

**TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
& TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 22, 2017**

A Public Hearing of the Local Law to appoint Alternate Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals Members to serve in the Town of Esopus and to Adopt Chapter 35 in the Town Code was held on February 22, 2017 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:15 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Diane L. McCord  
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
Councilperson Wayne Freer  
Councilperson Kathy Quick  
Councilperson Jared Geuss**

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk**

Supervisor Diane McCord opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

The Supervisor explained the Town Attorney, Paul Kellar, believes additional wording needs to be addressed and clarification of the intent of this law is needed before the public hearing is re scheduled. When the revised verbiage is available and the Town Board has been able to thoroughly review the revised local law, the Public Hearing can be re scheduled and advertised.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER AT 7:17PM TO KEEP THE PUBLIC HEARING OPEN UNTIL A LATER DATE AT WHICH TIME THE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Supervisor Diane McCord called the regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting to order at 7:30 PM.**

**PLEDGE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE**

**Supervisor Announcements**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – TOWN BOARD MEETING FEB. 22, 2017**

1. There was a Public Hearing held at 7:15 for the Local Law to appoint Alternate Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals Members to serve in the Town of Esopus and to Adopt Chapter 35 in the Town Code. Supervisor McCord said the Public Hearing will be re scheduled at a later date. Our Attorney, Paul Kellar, believes additional wording needs to be addressed before the public hearing is re scheduled.

2. Concerning our grant from DASNY.....Wayne did you speak with our CPA about the Capital Fund Project? Wayne had not had a chance.
3. Computer updates and recommendations have been made by the new computer consultant. Supervisor McCord said they will discuss the recommendations further at the March 6<sup>th</sup> workshop. However she would like the Board to look at it ahead of time.
4. We do not have the market value of the property we need for the new Water Tank yet. Michael Bernholtz is working on the evaluation.
5. In order to proceed with our Solar Panels, BQ has hired a firm L & S to do an Energy Assessment to help qualify us for our NYSEDA Grant. The Town will need 14 months of Central Hudson billing for each of our many accounts. Supervisor McCord spoke with Joe Hestler from Central Hudson and he will provide the information for us to give L & S. Supervisor McCord talked with Paul Curran from BQ and he is optimistic we will be under way this spring with our panels.
6. The Town Clerks office will begin to accept reservations for the 2017 Park rental season. Opening Day is March 1<sup>st</sup> for Residents, April 3<sup>rd</sup> for non- residents. For further information please call the Town Clerks office at 331-3709.

#### **DISCUSS & APPOINT CIVIL DEFENSE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR TOWN**

Sal Morello will take on the duties of the Civil Defense Deputy Director for the Town. Councilperson Freer said he had contacted the County Emergency Management Department regarding the position and they are looking for an individual to serve as a conduit to attend meetings and bring back information to the Town Board. This is to ensure the information gets back in a timely and accurate manner. Sal has agreed to perform this duty. A resolution to appoint Sal will be presented at the next meeting.

#### **UPSEU CONTRACT**

The Town Board was given a copy of the Union Contract that Supervisor McCord and Councilperson Freer had negotiated. The contract will go to the union for vote. If any Board members have any questions, Supervisor McCord and Wayne will field those questions so once the union members accept the contract, the Board can approve and sign the contract. Jared Geuss complemented Supervisor McCord and Councilperson Freer on a job well done. Councilperson Freer said they felt it was a fair and equitable contract.

#### **Local Law Regulating Certain Solar Energy Systems & Equipment**

Supervisor McCord explained many towns in Ulster County are adopting local laws to regulate Certain Solar Energy systems. An example was given of a company installing a solar field and then the company goes bankrupt. Who is responsible for taking the solar

field down? The Town should not be responsible. Supervisor McCord said she will give the samples of local laws, that other towns have drafted to the newly formed Comprehensive Plan Board to review and give their feedback to the Board.

### **Kingston Anchorage Roundtable Meeting Summary**

Carol Tomessetti had attended the Kingston Anchorage Roundtable Meeting on February 2, 2017 representing the Town of Esopus and the Waterfront Advisory Board. Janet Bellusci and Mercedes Ross were also in attendance from the Waterfront Advisory Board. The meeting was sponsored by Kingston Mayor, Steve Noble. The Yonkers mayor, Mike Spano along with Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson presented their activities to fight the anchorage efforts requested by the Maritime Industry. They have formed a "Hudson River Water Front Alliance" which is designed to fight the effort in a coordinated and united way. Sharing information, tactics and resources to help spread the word to the community, so they can be informed as well. Scenic Hudson, River Keeper and eighteen lower Hudson Valley towns have joined the alliance. They are now expanding their effort to reach out to the upper Hudson Valley towns and have asked that we join their alliance so we can fight these efforts in a coordinated fashion. They have hired both legal and maritime experts to help.

Our participation could take a variety of forms including:

1. Joining the Alliance
2. Passing a local resolution taking a formal position regarding the proposed anchorages
3. Signing the waterfront pledge ( a non binding pledge)
4. Attending HRWA meetings
5. Increasing awareness within our community regarding the efforts using their media toolkit.
6. Signing the petition they have created (it is a bit Westchester County oriented so we may need an upper Hudson version)
7. Continue our efforts to contact federal & state lawmakers regarding the efforts.

Supervisor McCord said she thinks the Board should discuss the options at a future meeting to determine what direction Esopus will take. Councilperson Kathie Quick said they continue to pressure the Coast Guard to hold information sessions and have offered the Esopus Town Hall as a meeting site. Brian Barnes offered to televise the meeting so the public is aware of what is going on.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE AND PROPOSED BROCHURE**

Supervisor McCord said she had hoped Howie Slotnik would attend the meeting to review the draft of the brochure the Economic Development Committee is putting together. Their goal is to get business to come to the Town of Esopus.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER TO APPROVE THE TOWN CLERK’S MINUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMUNICATION & REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE**

**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are still needed for the Environmental, Waterfront Advisory, Zoning and the Assessment Review Board. There needs to be someone appointed to the Assessment Board of review prior to April because they must attend training prior to grievance day. Councilperson Freer suggested that we register for the training to ensure a seat but leave the name TBA.

**Review Consent Agreement and Guarantee BQ Energy**

Supervisor McCord asked the Board to review the Consent agreement and Guarantee from BQ energy. Paul Kellar, attorney for the Town, also has a copy to review.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS - FEBRUARY 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:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>171013 -171071</b>	<b>\$ 46,858.87</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>172003 - 172033</b>	<b>\$ 43,967.42</b>
<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	<b>176000</b>	<b>\$ 6,740.25</b>
<b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b>	<b>173000 - 173021</b>	<b>\$ 28,980.11</b>
<b>PORT EWEN WATER FUND</b>	<b>174002 - 174044</b>	<b>\$ 71,558.08</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 198,104.73</b>

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

**OFFERED BY: Councilperson Jared Guess**  
**SECONDED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick**

<b>Councilperson Wayne Freer</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<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>Supervisor Diane McCord</b>	<b>AYE</b>

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AT 7:52 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL MATTER IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT REGARDING A PARTICULAR PERSON’S ATTENDANCE HISTORY. BUILDING INSPECTOR SAL MORELLO WAS INVITED INTO THE SESSION. COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:25 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER AT 8:28 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC