

**Town Board Meeting
July 15, 2021**

A regularly scheduled Town Board meeting was held at the Esopus Town Hall 1 Town Hall Way Ulster, Park NY. The meeting was also available via zoom, live streamed on Facebook and televised on local access channel 23 on Thursday July 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Jared Geuss
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Chris Farrell
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Laura Robinson - Absent**

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Moment of Silence in memory of Brian Barnes

A moment of silence was observed in the memory of Brian Barnes who played an instrumental role in Esopus becoming the home for community access TV. Since 2008 he has operated TV 23 and broadcasted many Town meetings and events. The Town will be forever grateful for his dedication and selfless service. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Brian had an upbeat personality, was welcoming and friendly. His infectious smile will be missed. We will miss him and he will leave a void in the town.

Public Comment

Laura Petite, Town Resident, County Legislator – We have an opportunity to upgrade parks. The State puts out Consolidated Funds Applications (CFA) and are open until July 30.

She described 2 potential projects:

Potential Property 23,000 Square Feet, former MEDREX property. The community would like to see a Senior/Youth Center, venue for outdoor theater, potential indoor pool, farmers market, flea market. So much could be done with the property with possible apartments and café space.

Ross Park – Splash Pad/ Ice Rink, upgrade pavilion space for 4 pickleball courts, upgrading the basketball and tennis court, pavilion and bathrooms. A lot of people use the park. She mentioned her neighbors pack the kids up and take them to New Paltz because there is more opportunity there. She would love to have families stay here to have those opportunities. If the kids are hungry or thirsty after being at the park, they can support our local businesses in our town. A copy of the proposal was given to the Board members. Needs an ok prior to July 30th to move forward.

Donald Carragher – Town resident and trustee of the Town of Esopus Library. Adding programs and increasing community activities are in the same line of what the library is considering by bringing on partners. The owners of Medrex property asked the library if they were interested in the property and offered them a loose first refusal. The library is interested in bringing in stakeholders and other groups to work with them. The library has not formally approached the Town Board yet but Don said he would like to start that in the next few weeks. There are possibilities for farmers markets, indoor activities expanded from the current library programs, bringing in other groups for music or summer stock theater and increase children's programs. Some may be concerned with the property coming off the tax roll and the cost to the town; that is clear to the library. They feel there are still opportunities to where it could remain and increase in value and still be on the tax roll. It could help the town economically and culturally. The library has a steering committee and will be meeting on the 27th and continuing their plans

Chris Marta, Sleightsburgh resident was looking for an update on the applications for the spit FOB permit after hour access. Supervisor Guess said it was at the Sheriff's office for review. He also asked if there were any updates on the rules on what the \$960,000 government funds can be used for. Supervisor Guess said majority of it is Water Infrastructure, Some Tourism and Broadband Infrastructure. They still have to look at it more closely the money is expected at the end of the month. The Board will be reviewing the allocation during the budget process.

Supervisor Guess thanked Diane Hull for her email regarding the recommendations to the Board on location for the proposed stop signs in Connelly. The issue of Connelly and Sleightsburgh will be addressed with Mike Cafaldo, Highway Superintendent. Copies were provided to the Board in their packets.

Trisha Lewis – Parsell St. Loves the idea of a potential community center and pool. Many feel there is nothing for the kids to do, seniors would also appreciate the space. Although it is a big project there are ways to fund it by bringing in private/public partnership; Café, Food Vendors, people paying dues to use the pool and gym. She supports the project in the Town of Esopus.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GUESS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

Eminent Domain – discussion and potential setting of date for a public hearing relating to Eminent Domain assumption of a property relating to activities within the Town Water Department.

RESOLUTION

Supervisor Geuss offered the following resolution, which was seconded **by Councilman Chris Farrell**, who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Town requires easements over the lands of certain property owners in order to construct and maintain the water storage tank improvements for the Port Ewen Water District; and

WHEREAS, Town representatives have attempted to arrive at mutually acceptable terms for the various easements needed with the property owners; and

WHEREAS, Town representatives have been unsuccessful in their attempts to acquire easements from certain property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Town made final offers to those property owners from which easements have not been obtained, pursuant to Sections 303 and 304 of the New York Eminent Domain Procedure Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town's final offer was not accepted by a property owner,

WHEREAS, the Town Board approves commencement of an action for condemnation relief under the New York Eminent Domain Procedure Law to obtain ownership of the easement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held in relation to the commencement of the condemnation relief , as set forth in the form of notice, hereinafter provided, at which hearing parties in interest and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard, to be held at the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park , New York, on **August 5, 2021**, at

6:30 p.m., Prevailing Time, and that notice of said meeting shall be published in the official newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Esopus, by the Town Clerk, at least ten (10) days before such hearing in the following form:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO THE
EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEDURE LAW §202**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, in accordance with Article 2, Section 202 of the New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law, notice is hereby given of a public hearing for a Town of Esopus Project known as the Water Supply and Distribution Improvements for the Port Ewen Water District, will be held at the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, New York on **August 5, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.** at the Town Hall located at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, New York. The purpose of this hearing is to outline the Project purpose related to public need and public safety, its proposed location, and to provide other pertinent information, including sketches/maps and the property description of the property interest to be acquired. The Project is located in the Town of Esopus, Ulster County, New York, and involves construction and maintenance of the water storage tank improvement for the Port Ewen Water District. Persons may appear in person or by agent and will be given the opportunity to present oral and written statements and to submit other documents concerning said Town of Esopus Water Supply and Distribution Improvements. The particular property, a portion of which is subject to the Eminent Domain taking, is owned by Silver Realty, LLC and located on Route 9W, Town of Esopus, Ulster County, Tax Map number 64.1-1-16. Any property owner who may subsequently wish to challenge the condemnation of their property by judicial review may do so only on the basis of issues, facts and objections raised at the hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER notice that written comments may be submitted to the Town of Esopus Town Board for the period of seven (7) calendar days after the public hearing on August 5 2021, namely, such written comments must be received at the Town Hall Town Clerk Office by not later than 4 pm on August 12, 2021. As of 4 pm on August 12, 2021, the record shall be closed.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that further details and information concerning the Water Supply and Distribution Improvements for the Port Ewen Water District, which is the

subject matter of the public hearing, is available for inspection at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. through 4:00 P.M on all business days between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested shall have an opportunity to be heard on said proposal at the time and place aforesaid.

DATED: Ulster Park, New York
July 15, 2021
HOLLY A. NETTER, TOWN CLERK, RMC

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmen voting as follows:

Councilman Laura Robinson	Absent
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	AYE
Councilman Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilman Chris Farrell	AYE
Supervisor Jared Geuss	AYE

DATED: Ulster Park, New York
July 15, 2021

HOLLY A. NETTER, TOWN CLERK, RMC

Resolution Duly Adopted.

Water Infrastructure –

Dan Valentine Tighe & Bond had previously given a brief background to the board at a previous meeting relating to the potential approval of an application for an MS4 grant opportunity. Supervisor Geuss said the project goal is to remain in compliance with the MS4 permit requirements from NYS and getting an advance understanding of our drainage and outfall system. Our building inspectors handle this duty and must do an inspection every 3 years to make sure it is draining properly. This grant if approved would fall right in line with our schedule. It's a good time internally and externally as NYS is putting more requirements on our MS4 system. The total project costs \$65,000; \$59,000 grant and Town match of \$6,000. All mapping done in GIS. This is a proactive approach to make sure we are in compliance. Tighe & Bond would prepare the grant application for \$1,500

Councilman Farrell said given our history with storm drainage it would be a sensible investment of \$7,500 and the benefit would be significant.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK TO AUTHORIZE TIGHE & BOND TO CONSULT AND ASSIST IN SEEKING THE CFA GRANT APPLICATION AND PREPARATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 FOR MS4. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY EVELYNE CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Red Maple Vineyard Cellars

Red Maple Vineyard Cellars at Red Maple Vineyard is currently looking to expand its wine & cider operations. Currently the vineyard brings approximately 14,000 guests to town on an annual basis. A grant opportunity may be available to them and a letter of recommendation is needed from the Town. The new facility will be constructed opposite the main entrance, behind the vineyard & hidden behind trees. The tap room will be open to the public & constructed with trees from the property that are already milled.

Pat Ryan – Inpatient beds

Early April 2020, Health Alliance shut down 40 inpatient mental health beds and 20 beds dedicated to chemical dependency and detoxification to make room for a potential regional COVID 19 specialized care center. The County was assured that it would be a temporary move and there was a well-conceived plan to ensure the community continued to receive vital behavioral-health services. Pat Ryan letter said today it's clear that this promise has been broken. County Executive Pat Ryan is calling on the NYS office of Mental Health (OMH) and office of Addiction Services and supports (OASAS) to deny any applications submitted by Westchester Medical Center Health Network requesting decertification of inpatient beds licensed to provide behavioral health stabilization and treatment to Ulster County residents at Health Alliance Hospital. They also request that NYSDOH suspend approval for the Health Alliance Mary's Avenue building Project pending further review of the Certificate of Need application since it was predicated on the inclusion of existing behavioral health inpatient services in the new building. Through the closure of the inpatient beds, it should necessitate resubmission of the application because it is a significant change with serious negative impact on public health. The County wishes to have these services immediately returned to ensure the community's health and safety.

Residents can view and sign the petition by visiting
<https://ulstercountyny.gov/saveourmentalhealthservices>

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR GUESS TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

Councilman Quick said a lot of patients have trouble getting to Poughkeepsie to get services.

Councilman Farrell said there is an urgent need and supports County Executive Ryan's efforts.

Councilman Clarke said they need to make sure beds are available in Ulster County.

Speed trailer – Supervisor Guess discussed speed radar signs, we are seeking new prices, prices are outdated. We are going to purchase at least 1. These signs will hold memory and let them know how many speeders are going through. Ulster County just put a speed trailer at Sleightsburgh at the request of Sharron Jones. Supervisor Guess thanked Sharron for that. Recently a woman was severely injured from an accident near the Keyser Funeral Home. Councilman Clarke said she thought two were approved to be purchased last year. Supervisor Guess said he will look into it.

ESOPUS BUSINESS ALLIANCE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO WAIVE THE FEE FOR RENTAL OF FREER PARK FOR THEIR MONTHLY MIXER ON JULY 19, 2021 AND ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR THE ESOPUS BUSINESS ALLIANCE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

UPDATES

Now Hiring – Seasonal Maintenance Worker Visit www.bit.ly/EsopusEmployment for more information.

Summer Camp – As a reminder, Ross Park is closed to the public during Summer Camp operational hours 8:45am – 4:15pm. Residents seeking to use our public parks should instead visit Freer Beach Park during this time. Signage is arriving tomorrow.

Local Laws – public hearings on Proposed Local Laws #8 and #12 of 2021 will be open until August 5th. To submit a comment, please email outreach@esopus.com, call 845-328-0483, or send a letter to Esopus Town Hall at PO Box #700, Port Ewen, NY 12466.

Waterfront Advisory Board – 7/28 meeting cancelled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR GEUSS MADE A MOTION AT 7:40 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR VACANCIES OF THE CUSTODIAN AND WATER SUPERINTENDENT POSITION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:50PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

A MOTION WAS MADE TO HIRE NICHOLAS BUTLER AS PROVISIONAL WATER SUPERINTENDENT AT THE SALARY OF \$70,000/ YEAR CONTINGENT ON A BACKGROUND CHECK, ACCEPTANCE OF THE POSITION START DATE JULY 19, 2021. THE MOTION WAS

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO HIRE LIAM SCHEAFER AS CUSTODIAN FOR THE TOWN OF ESOPUS WITH A WORK SCHEDULE OF 34 HOURS PER WEEK, PAY RATE OF \$16.00 PER HOUR AND A PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR JULY 2021

SS 0599.000	Fund Balance	DA5112.400	\$10,257.45
		CHIPS	

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

OFFERED BY:	Councilman Chris Farrell	
SECONDED BY:	Councilman Kathie Quick	
	Councilman Laura Robinson	absent
	Councilman Evelyn Clarke	AYE
	Councilman Kathie Quick	AYE
	Councilman Chris Farrell	AYE
	Supervisor Jared Geuss	AYE

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JULY 2021

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	211316 - 211376	\$66,640.95
HIGHWAY FUND	212105 - 212125	\$189,894.45
STREET LIGHTS	216005	\$6,153.64
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	213067 - 213073	\$ 3659.03
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	214134 - 214155	\$ 13,995.71
Water Captial		
Rec Escrow		
TOTAL		\$280,343.78

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilman Evelyn Clarke
SECONDED BY: Councilman Chris Farrell

Councilman Laura Robinson AYE
Councilman Evelyn Clarke AYE
Councilman Kathie Quick AYE
Councilman Chris Farrell AYE
Supervisor Jared Geuss AYE

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectively submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC