

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
January 18, 2018**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY. with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris  
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
Councilperson Jared Geuss  
Councilperson Kathie Quick  
Councilperson Chris Farrell**

**Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC**

**Supervisor Shannon Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.**

**PLEDGE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**INTERVIEW – DALE WOLFELD**

The Town Board interviewed Dale Wolfeld for the vacancy on the Waterfront Advisory Board.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO APPOINT DALE WOLFELD TO THE WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD TO FILL THE REMAINING TERM UNTIL 12/31/2020. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MARSHALL & STERLING 2018 CONTRACT**

Supervisor Shannon Harris reviewed the coverage of the Comprehensive Plan which had no changes in coverage from last year, however the premium has gone down. Councilperson Farrell asked several questions regarding how long the Town has dealt with Marshall and Sterling as well as when or if the contract had gone out to bid. Answers were not readily available and will be researched.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR 2018 WITH MARSHALL & STERLING INSURANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,811.70 AND AUTHORIZED THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET.**

<b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Chris Farrell</b>	<b>NO *</b>
<b>Supervisor Shannon Harris</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 4 AYES, 1 – NO**

\*Councilperson Farrell said the Town should have put it out to bid. The Board will consider putting the contract out to bid for 2019.

**CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

A resolution adopting the Climate Smart Communities Pledge was passed at the December 27, 2017 Town Board meeting. The Board is now moving forward fulfilling the obligations of the pledge by bringing for discussion the next steps in the process. A steering committee needs to be selected and a coordinator that would represent Esopus will be appointed for the climate smart program. Supervisor Harris said she visited with the Environmental Board and discussed the ability to meet the expectations of the pledge. The Environmental Board members were very enthusiastic to support this pledge and members expressed an interest in being the coordinator and serving on the Steering Committee. Gloria said it was new and asked what the steering committee will do and what the role of the coordinator was. Europa McGovern is the Clean Energy Communities Coordinator for the Hudson Valley regional council. The Coordinator for Esopus will be responsible to meet once a month with the Ulster County steering committee lead by Manna Jo Greene at the county building. The coordinator would represent Esopus to share our progress on meeting the obligations of the pledge. Europa offered to attend the next Environmental Board meeting to explain what the expectations are and help align the goals to make progress. Europa will also be meeting at the county level with Manna Jo Greene. The Town has completed all but two of the items that are needed. The steering committee and coordinator will be responsible for compiling information and verifying we are at the expectations set forth by the pledge. The coordinator will also be responsible for keeping the Town Board abreast of the progress being made. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet suggested a Town Board member be part of the steering committee. Councilperson Kathie Quick is the liaison to the Environmental Board and therefore will be kept informed of the progress. Councilperson Chris Farrell said he did not understand why it wasn't just a subcommittee of the existing Environmental Board and thought it would be more productive. The Environmental Board had already suggested the same at their meeting last night. Councilperson Jared Geuss also said the Environmental Board should be taking it on and work with Europa to take advantage of the support she had offered at a previous meeting. The Board suggested being updated every other meeting.

## **ANCHORAGE – REBECCA DELACRUZ, SCENIC HUDSON**

The subject of the US Coast Guard (USCG) proposing to establish 10 new sites for 43 commercial vessels along the Hudson River has been topic of many meetings over the past year. The proposal was temporarily suspended pending a port and waterways safety assessment (PAWSA). In November Scenic Hudson participated in two PAWSA workshops hosted by the USCG where they reiterated the continued opposition to any official designation of new anchorages and offered alternative mitigation measures to improve navigational safety. Governor Cuomo signed Senate Bill 5197b and Assembly Bill 6825 into law, authorizing the DEC to issue enforceable regulations that would designate tanker avoidance zones on the Hudson River based on environmental considerations and waterfront communities.

**Brent Spoth**, who attended tonight's meeting, said he enjoys watching the commerce go up and down the river and would like to see more. He wondered why all of a sudden out of the blue this issue has been created. It seems like they are trying to make it impossible for the commerce to get through. He was concerned the restrictions would place a hindrance on the commerce going up and down the river which has been happening for years. He said, "if we want to promote industry and commerce they have to park somewhere".

Barges have parked for decades in cases of emergency. This proposal is different because of the magnitude for permanent anchorages upward of 43 vessels sitting for 30 days or more unattended without a crew. This could be detrimental to communities that have made riverfront revitalization, drinking water supplies drawn from the Hudson and habitats for sturgeon and other imperiled fish species. Rebecca DeLaCruz urged the Board to sign a letter to Commissioner Basil Seggos of the DEC seeking immediate action in initiating the establishment of anchorage ground regulations that would offer waterfront communities protection against such federal action that would allow the anchoring of large vessels (particularly those bearing petroleum and other volatile substances) along our shore. To date no new locations have been issued. One anchorage already exists outside of Hyde Park and another outside Yonkers. Kingston Waterfront Alliance has banned together with other collation members, municipalities, groups and constituents to show solidarity along the river.

Councilperson Kathie Quick said we promote the river traffic it's just the matter of long term storage that there is a concern with. The reason for the proposal is to ensure safeguards to protect the concerned areas if the proposal goes through.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION**  
**IN SUPPORT OF IMMEDIATE STATE AGENCY RULE-MAKING**  
**FOR TANKER-AVOIDANCE ZONES**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York the following:

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the U.S. Coast Guard proposed establishing new anchorage grounds along the Hudson River between Yonkers and Kingston; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Cuomo signed A.6825a/ S.5197b into law and positioned New York State to continue to fulfill its responsibility to the Hudson River and its communities from the many potential dangers presented by oil-carrying vessels on the Hudson River and the proposed additional barge anchorage grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Government and New York State share concurrent jurisdiction over the Hudson River, and as long as action by the state is not inconsistent with existing federal regulation and does not unreasonably burden interstate commerce, New York has significant authority to regulate navigable waters like the Hudson when the state's interest warrants special precautionary measures; and

**WHEREAS**, it remains a top priority of the *Town of Esopus* to prevent any new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from being sited at locations where they pose a clear and direct threat to the environment, quality of life, and regional economic development goals of the Hudson Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus is home to the Roger Mabie Water Treatment Facility, Black Creek Forest Preserve, Esopus Meadows Lighthouse, Esopus Meadows Point Preserve and Environmental Center, George H. Freer Memorial Park Beach and Boat Launch, High Banks Preserve, James Rieker park, Lighthouse Park, Shaupeneak Ridge, Sleightsburgh Park and Boat Launch, Payne Estate Stone Barns, Scenic Hudson Gordon Property, John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary, The Star Estate, The Rosemount Estate and the Community of Churches Mount Academy; the integrity of which would be threatened by the establishment of new barge anchorage grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus has documented its concerns about the anchoring of petroleum-carrying tankers, including disrupting the economic vitality of the waterfront, endangering drinking water supplies, damaging fish habitat and detracting from scenic beauty and quality of life along the river (see Resolution dated April 3, 2017); and

**WHEREAS**, the USCG recently conducted two Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) workshops for the stretch of the Hudson River between the Tappan Zee Bridge and the Port of Albany, and a recommendation to establish new anchorage grounds was discussed and could be part of the USCG's PAWSA report; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has secured important victories that have been essential to public health, the environment and the economy of the state, including the administration’s support for the Environmental Protection Fund, the ban on hydraulic fracturing, increasing funding for the state’s Oil Spill Response Fund, and issuance of water quality permit decisions relating to energy development and transport have been among these many accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS**, the new law gives the Department of Environmental Conservation the ability to establish areas of the Hudson River where it shall be unlawful for petroleum-bearing vessels to enter, move or anchor; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Esopus Town Board requests that DEC Commissioner Seggos immediately advance a rulemaking process to establish Tanker Avoidance Zones for petroleum-bearing vessels, implementing the strongest possible regulations allowed under the law; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Supervisor of the Town of Esopus, New York be hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the Hon. Basil Seggos, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Hon. George Amedore, State Senator; the Hon Kevin Cahill, State Assemblyman, and to such other persons as the Supervisor of the Town, in her discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

**Resolution offered by: Councilperson Jared Geuss**  
**Resolution seconded by: Councilperson Kathie Quick**

<b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b>	<b>NO**</b>
<b>Councilperson Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Chris Farrell</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor Shannon Harris</b>	<b>AYE</b>

\*\* Councilperson Van Vliet – was not in favor of memorializing resolutions and said we already stated our concerns against additional anchorages.

**Resolution Passed 4 AYES, 1 – NO**

**WATERFRONT ALLIANCE LETTER TO COMMISSIONER BASIL SEGGOS**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO SUPPORT SIGNING THE HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT ALLIANCE LETTER TO COMMISSIONER BASIL SEGGOS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SCENIC HUDSON GREENWAY GRANT- PETER BERNARD**

Peter Bernard, Urban Designer for Scenic Hudson, has been working with the Towns of Lloyd and Esopus to craft a plan for the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail which connects Illinois Mountain in the Town of Lloyd with the John Burroughs Preserve in Esopus. Peter reviewed the progress made over the past year as well as discussed the bid which was received in December. The company Land Beyond The Sea was the sole bidder on the RFP. Peter explained that he worked with the consultants to change the scope of work to incorporate more field time verification as well as the identifying of endangered species. The information gathered will benefit all three properties, approximately 1,000 acres owned by Scenic Hudson, DEC and John Burroughs which will be critical for future development of parking lots, mountain biking trails and hunting on the properties. A grant was obtained and Scenic Hudson is matching the funds. There is no cost to the Town.

**SERVICE CONTRACT WITH LAND BY THE SEA FOR THE JOHN BURROUGHS TRAIL**

**SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO SIGN THE AMMENDED SERVICE CONTRACT FOR LAND BEYOND THE SEA, (LBS) TO PROVIDE SERVICES OF AN ECOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE JOHN BURROUGHS BLACK CREEK TRAIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,620.00; WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 31, 2018. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Laura Petit**, Legislator District 8 has offered to assist in some grant writing opportunities for the Town. Currently Legislator Petit is assisting Joan Burroughs and has drafted the resolution authorizing a letter of support for the Nature and Heritage Education Program grant for the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail. Grants often require authorizing resolutions.

Joan’s proposed program is for nature and heritage education along the Black Creek Trail which is being developed with Scenic Hudson. The focus of the grant is developing a curriculum for middle schools and high school aged students which can be utilized by the school districts or afterschool programs. There is no financial responsibility for the Town. The Town will submit the grant and the letter of support increases the opportunities for the candidate applying for the grant. Joan Burroughs has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston to test the curriculum. This is a federally funded grant which passes through Greenway.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS RESOLUTION**  
**AUTHORIZING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A NATURE AND HERITAGE EDUCATION**  
**PROGRAM GRANT FOR JOHN BURROUGHS BLACK CREEK TRAIL**

**WHEREAS**, the John Burroughs Association, Inc. is applying to the Hudson River Valley



**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Kathie Quick

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet      **AYE**  
Councilperson Jared Geuss            **AYE**  
Councilperson Kathie Quick          **AYE**  
Councilperson Chris Farrell          **AYE**  
Supervisor Shannon Harris          **AYE**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS – FINAL DECEMBER 2017**

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	171619 - 171648	\$ 25,171.61
HIGHWAY FUND	172286- 172308	\$ 35,066.68
STREET LIGHTS	176011	\$ 6,992.73
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	173165 -173167	\$ 2,945.34
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	174306-174325	\$ 13,579.89
TOTAL		\$ 83,756.25

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Jared Geuss  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Chris Farrell

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet      AYE  
 Councilperson Jared Geuss            AYE  
 Councilperson Kathie Quick          AYE  
 Councilperson Chris Farrell          AYE  
 Supervisor Shannon Harris          AYE

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS – JANUARY 2018**

**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:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>181001 - 181012</b>	<b>\$ 13,585.24</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>182001 - 182003</b>	<b>\$ 1,230.86</b>
<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b>	<b>183001 -183002</b>	<b>\$ 10,403.23</b>
<b>PORT EWEN WATER FUND</b>	<b>184001 - 184004</b>	<b>\$ 26,764.61</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 51,983.94</b>

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.**

**OFFERED BY:**                      Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
**SECONDED BY:**                 Councilperson Kathie Quick

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet      AYE  
 Councilperson Jared Geuss            AYE  
 Councilperson Kathie Quick          AYE  
 Councilperson Chris Farrell          AYE  
 Supervisor Shannon Harris          AYE

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

**COMMUNICATION & REPORTS WILL BE AVAILBLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**UPDATES/MISCELLANEOUS**

Central Hudson's Rate A LED streetlight conversion will begin 120 days from the payment date, payment is still in progress.

Pleasant View Cemetery has been abandoned to the Town of Esopus; \$13,000 is available for future maintenance.

Councilperson Chris Farrell thanked the Highway department for the timely removal of the snow. Everyone complimented the service they provide.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS AT 8:35 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Next workshop meeting will be February 6, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC