

**+TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 19, 2018**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, July 19, 2018 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet – Absent
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 –

Annette Jarret, President of the Rondout Harbor Home Owners Association said she has been in contact with Supervisor Harris. The residents are having an issue with storm water runoff coming from Bayard Street and Sunset Drive, which is above The Hills, into their community, approximately 50 homes. At times it looks like a water fall. The issue is the water is coming into their storm drains from these locations and from the road. Rondout Harbor had to install a seamless pipe, fix other pipes and repair erosion on the banks. The Association feels the Town does not have proper storm water management. They do not feel it is right that the water is coming into their drains and causing issues. Annette came to appeal to the Board to look at the situation. Each homeowner has had to pay \$600 to fix the pipes and the HOA would like the Town to help with that, as well as some of the other costs. Supervisor Harris has visited the site.

The Highway Department budgets for the storm water drainage and we need a strategic plan that manages storm water. Paul Kellar, attorney, has been contacted and he has suggested having Brinnier and Larios, PC come to look at what has been done comprehensively with storm water and drainage. They also have knowledge of the area because they had been present when pipes were put into the Rondout Harbor community years ago. Supervisor Harris said the engineers are available to come out next week. Annette reminded the Board there are many new laws about runoff and pollution since the development was put in. Supervisor Harris replied, the Town is aware of the laws and the MS4 report is done on an annual basis by our Building Inspector, Salvatore Morello III.

Public Service Award – Brownies and Girl Scout Troop 60162

Nicole Robinson, Annabelle Dwyer, Isabella Buzzanco and Elizabeth Coddington received public service awards for the installation of the Little Free Library at Cas Landi Park in St. Remy from the Town Board. County Legislator Laura Petit awarded the girls with a special recognition from the County Legislature as well. The girls were commended by all for their community service increasing literacy in our area and enhancing our park.

Port Ewen Post Office Update

Supervisor Harris gave an update on the Port Ewen Post Office. Congressman Faso sent a letter to the Post Master General and we received paperwork to have the lease agreement for the temporary set up of a trailer to be placed in the parking lot area of Ross Park.

TOWN OF ESOPUS

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF ESOPUS TO ENTER INTO A LEASE of
REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM**

WHEREAS, the Hamlet of Port Ewen has been without a United States Postal Office since 30th day of **April, 2018**; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a Post Office in the Hamlet of Port Ewen has caused significant inconvenience and difficulties for the residents of the Hamlet of Port Ewen; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Esopus has a vacant parcel of land at 215 Bowne Street, Port Ewen, New York, which is approximately one (1) acre in size; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service has agreed to construct a temporary Post Office on said lot to provide residents of the Hamlet of Port Ewen with a Post Office; and

WHEREAS, the existence of a Post Office in the Hamlet of Port Ewen is of great importance to the citizens of the community and would alleviate the hardships which they have suffered due to the absence of a Post Office; and

WHEREAS, said parcel of land is not presently needed for municipal purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Esopus is hereby authorized to execute a ground lease with the United States Postal Service allowing the United States Postal Service to use the premises at 215 Bowne Street, Port Ewen, New York through and including January 12, 2019; it is further

RESOLVED, that the lease for said space shall be at a fair and reasonable rental value; and it is further

RESOLVED, that this authorization to lease said space to the United States Postal Service is subject to a permissive referendum.

Offered by: Councilperson Jared Guess

Seconded by: Councilperson Chris Farrell

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	Absent
Councilperson Kathie Quick	Aye
Councilperson Jared Guess	Aye
Councilperson Farrell	Aye
Supervisor Shannon Harris	Aye

The Resolution was duly adopted.

** Board comments

Councilperson Quick said it was important to move it along as soon as possible because many residents have not been able to get mail and some mail has been lost. Many seniors are hurting because they do not have the means to get to the Ulster Park location.

Councilperson Jared Geuss said details of the contract such as maintenance or other items can be worked out but it is important to get the structure on the site so they can start operating. Moving quickly is the way to go.

Supervisor Harris said it is important to know this is a temporary situation. Paul Kellar has advised to make the following amendments to the lease agreement.

Ground Lease Page 1, Item 2. Rental: The Postal Service will pay the Landlord an annual rental of: \$1.00 (One and 00/100 Dollars) payable in advance on the effective date of the lease term. *The parties agree to negotiate a good faith and reasonable rent following the Permissive Referendum.***

*****Second item to be negotiated, prior to supervisor signing the agreement, deals with checking with the insurer to make sure we are not held liable. The Post Office has self insurance and we want them to include an additional indemnification clause emphasizing the Town will not be held responsible for any accident that takes place on that property.***

The Town Board requested Holly Netter, Town Clerk, to give notice of the Permissive Referendum in the Daily Freeman.

Action was never taken to correct two encroachments when the land was purchased from the Presentation Church. One encroachment deals with the driveway located at 213 Bowne St, the other a fence on the back side of the property. The Board discussed the options and agreed to give a temporary easement to the current land owners with the possible option to purchase at a later date. This is the quickest way to rectify the encroachments. There was a discussion of whether the paving of the property was necessary. Our insurer has advised and strongly recommends paving the property to avoid slip and falls and storm water runoff creating obstacles. It will improve the overall appearance of our park and safety issues. The cost is estimated to be \$31,320. The grant to purchase the parking lot was for \$50,000, \$40,000 for the purchase and \$10,000 for paving.

Councilperson Jared Geuss said he doesn't understand the insurance company's logic and asked, the difference between someone parking there to drop their kid off to use the park verses someone picking up their mail. Councilperson Geuss said he was not against paving the lot because if it goes into the winter months ice could be an issue on the item 4. Councilperson Geuss also wondered how fast the Post Office is moving to find a permanent spot. He said the amount of money spent on the parking lot kills him but that is why they are using binder, a cheaper material. Since work is being done by the Highway Department we are ultimately paying ourselves time and materials.

Councilperson Quick said we have always wanted to pave the lot.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO RESOLVE PROPERTY ENCROACHMENTS TO 215 BOWNE STREET BASED ON POSSIBLE TEMPORARY EASEMENTS AS WELL AS INSTRUCT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO PAVE THE LOT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

CABRINI PROPERTY – BRIDGES OF NY CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY SERVICES

Bridges of New York provides substance abuse treatment for clients seeking to escape the consequences of addiction. Additional services offered include services for family members of those suffering from this expanding epidemic and Trauma Informed Care support. They are proposing to acquire the Saint Cabrini building and to re-purpose the facility as a Part 820 Substance Use Disorder Recovery Center for Ulster County Residents, proximate counties and the Hudson Valley region. The core service to be offered would be an OASAS Part 820 service with stabilization, rehabilitation and reintegration. Information was provided to all Board members to review. The County and Department of Mental Health is also involved. The Board will need to monitor and research the program. Councilperson Farrell said at a quick glance it looked grossly understaffed based on numbers they provided. Bridges of NY have begun negotiating

with the sisters and are a faith based not for profit organization. Supervisor Harris will invite Karen Milazzo, State Executive Director for Bridges of NY, to a meeting to talk to the Board regarding this program. Bridges of NY consider the location ideal for their operation.

SPECTRUM CONTRACT UPDATE

Supervisor Harris attended a meeting hosted by Ulster County. Supervisor Harris has made some demands while negotiating the contract. There are other towns also negotiating and have already met with Spectrum to discuss their challenges and concerns. The County provided a spread sheet of information regarding other municipalities. Shannon said she is currently addressing the **eligible distance from the feeder**. Currently it is now 150 feet and we want it changed to 250 feet to provide more coverage for our rural areas. We want to improve the **density threshold**. Public access coverage for building and equipment is being negotiated. Spectrum/Charter seems to be supportive of upgrading our outdated equipment. A request for free cable access coverage for all municipal buildings including Transfer Station, TOE Library, all Fire Departments and TEVAS has been made. Every other municipality imposes a franchise fee. The prior Town Boards have done a good job on keeping expenses down, however the revenues are not keeping up with the expenses. The Board will need to discuss the benefits of implementing a franchise fee. Supervisor Harris is hoping the contract is settled by the September meeting.

LWRP – Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)

The Town is currently applying for a CFA grant based on Laberge’s recommendation to update the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). The grant will focus on a few areas and look in depth at the shore line based on information from the comprehensive plan study. Laberge recommended applying for this grant because it was the Towns’ number one chance of getting a grant to develop access to the waterfront. The community events held by the CPC to gain public input showed the public’s desire to develop and have more access to our waterfront. It is important that we have a strong LWRP policy to support new development. Kathie quick said in 1987 Esopus was the second Town in the state to have a LWRP. We stand a good chance at getting this grant. It is an implementation plan to update this policy.

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.

TB 7/19/18

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR JULY 2018

DA. 0599.000 Fund Balance To DA 5110.400 \$150,000
Sewer Vac Machine

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet ABSENT
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 – JULY 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:

GENERAL FUND	181309 -181370	\$ 42,530.61
HIGHWAY FUND	182155-182192	\$ 221,025.41
	Void 182178-182187	
STREET LIGHTS	186007	\$ 4,963.82

PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	183067 -183080	\$ 14,101.58
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	184148 - 184172	\$ 15,011.24
Capital		\$
TOTAL		\$ 297,632.66

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Jared Geuss
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.

MISCELLANEOUS

PARKING AT PARKS

The past few weekends there have been several incidents where people have driven over the lawn at Ross Park entering in near the basketball court to park their vehicles next to the pavilion. A resident and Town employee witnessed six vehicles parked on the grass area under the trees at Freer Park, once again driving through an area where there are children. These situations pose a safety concern and Town Clerk, Holly Netter, has requested the situation to be rectified by placing a barrier/chains and additional signage in the parks to prevent this in the future. Councilperson Farrell has asked the Sheriff's Department to patrol the area and issue tickets to those who are not in compliance. Dan Vedder has been made aware of the situation and said he would look into a solution.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:10 PM PER THE NYS OPEN MEETINGS LAW SECTION 105 (H) TO DISCUSS

TB 7/19/18

TWO ITEMS: THE PROPOSED AQUISITION, SALE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY WHERE PUBLICITY WOULD HARM VALUE AND TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANCY OF THE ASSESSMENT FIELD WORKER /ASSESSOR ASSISTANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

***INTERVIEWING BEGAN AT 8:25 PM ASSESSOR JOANNA MIGNONE WAS INVITED INTO THE INTERVIEWING SESSIONS AND CANDIDATES WERE INVITED TO JOIN INDIVIDUALLY.**

A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS AT 9:34 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE FIRST ITEM REGARDING THE PROPERTY.**

****SECOND ITEM OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION SUPERVISOR HARRIS WAS INSTRUCTED TO CHECK ALL REFERENCES FOR THE CANDIDATES. TOWN BOARD MAY CALL AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO MAKE A DECISION PRIOR TO THE NEXT WORKSHOP MEETING.**

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS AT 8:55 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Next workshop meeting will be August 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC