

07-21-2020

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday July 21, 2020**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on July 21, 2020 in the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke
Councilperson Jared Geuss - Absent
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Chris Farrell**

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

THIS MEETING WAS TELEVISED LIVE ON CHANNEL 23 PUBLIC ACCESS and LIVE-STREAMED ON "TOWN OF ESOPUS" FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: call (845) 328-0483 to leave a voicemail or email outreach@esopus.com for assistance.

SUPERVISOR HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING AT 7:00 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

UPDATES

Riverfront Access Plan – now available on Esopus.com/riverfront-study/. Public comments due by 12PM on Wednesday, July 22. Plan Focus Public Access to waterfront.

Sojourner Truth Memorial – Interpretive sign to be replaced with an updated model due to excessive wear from sun-bleaching. The Committee has money in escrow to make the improvements.

Ulster County Justice Reform Committee – hosting a Justice and Reform Virtual Town Hall on Wed, 7/22 @ 6PM. Join via Zoom at www.zoom.us , Meeting ID: 950 7389 0365, Password: 530474 They will talk about the mission and objectives.

**ESOPUS TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONVEYANCE
OF THE RIVERVIEW CEMETERY PREMISES**

Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, State of New York

WHEREAS, there has been established in the town a cemetery known as the Riverview CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC., which association maintains a public cemetery on- Route 9W in Port Ewen, Ulster County, New York, and owns real property in said Town, and

WHEREAS, said association has under its care certain funds for perpetual care, permanent maintenance, special trust, general fund, deposited in the following banks;

Rondout Savings Bank

Wells Fargo

WHEREAS, the association has been and still is unable to procure sufficient income from above investments, the members of the association and from the representatives of the deceased persons interred in the cemetery.

WHEREAS, the cemetery association has requested that the Town of Esopus, pursuant to Section 1506 (j) of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, accept the conveyance of the cemetery premises and transfer of assets.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Esopus accept the conveyance of the cemetery premises and the transfer of the assets from the cemetery association, such conveyance shall be subject to all agreements as to lots sold and all trust, restrictions and conditions upon the title or use of the real property or assets.

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Kathie Quick

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Chris Farrell

The Board was polled

Supervisor Shannon Harris AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss - Absent
Councilperson Chris Farrell AYE
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke AYE

07-21-2020

WIIA GRANT – PROGRESS AND PLAN UPDATE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PORT EWEN WATER DISTRICT FROM THE WATER/SEWER BOARD

Water Superintendent Don Kiernan joined the meeting by phone to discuss the kick off meeting held July 14, 2020 with Tighe & Bond and the Port Ewen Water Board. A detailed handout was provided to the Board. This project will require us to Bond for the funding not provided by the grant. The plan includes the following: survey and rock probes being done in July, August there will be hydrant flow testing, underwater assessments, site visits for the WTP design, 60% Design deliverable will be complete in October, 90% design deliverable in January 2021. January – April 2021 permitting will be reviewed. In May the Bids will go out for the project and construction notices to proceed will be in June 2021.

BQ ENERGY RENEWAL

BQ Project Manager ,Alicia Scott, joined the meeting to discuss the status of the expansion project and potential amendment of contract with BQ Energy in order to extend contract date and renew agreements with Central Hudson. The Town received a check for \$10,000 for the option fee which was owed from March 2020 – March 2021.

BQ has been working with Central Hudson to address high inter connection cost for this project which would have originally made the project impossible to finance. They paid \$100,000 for independent engineering studies to help the utility gain comfort in their technical proposal. The high voltage on the lines has occurred in other states and has been addressed by using Smart Inverter Settings. Although they have been successfully used in Hawaii, California and Germany they are not common in NY. Because of the amount of time the project has taken, BQ withdrew this project from the queue and continues to work with Central Hudson on a solution that works for all parties. BQ believes a solution has been found and they are going to reapply for inter connection and get back in the queue. Central Hudson has assured BQ they will work closely with them to get this project through the study process as quickly as possible. In order for the project to move ahead BQ requested 3 documents to be signed. Depending on Central Hudson’s timeframe for study and construction, BQ should be ready to begin construction by late spring 2021 and be operational by midsummer 2021. This expansion will allow approximately 200 home owners and small businesses to subscribe to it. The residents of Esopus will have the first opportunity to join and then will be open for any Central Hudson user.

Councilperson Quick said in the past Vassar and Marist College were interested in joining. Alicia said the project no longer has to hinge on larger subscribers and can be distributed to smaller members of the community.

Councilperson Chris Farrell asked if the items promised were completed. BQ originally agreed to repair the tracking panels and install equipment for the solar farm at Town Hall so production could be monitored prior to applying for any permits for their expansion project. Last year the equipment was installed to monitor production and passwords were given to the Supervisor to access the information. The parts are no longer available for the tracking device

so the panels were positioned ½ to the east and ½ to the west so they will produce the optimal amount of power and allow snow to slide off so the panels do not crack.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JULY 2020

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	201280 - 201333	\$78,586.03
HIGHWAY FUND	203126 - 202145	\$245,919.98
STREET LIGHTS	206005	\$ 5,265.72
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	203075 -203090	\$ 134,855.03
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	204122 - 204152	\$ 31,145.37
TOTAL		\$ 495,772.13

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell

Councilperson Evelyn Clarke	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	Absent
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilperson Chris Farrell	AYE
Supervisor Shannon Harris	AYE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL AT 7:56 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING TOWN ASSESSOR APPLICANTS, THE HISTORY OF CERTAIN TOWN EMPLOYEES AND TO DISCUSS LEGAL ADVICE ON A MATTER SUBJECT TO ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND A LITIGATION MATTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON EVELYN CLARKE. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:02 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON EVELYN CLARKE. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO CONTINUE TIME FRAME AND SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS WITH CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND DIRECT ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS TO MAINTAIN EMAIL ADDRESS AND CHECK ON A DAILY BASIS (WORK DAY) TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:05 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

*Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk*