

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 25, 2017**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, N.Y. with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Diane McCord  
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
Councilperson Wayne Freer  
Councilperson Jared Geuss  
Councilperson Kathie Quick**

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

**Supervisor Diane McCord called the Meeting to order at 7:30 PM.**

**PLEDGE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – **Carl Belfiglio**, spoke to the citizens of Esopus and not as the County Legislator. He implored the Board to consider at their next meeting a comprehensive ethics code outside the NYS ethics law relating to financial interest conflicting with the Town or receiving gifts over \$75.00. Carl has an issue with the Supervisor having meetings with a Town Supervisor candidate on Town property during Town business hours. He also has an ethical issue with a candidate attending a meeting with the Supervisor. Hudson Riverkeeper called last month to say Shannon Harris attended a Hudson River Score Card meeting with the Supervisor. Carl asked, “Why wasn’t the Deputy Supervisor or Board member asked to go?” He has a feeling that the meetings being held behind closed doors are drastically unethical. Carl has been informed by people that the Supervisor is spending the later part of the day talking to the candidate. Carl said, “I’m not trying to say that you are doing something unethical, but the mere notion of having these closed door meetings lies in the area of irresponsibility. As a Town Official, you should abide by a code.” As a County Official he said he has to abide by a code of ethics and could not use his office to endorse or to help or share information with a candidate especially of his own party. Carl said he also found out this candidate is a consultant for the Economic Development Committee. He wonders again what the reason is. If the person was a Supervisor Elect or Town Official Elect, then he could see why they may need to know what is going on in the Town. If the candidate is a Supervisor Elect or if the general public asks for information in paper form, it should be a FOIL request at \$.25 per copy. He said he just wants the Board to consider the environment we live in and it is election season. Carl said, “I’m not going to demand equal time because the Supervisor so graciously invited me into her office this month and did close the door. Before she spoke, I told her that anything that we

discuss in this room has to be shared with the other candidate and she agreed.” Carl said they spent less than an hour together. Carl understands the other candidate spends a lot of time at Town Hall and does not know what they discuss, he can only speculate: “It just seems inappropriate and I would like you to consider a draft of an ethics law or code of conduct for elected officials in the Town. This would sway any speculations that there is any impropriety being done.” He said he has a stake in wanting open government because he is also a candidate for Supervisor. Carl said, “it was inappropriate and unwise as a public official to have any type of speculation that something not right is going on.” Carl thanked everyone for listening to his comments. He added, “In no way am I chiding the Board or Supervisor but to be aware of my feelings as a resident and candidate.”

Supervisor McCord said she invited Carl into her office, as well as Ms. Harris to talk about the Supervisor’s position and what items were pending. Diane said, “I don’t know where you got the information from. Shannon has come in a couple times, which have not been long meetings. She (Shannon) asked about the information regarding the Economic Development Committee and several other committees. Do you think I should have said I’m not going to talk to you about this because you’re a candidate? I think ethics would be a great thing if it was good all around. But do you think it’s wise to have the Chairman of the Republican Party and the Vice Chairman of the Ulster County Republican Party sitting on the Town Board? If you are going to address them (ethic issues), you should address them all.” Supervisor McCord continued to say, “That is why when I took this office I resigned my position as committee person in my political party. I think that is all we have to say about that tonight.” Carl said, “You do realize I’m only talking about what is going on with the Supervisor meetings.” Diane replied, “As I said to you, I talked to you. If you came in my office and asked about the Economic Development Committee, do you think I would tell you that you have to leave? No, we have talked about many issues over the years.” Carl said he talked to her in an official capacity. Supervisor McCord said the first time you came in I asked you as a candidate not as a citizen, is that correct?” Carl replied, “I’m the Legislator and I keep you apprised of what’s going on.” Supervisor said, “Yes and its funny you don’t visit very much.” Carl said he keeps the Supervisor apprised via phone. Councilperson Freer said he would like to move on with the regular business at hand.

### **Supervisor Announcements**

Supervisor McCord gave a follow up on Mr. Withalls’ complaint during a prior public comment about garbage cans being left at the curb. Supervisor McCord has looked up the garbage laws with other towns and it will be discussed at the next workshop meeting.

Supervisor McCord reviewed the potential date with Councilperson Freer for the Spectrum Franchise Agreement meeting with Kevin Egan. December 6th at 1pm is the

preferred date. The current agreement is being reviewed by Carol McTague, Communications Director of the Department of Public Service.

**SOLAR LAW DISCUSSION – Sal Morello III, Building Inspector**

Salvatore Morello III, Building inspector, talked about a few items the Board needs to think about in the future to aid in our Comprehensive Plan. The Board was given samples of a few local laws pertaining to solar and wind energy systems. The Board will need time to review the issue and do research.

The Town does not have any laws on solar or windmill farms at this time. If someone comes into Town wanting to create a 50 acre solar or windmill farm project, Sal feels we should have regulations to follow. A discussion between the Building Inspector and Board members continued and questions relating to the size of a project and zoning need to be looked at to determine whether a project needs to go through the Planning Board. Councilperson Geuss said he was concerned with the decommissioning of the panels should a project fold. The Board will continue to discuss this topic further.

A list of zoning items was given to the Board and they will need to be discussed at a future workshop meeting. Items included: following up on Air BNB's and a list of comprehensive minor housekeeping.

**LAKEVIEW TERRACE STREET LIGHT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO INSTALL A STREET LIGHT AT THE END OF LAKEVIEW TERRACE FOR SAFETY REASONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

\*\*Cost of the street light is \$12 a month and will be charged to those in the lighting district.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD SECRETARY**  
**APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York, as follows,

**WHEREAS**, there is a vacancy on the Environmental Board for a Recording Secretary,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Esopus Town Board appoints Stephanie Erwin to fulfill a vacancy as the Secretary to the Environmental Board with a term expiring 12/31/17 at the rate of \$13.00 per hour.

**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Kathie Quick  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Wayne Freer

Councilperson Wayne Freer	Aye
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Supervisor Diane McCord	AYE

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

**HALLOWEEN CURFEW**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD TO SET THE CURFEW FOR HALLOWEEN NIGHT FOR 7 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**TOWN OF ESOPUS RESOLUTION**  
**REAPPOINTING ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING**  
**BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York, as follows,

**WHEREAS**, appointment to the Ulster County Planning Board requires the recommendation of the Town of Esopus,

**WHEREAS**, appointment of an alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board also requires the recommendation of the Town of Esopus, and

**WHEREAS**, Roxanne Pecora is currently serving the Ulster County Planning Board and Fred Zimmer is currently serving as the alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board with terms expiring December 31, 2017,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Esopus Town Board recommends the re-appointment of Roxanne Pecora to the Ulster County Planning Board, for a term beginning January, 2018 thru December 31, 2021, and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town of Esopus Town Board recommends the re-appointment of Fred Zimmer as an alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board, for a term beginning January, 2018 thru December 31, 2021.

Both members of the Ulster County Planning Board have received the training status for their respective offices.

**OFFERED BY:** Supervisor Diane McCord  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Kathie Quick

Councilperson Wayne Freer	Aye
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Supervisor Diane McCord	AYE

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

**PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET 2018**

The Public Hearing for the 2018 budget has been scheduled for November 6th at 7:15 pm. Town Clerk, Holly Netter, will advertise the public hearing in the Daily Freeman.

**PROTECTING HOUSE OF WORSHIP SAFETY AND SECURITY PREPAREDNESS**

A program will be held on Monday October 30, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mount Academy in Esopus. Congressman Faso invited the Supervisor and members of the Board to join the training. Members of the FBI terrorism Task Force and local law enforcement will participate. The program will provide an overview of recent events and address any concerns related to security.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD TO APPROVE THE TOWN CLERK'S MINUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**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**

<b>AO. 0599.000 Fund Balance To</b>	<b>AO.1620.436</b>	<b>\$ 26.00</b>
	<b>Peak Power Yearly Contract</b>	
	<b>AO.3311.400</b>	<b>\$ 550.00</b>
	<b>Town Signage</b>	
	<b>AO.5182.401</b>	<b>\$16,202.24</b>
	<b>Esopusol – Solar</b> (Esopusol has a revenue line to offset; this month’s revenue is \$6,627.37)	
	<b>AO.7143.400</b>	<b>\$ 124.81</b>
	<b>Water Chestnut</b>	
	<b>AO.9045.800</b>	<b>\$ 1,093.44</b>
	<b>Unemployment – Tim Keefe</b>	
<b>DA.0599.000 Fund Balance</b>	<b>DA.5112.400</b>	<b>\$10,743.06</b>
	<b>CHIPS</b>	

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

**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Wayne Freer  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet

<b>Councilperson Wayne Freer</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Supervisor Diane McCord</b>	<b>AYE</b>

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS – October 2017**

**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:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>171464-171517</b>	<b>\$ 50,832.55</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>172214 - 172244</b>	<b>\$ 81,310.89</b>
<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	<b>176008</b>	<b>\$ 6,576.64</b>
<b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b>	<b>173124 -173138</b>	<b>\$ 81,439.94</b>
<b>PORT EWEN WATER FUND</b>	<b>174229 - 174252</b>	<b>\$ 21,042.54</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 241,202.56</b>

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

**OFFERED BY:** Councilperson Jared Geuss  
**SECONDED BY:** Councilperson Kathie Quick

Councilperson Wayne Freer            **AYE**  
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet       **AYE**  
Councilperson Jared Geuss            **AYE**  
Councilperson Kathie Quick           **AYE**  
Supervisor Diane McCord             **AYE**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER AT 8:00PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC