

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 16, 2014**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, October 16, 2014, in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant  
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
Councilperson Kyle Barnett  
Councilperson Diane McCord  
Councilperson Wayne Freer**

**Administrative Recorder - Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk**

**Guests: Members of the New Paltz Board of Education &  
Facilities Committee: Julie Tresco, Steven Greenfield &  
Mike Domitrovits**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

**REAPPOINTMENT COURT SECURITY OFFICER – JOSEPH R. MURRAY JR.**

Court Bailiff Joseph R. Murray Jr. resigned from his position of Court Security Officer on September 30, 2014 in order to meet the NYS retirement guidelines. Mr. Murray has asked to be reappointed and Judge Robert Grieco has recommended the Board rehire him.

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO REINSTATE JOSEPH R. MURRAY JR. TO THE POSITION OF COURT SECURITY OFFICER BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

The Board was polled

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Supervisor John Coutant</b>        | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b> | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Kyle Barnett</b>     | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Diane McCord</b>     | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Wayne Freer</b>      | <b>AYE</b> |

## **NEW PALTZ SCHOOL DISTRICT – RENOVATION PRESENTATION**

Members of the New Paltz Board of Education Julie Tresco and Steven Greenfield, as well as Mike Domitrovits, Board of Education's Facility Committee Member attended tonight's meeting to discuss the upcoming, important New Paltz School District Capital Project Vote on October 28, 2014.

The New Paltz Board of Education has adopted a \$52.9 million proposal to upgrade infrastructure and provide program improvements in all four of the District's schools. It is anticipated that 50 percent of the project will be funded by New York State Aid. Repayment of the balance is anticipated to take 20 years, with the average District homeowner paying \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually for the term of the bond.

Building needs have been under consideration for many years. The Board of Education has devoted more than a year to planning this project by holding public hearings, studying detailed professional evaluations of all of the District's buildings, considering administrator reports, and analyzing enrollment projections and building capacities.

Using the February 2014 Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan as a guide, the Board of Education worked with professional architects and engineers to identify the highest priority infrastructure and instructional space needs in each of the school buildings so that all students can benefit. The \$52.9 million Capital Project that is being presented to voters on October 28 is designed to complete this high priority work in a manner that minimizes disruption to students.

The Board conducted an extensive review of multiple options and feels this proposal is the most cost-effective approach available that balances both the interests of the taxpayers and the ongoing education of District students.

If the repairs are not made via bonding, the necessary repairs would have to be funded from the operational account with no state aid. Concerns regarding the funding from the operational account are, the need to reduce personnel and classrooms, increased number of students per classroom and program cuts.

Supervisor Coutant thanked Ms. Tresco, Mr. Greenfield and Mr. Domitrovits for their presentation. Supervisor Coutant said the presentation was very informative and educating the voters is critical. The vote will take place in the New Paltz High School Gym on October 28, 2014 from 12 pm – 9pm.

**RESOLUTION TO INCREASE**  
**TOWN OF ESOPUS TRANSFER STATION FEES**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, State of New York, has looked at the Town of Esopus Transfer Station Budget,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, State of New York, has made a decision to increase the Transfer Station fees from \$.08 per pound to \$.12 per pound effective November 1, 2014.

**Offered by:** Councilperson Diane McCord  
**Seconded by:** Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor John Coutant        | AYE |
| Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet | AYE |
| Councilperson Kyle Barnett     | AYE |
| Councilperson Diane McCord     | AYE |
| Councilperson Wayne Freer      | AYE |

All members were in favor.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS**  
**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HALLOWEEN CURFEW**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York has set the Halloween Curfew for Friday, October 31, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

**Resolution offered by:** Supervisor John Coutant  
**Resolution seconded by:** Councilperson Kyle Barnett

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor John Coutant        | AYE |
| Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet | AYE |
| Councilperson Kyle Barnett     | AYE |
| Councilperson Diane McCord     | AYE |
| Councilperson Wayne Freer      | AYE |

All members were in favor.

## **MOTION TO SIGN FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM CONTRACT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR COUTANT TO SIGN THE SRI FIRE SPRINKLER INSPECTION CONTRACT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **SCENIC HUDSON CONTRIBUTION**

Scenic Hudson had a meeting with Supervisor John Coutant to review what they have done over the past 12 months. They shared the plans for property that they have purchased located at 132 River Road. Scenic Hudson has removed buildings, made improvement to the land and created a parking lot. A “Sneak Preview” of the property will be held October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm which will include a guided hike of the property. They will also hold a “showcase” in the Town of Esopus Community Room on October 30. Details on these events can be found at [www.scenichudson.org/events](http://www.scenichudson.org/events). They also have a hunting program at Shaupeneak Ridge and 146 permits were issued for the fall 2014 season. Many of these permits are issued to out of town residents who will spend money in Esopus. Completion of the new pavilion and site improvements are expected at Esopus Meadows Preserve in spring of 2015.

Scenic Hudson does not pay taxes on the land they own, however, they have made a onetime contribution of \$5,000.00 to assist the Town in this particularly difficult budget cycle.

## **UPDATE OF SOLAR PROJECT**

Supervisor Coutant discussed the progress of the Landfill Solar Project. He explained there is a Sun Edison contract that needs to be reviewed by our Solar Project Manager Randolph Horner and Town Attorney Paul Keller. This project will allow the construction and placement of over 5000 solar panels across the capped landfill at West Park. It will make the town energy efficient and just about capture the bill without major increases occurring for the next 20 years. Our cost for Town Hall has escalated from 8.3 cents to 11.3 cents per kilowatt hour. The cost of energy continues to rise. This would help defray the big increases over the course of 20 years.

Opportunities in the future would allow the town to install additional solar fields that would generate electric to flatten escalation costs. The electric could be purchased by our residents and business owners.

Supervisor Coutant said, “I don’t want to put words in anyone’s mouth but I personally feel it’s a good opportunity”. Supervisor Coutant is confident the Board will look at the opportunity rationally and the entire Board will do what is right for the community and town.

Councilperson Barnett said the Board has spent many hours talking about this issue at the workshop meetings.

**BUDGET PROGRESS**

Supervisor Coutant informed everyone the Town Board has worked diligently on the Budget holding several workshops. Various Town revenues are down, due to various reasons such as Mortgage Tax, Sales Tax, Planning Fees, etc. The revenues are also down at the Transfer Station hence, the earlier resolution for the increase of the price per pound for the Solid Waste. Necessary cuts have been made. Expenses that we have control over have been managed. However, there are many expenses we do not have control of.

**HELP FOR CHANNEL 23**

Supervisor Coutant asked if anyone would like to participate in the production of Channel 23. He commended Brian Barnes for the job he has done. Anyone who is interested in helping out with channel 23 should contact Supervisor Coutant at 331-0676.

**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 OCTOBER 2014**

|                    |                     |                    |                            |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>AO 0599.000</b> | <b>Fund Balance</b> | <b>AO 1320.400</b> | <b>AUDITOR CONTRACTUAL</b> | <b>\$ 1,100.00</b> |
| <b>AO 0599.000</b> | <b>Fund Balance</b> | <b>AO 1620.403</b> | <b>BLDG SUPPLIES</b>       | <b>\$ 594.10</b>   |

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.**

**OFFERED BY:** Supervisor John Coutant  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Kyle Barnett

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

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Supervisor John Coutant</b>        | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Wayne Freer</b>      | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b> | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Kyle Barnett</b>     | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Diane McCord</b>     | <b>AYE</b> |

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

**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         | 141444 - 141494 (141459 VOID) | \$ 36,584.03  |
| Highway Fund         | 142222 - 142251               | \$ 28,527.06  |
| Street Lights        | 146010                        | \$ 6,668.50   |
| Port Ewen Sewer Fund | 143130 - 143143               | \$ 8,822.85   |
| Port Ewen Water Fund | 144236 - 144265               | \$ 29,625.76  |
| Total.....           |                               | \$ 110,228.20 |

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.**

**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Diane McCord  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Wayne Freer

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

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor John Coutant        | AYE |
| Councilperson Wayne Freer      | AYE |
| Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet | AYE |
| Councilperson Kyle Barnett     | AYE |
| Councilperson Diane McCord     | AYE |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS WAS MADE.**

**Offered by:** Councilperson Diane McCord  
**Seconded by:** Councilperson Wayne Freer

**The Board was polled:**

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Supervisor John Coutant</b>        | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b> | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Kyle Barnett</b>     | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Diane McCord</b>     | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Wayne Freer</b>      | <b>AYE</b> |

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

**COMMUNICATION & REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE TOWN BOARD MEETING AT 8:35PM.**

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Offered by:</b>  | <b>Councilperson Kyle Barnett</b>     |
| <b>Seconded by:</b> | <b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b> |

**All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk**