

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 28, 2017**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, N.Y. with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Diane McCord - Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer - Absent
Councilperson Jared Geuss
Councilperson Kathie Quick**

Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Deputy Supervisor Kathie Quick called the Meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Carl Belfiglio, Ulster County Legislator District 8, spoke on two issues. The State Assembly and Senate adjourned last week and did not have a resolution for the 1% sales tax extension for the County. On the County side that is a 25 – 30 million sales tax loss. Carl also said he believed it could mean a \$ 200,000 - \$ 300,000 loss for the Town.

Legislator Belfiglio's second topic was Air B & B and short term rentals. Currently they are not regulated. Air B & B's have been the subject at several workshop meetings over the past few months. Legislator Belfiglio had sent the Board a memo for discussion at a previous workshop meeting regarding this topic. He said he supports a proposal of a special use permit within regulations regarding noise, parking, and safety issues. On the positive side, it is an opportunity for economic growth in the Town increasing shopping, dining and sparking interest for businesses to come into Town. It can also lead to increase in revenue through building and planning fees. Legislator Belfiglio congratulated the Board on doing a great job for the Town.

Announcements

- Supervisor McCord met with Agnes Reis at Lighthouse Park for the sighting of the new memorial bench in honor of her late husband. Diane was not present at the meeting, further information was unavailable.
- The Computel Street lighting audit has resulted in a Central Hudson Rebate for the following accounts:

Acct# 2640	\$ 118.40
Acct# 2680	\$ 729.40
<u>Acct# 2660</u>	<u>\$ 3,426.41</u>
Total	\$ 4,274.21

The Town will split that rebate with Computel.

- Thank you to Cutrone Sand and Gravel for donating 10 Yards of Mulch for Sojourner Truth Park
- Blockades have been installed to prevent ATV's from driving on Town Hall Property

TOWN OF ESOPUS
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT
JOHN BURROUGHS BLACK CREEK TRAIL

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

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson, in partnership with the John Burroughs Association and the Town of Lloyd, are applying to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) for a grant under the Environmental Protection Fund for Phase I Implementation of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail to be located along the Black Creek between the Town Boundary and the Hudson River, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of this Board; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement under the rules of these programs, said not-for-profit corporations must obtain the "approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this body that the Town of Esopus Town Board hereby does approve and endorse the application of Scenic Hudson for a grant under the Environmental Protection Fund for a park project known as John Burroughs Black Creek Trail Phase I Implementation and located within this community

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Resolution seconded by: Councilperson Jared Geuss

Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	Aye
Councilperson Kathie Quick	Aye
Councilperson Jared Geuss	Aye
Supervisor Diane McCord	Absent

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY (CSC)

The Climate smart Communities (CSC) program is a New York State initiative to help local communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for impacts of climate change and save taxpayer dollars. The program is designed to address 10 focus areas and Esopus has already completed many of the pledge elements.

Sometime ago, the Town had pledged to be a Climate Smart Community, however never formalized it. Paperwork needs to be completed and samples from neighboring Towns were shared with the Board members. Once we complete the process and receive the designation of a Climate Smart Community, the Town will be eligible for \$150,000 of funding to continue efforts to be a green community.

SOURCE WATER CONFERENCE -WEST POINT MEETING – JUNE 23, 2017

On Friday, June 23rd Superintendent Don Kiernan and Supervisor McCord attended a seminar on Water Contamination at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, N. Y. Those in attendance all drew drinking water from the Hudson. The meeting was put on by the Hudson Valley Regional Council and the Riverkeeper.

Eight million people use Hudson River water for drinking. In the past year we have seen the following:

1. Severe drought
2. Major contamination of drinking water in one of our cities
3. A billion dollar construction project to repair a leak under the Hudson
4. Smaller but substantial leaks in other communities
5. Issues with lead in the drinking water at schools and other facilities due to aging infrastructure.
6. Issues with demand for water to accommodate growth in commerce.
7. Issues with potential contamination from trains carrying hazardous waste materials.
8. Issues with storm water.
9. New MS4 regulations

The goal of this meeting was to learn from each other and to help each other. We may need to set new standards and regulate new chemicals. We may need to find more funding for protecting our water sources. The State will be requiring all water systems to do further testing. New York State has a new Drinking Water Council underway. Local municipalities may need laws initiated that are protective and we may need industrial discharges to be regulated. Questions we should ask ourselves is how can we as a municipality be prepared for the unexpected and where do we go for help?

Esopus is unique surrounded on three sides by the Hudson River, the Rondout Creek and the Wallkill River. The Wallkill River is highly contaminated and the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance is requesting our help in applying for two grants. One grant is for a Land Use Leadership Alliance training for municipal leaders focusing on the Wallkill

watershed and a second grant to develop a 9-Element Watershed Management Plan for the entire Walkill River. This grant will be used to develop a roadmap to a cleaner river, based on data currently being collected by DEC. Together, these projects will provide powerful tools as we continue to restore the Walkill River and the communities surrounding it. In this vain, the Supervisor is asking the Town Board to send a letter in support of the efforts to clean the Walkill River.

At the meeting, information stating 56 % of the workforce involved in water treatment will retire within the next five years. This would be an opportunity for people looking for employment to go to school to major in environmental science. There are two year programs available at Ulster County Community College and at Delhi. Instrumentation Specialists are also needed to test the water. This would be good for people interested in a career where they can stay close to home.

RIVERVIEW CEMETERY

Eric Heins, caretaker of the Riverview Cemetery, has notified Supervisor McCord that the Riverview Cemetery has enough funds to sustain themselves until 2018. The cemetery will then be abandoned and become the responsibility of the Town. The Town will need to budget money for maintenance for the year 2019.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO APPROVE THE TOWN CLERK'S MINUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATION & REPORTS ARE AVAILBLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

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 JUNE 2017

O-0599.000 Fund Balance	To	AO.8160.400	\$37,014.70
		Landfill Vent Repair	
		AO.3620.440	\$218.62
		Maint/Jeep	

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Jared Geuss
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet

Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Supervisor Diane McCord	Absent

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS - JUNE 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	171234 - 171302	\$ 89,375.33
HIGHWAY FUND	172117-172138	\$ 114,195.60
	Void 172122	
STREET LIGHTS	176004	\$ 6,363.69
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	173068 - 173082	\$ 130,468.81
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	174128 -174154	\$ 26,418.44
TOTAL		\$ 366,821.87

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

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

Councilperson Wayne Freer	Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Supervisor Diane McCord	Absent

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

HOWIE SLOTNIK – TAXPAYER SURVEY

Howie Slotnik, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee was in attendance and gave an update on the Survey. 3,350 survey cards were mailed. There was approximately a 20% response rate as of the meeting and the Survey remained open until June 30. The Economic Development Committee is working with the Comprehensive Plan Committee to gather the information which will help set the vision for Esopus in the future. Councilperson Jared Geuss is the Town Board representative on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and thanks Howie once again for all of the hard work that he and the committee members have put forth.

Once the information is gathered, a meeting will be held at the Town Hall to share the vision of 2020 and results of the survey.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK AT 8:10 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC