

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
September 20, 2018**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, September 20, 2018 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Jared Geuss
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Chris Farrell**

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

Supervisor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE

Community Award Boy Scout Troop 26

The following members of Boy Scout Troop 26 were honored for their community service; Michael Palmer, Aaron Colon, Jacob Nosencheck and Benjamin Nosencheck. The Board thanked the boys for their contribution to the community.

Eagle Scout Award – Alex Wells

Alex Wells received an award for his outstanding Eagle Scout project of constructing the Flag Retirement Ground at the Veterans Memorial located at the Town Hall. Kathie Quick also gave a special award to Troop 7 Asst Scout Master Robert Wells, Eagle Scouts Alex Wells, Caleb Berrios and Logan Barrios for their assistance with serving the Esopus Seniors at their Ice Cream Social this summer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Brusca – Hasbrouck Ave., Port Ewen, has been a resident for the past 25 years. She is concerned with sink holes on her road that are being caused by the drainage issue.

Rondout Harbor Residents from Units 83 – 86 voiced their concern over the flooding that damaged their properties. They have each experienced major out of pocket expenses to have the problem remediated. They asked how to submit an insurance claim because they do not have individual insurance. The Homeowner Association, Rondout Hills and The Hills Management all feel that the impact of the flooding from the major rainstorm of (9/12/2018, when 4.6 inches of rain accumulated within 3 hours) is not their responsibility. Although the Town had cleared the catch basins and placed sandbags as a precautionary measure to divert

the rain water, it was not enough. They asked the Town for immediate help to expedite getting their homes and lives back to order. **Denise Morett - Kelly, Unit 86**, said she is a Medical Psychologist and performs telemedicine in her basement office. She needs to keep her patient information separate from her living space and has been forced to rent a storage unit and hired movers to move her belongings. **Daniel Kurzban, Unit 84**, said he spent \$2,000 to have a company spray for mold out of concern for the health of his 8 year old. They asked the Town to fix the drainage issues, which they feel are coming from property behind The Hills. The homeowners request compensation from the Town's Insurance, the two Associations and the owner of the Hills, Ingrid Beirs. They do not want to have to file a class action suit.

Judy Cross, said she has lived in **unit 85** for 32 years and this type of flooding has never happened before.

The homeowners said they are frustrated that the entities all say they are not responsible and the homeowners are stuck "holding the bag". The homeowners said the matter needs immediate action and a solution. Dan Kurzban said the sand bags were a good try but unsatisfactory. He asked to have more sand bags delivered as a precautionary measure; 3 high and length extended to divert the water.

Supervisor Harris said the Town Board hears the resident's concerns and is taking the issue seriously. It was unusual to receive 4.6 inches of rain in 3 hours. The homeowners asked what to do for immediate compensation. Supervisor Shannon Harris suggested they contact the association's attorney and Supervisor Harris will consult with the Town Attorney. The new Town vac truck was recently acquired and storm drains will continue to be cleared out for all Town owned catch basins. Supervisor Harris said the Town will do what we can to help. Supervisor Harris had engineers at the various sites that were requested to assess the situation. Storm water drain assessment will be looked into on an expedited basis.

Frank Sessler – 173 Horton Lane, Port Ewen The catch basin located on his neighbors property was overflowing causing water to collect in his yard. A dye test was performed; tree roots have compromised the pipes. Mr. Sessler was concerned if repairs for the off street drainage system did not get fixed eventually there would be damage to his home. He thanked Supervisor Harris and the Highway Department for their quick response. **Steve Hamilton** is Frank's neighbor on Horton Lane. Although the catch basin is on his property the water pools in Frank's yard has entered the Sessler's home. Mr. Hamilton had water in his basement. He thanked and praised the Highway Department for their prompt assistance and follow through with this matter.

Jessie Tyler 1458 Rt 213, St. Remy owns property on **Pine St. in Rifton**. Mr. Tyler's neighbor has installed a pipe which is too small to take the stream water under his driveway and is causing flooding. Mr. Tyler said this was his wife's homestead and the water never flooded over the road until the new smaller pipe was installed by the property owner. The problem has been going on since the late Supervisor John Coutant was in office. Mike Cafaldo has been out and has brought the state engineer. This issue has not been resolved.

Bruce and Carol Eymann, 212 Tilden St, Port Ewen there was a washout below his driveway and a 12 foot surge of earth was in the road. Town Highway guys scooped dirt back onto the property. Mr. Eymann is concerned and questioned what caused the washout. The bank behind his house is always soggy and he feels there is something going on. Another washout could take out the driveway. Mr. Eymann said please see what can be done.

Lois Dekoskie Tilden Street, Port Ewen is concerned with town easements of off road streams. The stream beds have not been maintained like they were years ago. She has an easement to allow access to the stream from her property and feels this would help eliminate some of the flooding in the area. She would like to know what the plan is for the future.

Annette Jarett Vice President and Norma Staffiero, President of Rondout Harbor Homeowners thanked the Supervisor for her help and for responding quickly to the last disaster implementing a temporary fix to deter potential flooding on their property. She noted the Town has been cleaning storm drains and although they appreciate these needed measures she said the Town Board needs to step up and finance a new storm water runoff system. She requested a meeting with the Town Board to discuss the permanent remedy to this matter in the near future.

Councilperson Jared Geuss asked if the Rondout Harbor Home Owners Association can seek compensation from The Hills for damage. Annette said anyone can get insurance. The property in Rondout Harbor was not damaged, just the individual homes, therefore the Association would not be submitting a claim. She added, anything that happens in their home is their responsibility and they need to carry insurance. If the damage happened to the Rondout Harbor Property then it could have been submitted. Annett Jarett said oddly enough there is no damage to the Rondout Harbor Property. They feel the problem is happening upstream and behind the Hills and asked why it is happening so often. They have spent \$100,000 to maintain and evaluate their drainage and feel they have done everything they can do.

Alexandra Pappas, 253 Tilden Street, Port Ewen agreed with Lois Dekoskie, the drains on the south end of Tilden Street do not work well and get clogged with debris. Mrs. Pappas recalls the late Supervisor John Coutant coming down in the middle of the night with a shovel to help shovel away the debris. This issue has been happening for years. Mrs. Pappas thanked the Highway for their fast action. She offered to participate in helping to see what can be done to help rectify the situation.

Supervisor Harris assured everyone the Town will identify the hot spots and find their sources since they are all different. Some issues have to do with clogs and erosion from streams, tree roots clogging, infill of neighbors property causing flooding to other property owners, undersize catch basins and culverts. We have the new Town vac truck and will be scheduling removal on a regular basis. The Town needs to come up with a plan and budget for areas that the Town owns and is responsible to maintain. Supervisor Harris said this will take time but we also know we need to move quickly.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AT 8 PM BY JARED GEUSS AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

UPDATES

Post Office – The temporary trailer is operational and will open Friday September 21st on Bowen Street. Kingston Shared Services will stripe the parking lot. The Town will start getting lease payments from the Post Office in arrears.

Water Grant was submitted September 7th

Climate Smart Community - Grant opportunities are available to apply for Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations in Port Ewen. Amanda LaValle, Director of Ulster County Office of The Environment will visit to look at possible sites. The Charging Station does not have to be on Town property; they will talk to private owned business. The Town can apply for the grant for the business and will then pay a discounted rate. The business would be purchasing the Charging Station not the Town.

Master Plan- Councilperson Jared Geuss reported the first draft of the Master Plan is complete. The Committee reviewed the first half of the draft with the consulting firm LaBerge Group. The second half of the draft will be reviewed on October 5th. The draft will be broke down into sections and given to various entities to critique it. A Public Hearing will be the week of November 8, 2018 to gather the last bit of input. The new plan is scheduled to be rolled out January 2019.

HEATHCARE – ERIC DAVIDS, MARSHALL & STERLING

Eric Davids from Marshall and Sterling reviewed the current coverage for Town employees. The plan has not changed; the net increase in cost is 10%, which is what other towns are experiencing as well. Councilperson Chris Farrell asked if the Towns pooled together could the rates be decreased. Mr. Davids said New York State does not allow pooling of smaller groups. Councilperson Farrell asked where that information could be found. Mr. Davids replied, the Department of Financial Services. Esopus has fewer than 50 employees.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO APPROVE THE MVP LIBERTY SILVER 8 (HSA) “EXCHANGE CERTIFIED PLAN” WHICH FITS THE UNION CONTRACT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PROPOSAL DENNIS COOPER & LES SETH TO PRESENT TIMBERLINE TRAIL

No one showed up to discuss this proposal.

RMV CELLARS, LLC (RED MAPLE VINEYARD) ALCOHOL PERMIT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO APPROVE THE NYS LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR RMV CELLARS, LLC. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT 213 BOWNE STREET

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO WAIVE THE PLANNING BOARD APPLICATION FEE AND PUBLIC HEARING FEE (PER SECTION 17.16.A) FOR SBL 56.067-3-100 & 56.0667-3-200, 213 BOWEN STREET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET TO HAVE COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL REPRESENT THE TOWN'S INTEREST IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED APPLICATION BEFORE THE ESOPUS PLANNING BOARD. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

G- SUITE PROPOSAL

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS GMAIL SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,872. THE COST IN 2019 WILL BE \$3,800. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

**Resolution
Propane Bids**

Whereas, The Port Ewen Water/Sewer District advertised and received bids for Propane to be supplied for a period of (1) one year, beginning October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019.

Whereas, bids were received and opened at the office of the Town of Esopus Town Clerk, on September 10, 2018 and

Whereas, the lowest bidder for Propane was Britt & Graff Propane and Oil, PO Box 1118, Port Ewen, NY 12466, at a price of \$ 1.35 per gallon.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Esopus Town Board award the bid to Britt & Graff at the rate of \$1.35 per gallon.

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Chris Farrell
Seconded by: Councilperson Kathie Quick

The Board was polled

Supervisor Shannon Harris AYE
Councilperson Chris Farrell AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick AYE
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

PEAK POWER CONTRACT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VANVLIET TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO SIGN THE PEAK POWER SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE BI ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR THE GENERATOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,277.50 PER YEAR. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENT – GILBERT RAMOS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VANVLIET TO REAPPOINT GILBERT RAMOS TO THE ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW FOR ANOTHER 5 YEAR TERM, OCTOBER 1, 2018 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2023. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS – September 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	181418 - 181489	\$ 73,140.49
HIGHWAY FUND	182220 - 182249	\$ 81,473.87

STREET LIGHTS	186009	\$ 0
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	183094 -183109	\$ 87,703.65
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	184200 - 184229	\$ 26,528.24
Capital	000012	0
TOTAL		\$ 268,846.25

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.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS AT 9:15 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Next workshop meeting will be October 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC