that was what was said. Mr. Ridgeway agreed to provide Supervisor Coutant with an official copy of the minutes from the Plattekill Board meeting at which the representative had made these comments.

Councilperson Barnett said in order to break ground anywhere in the State an application needs to be made to the Planning Board for each of the Towns and those Planning Boards have jurisdiction to deny or approve it. A public hearing also must be held. Mr. Ridgeway said he suspected the Pilgrim Company will run the lines within the State right of way along the thruway and State sovereignty will take precedence over local sovereignty.

Iris Bloom – Coalition against the Pilgrim Pipeline in Rosendale reviewed her concerns and said the lobbyist could not give any benefits. She reported they are surveying in Tuxedo, NY without authorization.

Joe Barbarito, Rifton resident said he wants the citizens of the Town to know the company does not have eminent domain and residents do not need to allow the company access to their property.

Dan Terpening, Resident of Port Ewen said the Thruway goes over a small portion of the Town of Esopus and does not affect many land owners. However the Town owns property near the thruway and may find survey stakes on it. Mr. Terpening said he wanted to be on record stating he was against the pipeline.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEMBER – ROSELINA WILLIAMSON

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the town of Esopus in the County of Ulster, State of New York as follows,

WHEREEAS, the Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board has a vacancy to be filled the Town of Esopus Town Board recommends the appointment of Roselina Williamson to a term which will expire on December 31, 2017,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Esopus Town Board appoints Roselina Williamson to fill this vacancy which will expire on December 31, 2017.

Resolution offered by: Supervisor John Coutant
Seconded by: Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet.

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE

SCENIC HUDSON

Scenic Hudson does not pay property tax on the parcels of land which they own, however they made a \$5,000 contribution to support the Town in this difficult budget cycle. Supervisor Coutant thanked them for their contribution. He explained how difficult it has been to stay within the 2% tax cap when vendor costs continue to rise more than 2% per year.

DOG KENNEL

Supervisor Coutant announced the Esopus Dog Kennel has been shut down and the Esopus dogs were transferred to the U.C.S.P.C.A.. Pictures and documentation of the kennel were given to the Town Clerk for permanent record. Supervisor Coutant said the reason for the documentation was the Town currently has a State approved Kennel. He does not want to have someone say in the future, the kennel we have temporarily closed is no longer state acceptable.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS

This year the Association of Town’s training session will be held February 15 – 18, 2015 in New York City. A Town official designee needs to be chosen to attend.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS - 2014

Be It Resolved by, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

Whereas, the Town of Esopus has been presented with budget adjustments and the adjustments have been examined and approved by the Town Board.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following budget adjustments be approved for payment:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR DECEMBER 2014

AO 0599.000	Fund Balance	AO 1620.403	BLDG SUPPLIES	\$ 1,199.37
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A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

OFFERED BY: Supervisor John Coutant
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Diane McCord

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS - 2014

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

General Fund	141595 –Void	
	141596 - 141632	
	141633 – Void	
	141634	\$ 17,866.37
Highway Fund	142305 - 142306	
	142307 – Void	
	142308 – 142324	\$29,090.21
Street Lights		
Port Ewen Sewer Fund	143174 - 143184	\$ 4,789.92
Port Ewen Water Fund	144326 - 144348	\$ 14,465.74
Total.....		.\$ 66,212.24

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Kyle Barnett
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Gloria van Vliet

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS - 2015

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

General Fund	151001 -151015	\$13843.71
Highway Fund	152001 – 152003	\$1,344.40
Street Lights	156001	\$6,680.26
Total.....		\$21,868.37

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Diane McCord
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Kyle Barnett

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COUTANT AND SECONDED COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATION & REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE - NONE

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:18 PM WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**