

**TOWN OF ESOPUS TOWN BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2012**

A regularly scheduled Town of Esopus Town Board Meeting was held on Feb. 16 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway in Port Ewen, New York with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Donna McAuley
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

**Administrative Recorder: Diane L. McCord
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**

**Ulster County Legislative Chairperson Terry L. Bernardo
District 8 Legislator Carl Belfiglio
District 17 Legislator Ken Wishnick**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Pledge to the Flag

Public Comment:

Legislator Carl Belfiglio spoke about a Letter to the Editor published in the Daily Freeman last Monday concerning a grandfather crossing the street on Rt. 9W and West Main to go to Stewart's. An Ulster County Sheriff almost ran over this man. Councilperson Wayne Freer said this incident is being investigated by the Ulster County Sheriff's Department.

The Town has a crosswalk with poles and signs at the Rt. 9W and Main St. intersection. However, they are taken down for the winter. What the Legislator is trying to say is, in 2010, as a Councilperson himself, he tried to have the Town Board approve three crosswalk signs. We want our citizens to walk along the Broadway corridor and we want to make it safe. It would be beneficial if we have one on West Stout Avenue and Broadway across from Keyzers and Dr. Anderson's and one at the entrance to the Town or by the Port Ewen Fire Department and Schryver Street. When the original crosswalk was purchased it cost \$375. We really need the two additional signs. People do not go 30 MPH on Rt. 9W. You could purchase the additional signs this spring.

Legislator Belfiglio thanked the Town Board for doing a great with job the 2012 budget. Supervisor Coutant said we will take this into consideration for the future. We are trying to control every part of our expenses.

1. Presentation to Bill Devine

Supervisor Coutant gave tribute to a very important person in our Town, Bill Devine. Volunteerism in the Town of Esopus is vital and we do have dedicated people. We have one of the best Planning Boards that money could buy, if in fact, they were paid. The work they have done and the manner in which they have acted is superior. The Planning Board takes a personal interest in what has happened in Esopus.

We are so lucky tonight for we have in our presence Bill Devine who in the 1970's and 1980's been on the Planning Board and was the Chairman. He helped to bring several projects to fruition i.e. Riverview, Rondout Harbor. Etc. Please come up Bill and receive this plaque to William T. Devine for eighteen years of dedicated service. I give this to you to remind you of the service you have given to our residents and the people in our area. It has been people like you who have made this town what is today.

Bill Devine: I never expected anything like this. The people on the Planning Board are the finest people I have ever known.

Planning Board Chairperson Roxanne Pecora: The Planning Board has something for you.....a Certification of Appreciation to acknowledge your expertise and your knowledge.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett: You have been involved in the Town for so long and worked so hard. It is a privilege and an honor and we thank you for your service. Spend some of this time with your family.

Councilperson Donna McAuley: I would like to shake your hand and to thank you.

Bill Devine: It is the Town Board that provides the leadership. The Town Board along with the Planning Board has a relationship with our Planning Board Chairperson and the Supervisor is great.

Councilperson Wayne Freer: On behalf of all of the citizens in the Town, the amount of time and dedication you put in is not able to be counted. Over the years there are many people you have touched.

On behalf of all the people who could not make it here tonight....Great Job, Well done!

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet: When you were chairman and the times when you would come to meetings and all the projects you worked on....thank you for all the projects that have come to exist in the Town through your efforts.

Mike Minor: I used to sit next to Bill at the Planning Board along with Myles Putman; I will miss your sense of humor, your knowledge and sense of honor. Second, please come visit. I have a good feeling about the future of the Town.

Bill Devine: Our Zoning Board of Appeals has a tough job. Herb Heckler said the Planning Board was a design Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals has a difficult job because you deal with real problems the Town has and the answers do not come easily. I just happened to remember those words tonight. They should be recognized also. Supervisor said Bill would get a copy of this DVD.

2. Terry Bernardo – Ulster County Legislative Chairperson

Supervisor John Coutant introduced Ulster County Legislative Chairperson Terry Bernardo, Legislator Carl Belfiglio, and Legislator Ken Wishnick.

Chairman Bernardo said it was not long ago when the legislature was run by the Board of Supervisors because they are the eyes and ears of the towns. We should all know each other and have the opportunity to dialogue. Legislator Carl Belfiglio is the Chairman of our Energy and Environmental Committee where they will discuss the brown water issue in the Esopus. They have the authority to have public hearings where people can testify under oath and subpoenas can be issued. Legislator Belfiglio continued stating their committee also has the authority to have the D.E.C. and the D.E.P come to tell us about this contamination. D.E.P. can enforce the law. We can bring this matter to fruition. The U.C.R.R.A. is also an issue before the committee.

Legislator Wishnick brings talent and knowledge to the Legislature. The Town of Esopus is where we can grow and where we need development, economic development. Legislator Wishnick is on the Tourism Committee. He represents the Rifton area in District 17. The Legislator is pleased to be here this evening. He has had years of experience in local government and works in planning and his experience as a planner will be an asset. Legislator Wishnick said being Chairperson of the Ulster County Legislature is a difficult job and Chairperson Bernardo is doing an outstanding job.

Chairman Bernardo said she will go to the Supervisor's Meetings. One of the topics to discuss is how much money can be saved by the consolidation of election districts. The Ulster County Legislature puts costs on the towns and we would like to break those costs out on the taxes. The Chairman has a wonderful staff in the office and they will be available to you.

Legislator Wishnick spoke about the demographics in New Paltz and said he represents the town not the village. He considers himself a political moderate. He is a little left of center. He has great admiration for his opponent Les Kalmus who he considers a reasonable and fair campaigner. In fact they have lunch together will remain friends. He has the upmost respect for Legislator Belfiglio and Chairperson Bernardo. They need to put their energy together. The Legislator has run economic development programs, he was a planner and was a CEO. He would like to use his talents to help in any way he can. Please call him any time.

On a personal note, his son jumped off the Walkway on the Hudson. He truly gave life a try but sometimes mental illness overcomes. The Legislator chose to run for office because his son wanted him to do more. The Legislator comes with his energy. He will help everyone to move forward.

Legislator Belfiglio has never seen anyone so energetic and with so many ideas. We are all working together. 1.5 million dollars a year goes to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. The agency is riddled with debt. We are going to try and find ways to save money. Our Transfer Station houses the R.R.A. and we truck our trash to Syracuse and the costs are extreme. I would like to reassure you we are looking out for your tax dollars. We need to stay below the two percent cap. We must tackle why the level of turbidity is so bad in the Hudson River. Saugerties, where the Esopus comes out, is where the

turbid water comes into the Hudson River. The County Planning Board is looking into the plans of the reservoir to find out where the water is coming from. You can contact all of us in the Ulster County Legislature. We need more opportunities in our government. Chairman Bernardo will be a tireless worker for our state. The mandates are a problem handed down from our state government.

Supervisor Coutant said this Town Board has had an excellent relationship with Legislator Carl Belfiglio. We have worked well together. We have shared information and ideas. We welcome Ken Wishnick. We want you to feel part of us and us with you. I have a great reputation for getting involved. Today Planning Board Chairperson Roxanne Pecora and I spoke for two and a half hours about economic development in order to move this town forward and to do things a little differently than what was done in the past. The ideas we hoped will be backed up by the other Supervisors and Town Boards’.

3. Resolution – Appointment to Assessment Board of Review

Be it Resolved, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York, as follows,

Whereas, there is a vacancy on the Town of Esopus Assessment Review Board,

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Town of Esopus Town Board appoints Leslie Kalmus to a five year term to expire on 9/30/2016.

Resolution offered by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet
Resolution seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer

Supervisor John Coutant	Aye
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	Aye
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Aye
Councilperson Donna McAuley	Aye
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

4. Resolution – Authorizing Attorney to Act Re: American Residential Communities

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE SETTLEMENT
TOWN OF ESOPUS adv. AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

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

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus has received and reviewed the Consent Judgment in the above referenced matter,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Esopus Town Board authorizes the Town Attorney Paul T. Kellar, Esq. to execute the Consent Judgment and such documents as necessary to effect settlement of this case, pursuant to the terms of the Consent Judgment, on behalf of the Town of Esopus and to have said documents filed.

Resolution offered by Supervisor John Coutant
Resolution seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett

Supervisor John Coutant	Aye
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	Aye
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Aye
Councilperson Donna McAuley	Aye
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

5. Union Contract Signed

The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to sign an agreement between the Town of Esopus and U.P.S.E.U. (United Public Service Employees Union) representing our Highway and Port Ewen Water and Sewer personnel. All parties involved understood the cap on our taxes and we are operating on a tight budget. We are thankful for what our employees have done for us. Councilperson Freer said we talked over the negotiations for a brief time and we came to the conclusion that many things could not be done but we came up with a very good package and the taxpayers should be happy.

6. Solar Energy Upgrade

Three of our actuators connecting to our solar panels failed. Randolph Horner contacted the manufacturer and they sent replacement units. The replacements were upgraded units and the manufacturer decided to replace all the actuators and give us a full warrantee on them beginning the date of replacement. Randolph Horner has been a guiding light to the Town of Esopus with all his solar experience. We are now preparing to place solar panels at our Transfer Station to provide energy for the remainder of the Town Hall, the Highway Dept., our Street Lighting and for Port Ewen Water and Sewer District to stabilize our energy costs.

The Supervisor spoke about economic development and with the purchase of Mt. St. Alphonsus by the Community of Churches the end of March; 120 workers are now at the Mount. These men are local contractors and they are bringing the buildings and structures up to snuff. This is what is happening in the Town of Esopus.

7. Dog Contracts

The Town Clerk spoke about our dog kennel located at the Transfer Station. We have three employees working part time. One works in the morning and he feeds and cleans the twelve cages we have. One employees walks the dogs in the afternoon and another covers the weekends. The Town of Esopus does

not have enough dogs of our own to run the kennel, therefore, we now have contracts with the City of Kingston, Town of Ulster and Town of Wawarsing.

8. The Pride of Ulster County Award for Chester’s Cutting Crew on 2/21/12

Ulster County will give the Pride of Ulster County Award to the Waterfront Advisory Board on behalf of Chester’s Cutting Crew who won a \$4,500 award from the Interlux Company for the work they did cutting Waterchestnuts in the Hudson River. The Supervisor hopes to conduct Kayak Races in a field cut by the Crew this summer.

9. Payment of Vouchers

**PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS
FEBRUARY 2012**

Be it Resolved, BY THE Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, State of New York 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	121034-121092	\$34,898.35
Highway Vouchers	122004-122034	\$42,586.05
Street Lighting	126002	\$ 6,175.66
Port Ewen Sewer	123012-123035	\$20,487.06
Port Ewen Water	124008-124038	\$18,010.08
Total.....		\$122,157.20

**Resolution offered by Councilperson Donna McAuley
Resolution seconded by Supervisor John Coutant**

Supervisor John Coutant	Aye
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	Aye
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Aye

**Councilperson Donna McAuley
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

**Aye
Aye**

7

Resolution duly adopted.

10. Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the January Minutes was made by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and seconded by Supervisor John Coutant. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

11. Communications and Reports of Boards and Officials

The communications for the month are on file in the Town Clerks' Office along with the Reports of Officials and Boards:

Town Clerk's Report for January 2012
Supervisor Report for February 2012
Building Dept. Report for January 2012
Planning Boards Minutes dated January 11, 2012
Recreation Board Minutes January 2012
Assessor's Report for January 2012
Port Ewen Water & Sewer Minutes for January 2012
Assessor's Report dated January 2012

A Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Donna McAuley at 8:25 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane L. McCord
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**