

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
February 4, 2020**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

UPDATES:

- 1. 2020 Census:** Beginning in mid-March, residents should receive either a postcard with sign-in information to fill out the Census online or a mail-in version of the Census form to be submitted. Councilperson Evelyn Clarke attended a meeting for the Complete Count Committee which was created to raise awareness about the census with various partners. Approximately 95% of people will receive the mail in version. However, she explained our Town is unique because we will not get a mailer like most people since we have Post Office Boxes and they will not mail to PO Boxes. The Town needs to come up with creative ways in order to get people to sign up for the census. Carol Rieser, Partnership Specialist, working with Ulster County has offered to come speak to the Board. Kathie Quick said she has thought about her seniors and what she could do to help them. Evelyn said people can respond online, by mail or by phone. A suggestion was made at the meeting to install kiosks in areas to help groups that are undercounted; such as a barber shop. Everyone does count and it is important because it affects the amount of money that comes into our district. Only 80% of the kids report but of course there is 100%; the funding is only based on the 80% who were counted. The Board will have Carol Rieser come talk to give suggestions. If there was a kiosk that was going to be put up for people to use, the library would make the most sense. Councilperson Clarke was asked to head up the project and put together a plan with Alex Dean, our Community Outreach Coordinator.
- 2. Esopus CERT Meeting:** Reporting on the first meeting of the Esopus Community Emergency Response Team was on 1/30. The next meeting will focus on liability analysis, insurance coverage, and vetting of volunteers for 2020. There was a great

response with good momentum. There are townspeople who have a desire to have a role in an emergency. Robert Graves has the Town Hall listed on their Evacuation Plan.

3. **Tributary Restoration and Resiliency Grant Assistance:** The contract has been signed with Tighe & Bond to assemble the application package for the NYS DEC, Hudson River Estuary Program-NEIWPC project.
4. **New Address: 1 Town Hall Way.** The survey has been completed by Brinnier & Larios and the deed has been created by Kellar, Kellar and Javien to be filed with the Ulster County Clerk's office. Supervisor Harris said they would be working with the Sherriff and Google to make them aware of the new address. Town Clerk Holly Netter added the State Police will need to also be notified to make sure the court address on their tickets was changed.
5. **County EDC Visit:** Ulster County Economic Development Office Director Lisa Berger visited our EDC meeting this month with updates on the County's current economic initiatives. We shared our Town's goals along with a high-level plan and received tailored information on how to utilize county resources.
6. **WIIA Grant:** Signed confirmation of acceptance has been officially submitted in the amount of \$2,491,200.
7. **UCATS:** Supervisor Harris was elected as 2020 President of the Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors (UCATS).
8. **Upcoming Meetings:** Supervisor Harris to meet with UC Executive Pat Ryan on 2/13. Board to discuss and provide items of interest to be presented to Executive Ryan.
9. **Department Head Meeting on 1/31:**

Assessor's Office: Reported that last year's decline in equalization rate (from historic 100% to 95%) continues into this year with an estimated decrease of 91%. The Assessor to report to Board.

Building Department: Plans to begin evaluation of upkeep in Connelly to ensure code compliance.

Clerk's Office: Recommends adjustments to fees for pavilions and community center rentals.

Highway Department: Plans to not focus on repaving Port Ewen for the next couple years (except Hasbrouck) due to the likely replacement of water infrastructure in 2021-2023. An update will be provided to the Board on recommended CHIPS paving schedule

at the end of the winter season. Front loader replacement for \$20,000 in 2020 (already budgeted). Old equipment to be auctioned off.

Water Department: Plans to replace the pump station located on North Broadway in Port Ewen.

Parks & Rec Department: Received and developed estimates for Town Hall bathroom repairs.

We will continue to hold the meetings every other month to share ideas.

UPCOMING EVENTS & KEY DATES:

- Mon, 2/17: **Presidents day.** Town Hall closed.
- Wed, 2/19, 7 PM: **Hamlet rezoning feedback meeting #1 – Esopus, Rifton, St. Remy, West Park** at Esopus Fire House. Zoning Task Force to host meeting with LaBerge planner. Councilperson Jared Geuss said this is a proactive approach to share what we are looking at in terms of zoning and get feedback from the community for what they would like to see.
- Thu, 2/20, 3 PM: Esopus will be represented by Supervisor Harris on a panel at the upcoming **Eco-Opportunities Forum** hosted by Scenic Hudson & Riverkeeper at Kingston City Hall. Board members and PE Water Dept and Water/Sewer Board Members strongly encouraged to attend.
- Sat, 2/22, 11 AM: **2nd Annual Sojourner Truth Walk** starting at Town Hall in recognition of Black History Month.
- Mon, 2/24, 5:30 PM: **Esopus Business Alliance Mixer at Maple Ridge Community 10** Hellbrook Lane, Ulster Park.
- Tue, 2/25, 7 PM: **Hamlet rezoning feedback meeting #2 – Connelly, Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh & Ulster Park** at Town Hall. Zoning Task Force to host meeting with LaBerge planner.
- Sun, 3/1: **Taxable status and tax exemption filing deadline with the Esopus Assessor's office.**
- Mon, 3/2: **Park pavilion rentals (residents).**
- Wed, 4/1: **Park pavilion rentals (non-residents).**
- Thu, 4/2: **Passport Night** at Esopus Town Hall. Time 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.
- Sat, 4/11, 12:30 PM: **Esopus egg hunt** at Freer Beach Park.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – JOANNA MIGNONE

Supervisor Harris said the equalization rate has been 100% for over a decade. In the staff meeting they learned it slipped to 95% last year and will be 91% this year. The Board wants to try to understand this and get a plan of action in place to get it back to 100%. Assessor JoAnna Mignone reported the following to the Board. The County is saying the average trend for Ulster County is 7.5% percent. The State measurement is sales driven and the Law states you must use the prior year sales. Sales must be used from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 for the 2020 roll. Assessor Mignone said due to these higher sales our equalization rate is going down 4% for the 2020 roll. In this market, when one town does a revaluation, they end up paying more taxes than the other towns that are losing their level of assessment. There is no state law requiring any town to stay at 100% and no guarantee if you do a revaluation that the State will accept 100%. There are only two options: 1. move values up or 2. level of assessment goes down.

There are several towns in Ulster County that have done a revaluation in 2018. In 2019 when Esopus took the 95% other towns had to raise everyone's assessment up by 5% again to keep 100% of market value. Now they must trend up again this year 2020. JoAnna felt that if we stay where we are the majority of people who are just taking the level going down because we have a better base for the taxes. This means the consequences are assessments being raised. Leaving things as they are for now seems to make the most sense in this market. If we do a revaluation it will take 2 years starting this fall; completion in 2022. Prices for revaluation companies are between \$80 and \$120 per parcel for residential parcels; commercial parcels are higher. Esopus has 4,457 parcels and after revaluation there is no guarantee the state accepts the 100% of market value. An example of the revaluation cost was given: 4457 parcels @\$100 per parcel = \$445,700 to do the reval and that was only based on a median residential rate. In order to spend that much money we would have to discuss this at a budget hearing. The cost of the reval would equal approximately the total of the additional revenue we would receive from the higher assessments. If the market continues as it is they would need to raise the assessment again the following year or we go down under 100% again. She said she has been around for many years and it is her opinion that they should wait a couple of years. She said there are towns at 75% of market value, there are other towns going down 10% vs our 4% and the average is a 7.5% decrease for the towns in the county.

JoAnna continued to say, "we are still in a good place, if we keep raising and raising and raising the assessments none of the people at this table are going to get voted in again and I think you have a good Board here and we have to save that. My opinion is we stay where we are but I would be happy to do whatever you decide". JoAnne said Christine Douglas, Real Property Analyst for the State and our Town liaison, has been helpful with all the information Joanna had provided in the packet and she has offered her number to the Board if anyone needs to understand the process more thoroughly. They may call her direct or she can talk to them as a Board.

Councilperson Jared confirmed Joanna's opinion of waiting for two years. Her response to Jared was, "we see no flux and I would like to see sales start to come down and level off before we start this project because it's still rising". Councilperson Geuss asked if it is possible to run an in-house reval. Supervisor Harris said we set aside \$4,000 for an in-house reval every year in the budget. JoAnna said you have to hire at least 10 people to go out in the field and pay for their mileage. She questioned "Who are you hiring? How are they doing? Are they going to measure every building? Are they going to get into every house?" Shannon said, I want to make sure you are keeping up with the job". JoAnna responded, "of course I am". Supervisor Harris said, "well our equalization rates have slipped two years in a row now and it hasn't slipped in years". JoAnna explained, "So have the other towns". Supervisor Harris said, "We are not all other towns, in fact there was an article in the Freeman where most towns actually had property rates declined because they were holding steady. We were not able to have the same story because our equalization rate slipped. Joanna reviewed the numbers from around the County. Supervisor Harris said other towns had unique situations for example; Denning is at 16% of market value but has a ton of State land and Ulster has a failing business base. Joanna had provided the most up to date information for the Town that she could reach because it was not public knowledge yet.

City of Kingston did a reval, trending up again this year
Gardner is at 100% they did a reval, they have to make a decision to go down or raise assessments at least 5%
Lloyd 100% did a reval, trend up raising assessments % unknown
Marbletown did a reval, has to trend up and raise assessments 10%
Marlboro moving down to 85%
New Paltz is going down to 90% from 95%, we are similar to them but we held a little better than them
Rochester trending up 7% increase to assessments
Rosendale has to trend up 8% - 3rd year in a row raising assessments
Saugerties trending up - unknown rate
Ulster at 73% unfortunately the Assessor has passed, unknown what they were doing
Woodstock is at 92.5% going down to 83%
JoAnna explained this is our area; we need to focus on it because we share school districts and the County portions. We need stay in line with these Towns or we are going to pay more in tax dollars

Supervisor Harris said, "the Board reappointed you early based on your guarantee to do your best to stay at 100% like it always has been. Then we found out a couple of months later that we went down to 95%, which you probably knew at the time you asked for the early reappointment". JoAnna said, "No that was not it, I just wanted to be reappointed. Everybody in the County was asking at the same time". Supervisor Harris said, "No you asked for it early". JoAnna restated, "they all ask for it early, whether they get it or not is another story, but at the Assessor meeting they said we should start asking for a reappointment and that's just what I did". Shannon said, "The point is historically we have always been at 100 % you've kept up with the tax rolls. The tax rolls are not keeping up with the assessments". Joanna said, "yes I am

there is no way for me to tell what the sales are going to be". Supervisor Harris said," if the sales are higher immediately you have to reassess the new sale". Joanna said, "No you can't do that, it's called the Welcome Stranger Law". Chris asked her if she agreed that if we are not at 100%, than we are not keeping up. Joanna said," I do know that. What I'm saying is that you have to do an entire reval and when we saw all the other towns doing what we were doing we figured we would stay on this end of it. We don't want to raise assessments every single year until this settles down". She asked them if they wanted to raise assessments 5%, 6% 10% each year in order to stay at 100%. Supervisor Harris asked if that is what she was doing to stay at 100% in the past. Joanna said," No that is not how it works". Joanna explained if a sale comes in high she cannot just raise the assessment, it is illegal. It is called "Welcome Stranger". She did explain there are some circumstances involving the timing of a building permit that may allow the adjustment and she does make those changes every single year.

Supervisor Harris asked Joanna what the plan was to get back to 100%. JoAnna said that's the Boards' decision. Joanna said in her opinion she would wait a little longer because if we go to 100% and we have to do a trend up each year, the town's people will go nuts. Supervisor Harris said, "this is why we don't ever want to slip from 100% because we do not want to be in this position you are now putting us in". Joanna said, "If you feel you want to do a reval, we can start it in the fall 2020 and by 2022 it will be complete. We have to find a company that the Board agrees on. Chris asked what it would take to do an in house reval? Joanna said you need at least 10 people, pay their mileage, cut up the map and send people out to look at the houses. Jared asked if there were any certifications needed to do the job. Joanna said in the past, prior Assessor, Sterling Potter, used college students and they did not have any. She was not sure whether things have changed. When Dan Terpening and JoAnna did it, the State sent a book of all the assessments that they thought we should have and they went through every one.

Supervisor Harris said," we don't need 10 people". Joanna said," I don't know. I know we had 10 people when Sterling Potter did the full reval. When Dan Terpening, prior Assessor, went out he didn't do any vacant land and he picked certain areas so he didn't do a full blown assessment". Dan had many people come in challenging their assessments. Dan had a cyclical reassessment with John Coutant, former Supervisor, and the State which guaranteed for 6 years the Town would be at 100% and the Town had to raise assessments per the contract based on the State's figures until 2012. JoAnna said, "I took over the roll in 2013 and kept it good all these years until the market went nuts".

Chris asked what that would it entail? Joanna said you need to do a full reval and the state reviews the rolls and makes the determination of the cyclical reassessment figures. She is not sure if the state still does this. None of the other towns are doing it so she will check on it.

Raising assessments every year may be necessary to get the town back to 100%.

Joanna said when we trended this year, 5 people came in to question their bill. Supervisor Harris said she received a lot of calls based on the Freeman article where most of the towns' property taxes went down except ours. Joanna said, "But all the towns in Ulster County did not

go down. I had spoken to a woman at the State and told her we had this issue with the Freeman article and the State woman did not know where they got that information because it is not true." Supervisor Harris said it was from an article from Patricia Doxsey from when County Executive Ryan passed his budget. Bill Kimble, from the Daily Freeman was present and said "that was dealing with tax rates not assessments they are two different things". Supervisor Harris said, "It underscored the fact that people then looked at their tax bills and saw 95% because people started waking up and I got a lot of calls". Joanna said, "You should have had them call me I could have explained it better". Supervisor Harris said, "I'm upset we are in this position because the tax assessments were not kept up; to be at a 9% differential for this coming year and having this Town Board be responsible for trending them back up. She added "she was very disappointed that the property assessments have not been kept up, like every other year". JoAnna replied, "yes they have, because in one year when the sales shot up like that, there was no way, we had to take what the state gave us. I think it is better to take that end of it then of assessing people three years in a row and having them coming in all upset. If we wait a little bit when we do the reval it won't be so bad". Supervisor Harris said she did not feel this could wait and it needed to start now and be proactive. JoAnna said, ok so we will start in the fall and proceed on. Supervisor Harris asked JoAnna for a plan by the next meeting. Supervisor Harris said, "I don't think we should sit on this, the longer we sit on it and potentially trend down again the more problems the Board is going to feel from the public when we have to make a steep increase". Joanna said, "That is what I'm trying to say, you may not have to have a steep increase if the sales start to drop. We will either be at a 100% or we will work to get it". Chris asked what makes you think it is going to drop. JoAnna said she is starting to see sales coming in lower than last year. Joanna gave an example of a sale of a home assessed at \$215,000 selling for \$239,000 instead of \$359,000 in the prior year. She is seeing a small number of sales where the numbers are coming down and selling at the assessment.

Chris asked about how many sales we had and Joanna had provided the information in the handout she had given to the Board. Councilperson Evelyn Clarke asked if there was a way to go to 98% instead of going to 100%. Supervisor Harris said, "Yes if we can if we keep up with the tax assessment". Joanna said, "If we do a reval and we say we are at 100%, the State may come back to say we are at 98% or you have to raise it another 2%. Councilperson Farrell asked what is an economical way of keeping us from dropping lower than 91% and getting us back to 95%. Councilperson Quick asked if the reval was the only way to do it. Joanna confirmed yes and said you aim for 100% but you don't know what the State will say. Everyone thinks the Town sets everything, she says as Assessor she has to follow every rule that the State has. As explained before, assessments can't just be changed to the higher sale amount because of the Welcome Stranger Law.

Supervisor Harris said she could help by sending a welcome letter to the new property owners introducing them to our Town offices and Building Department. Joanna said when there is a sale they send an informational sheet regarding the property and a town directory. If Shannon wrote a letter JoAnna said they would include it with their mailing. When the people return the information sheet, Kristen makes the adjustments in the computer.

Supervisor Harris said by the next meeting they need a plan on how to incrementally get us back where we need to be. Joanna confirmed they wanted a reval in house. She will contact the State and find out what is the easiest and best way to do this and share the information with her liaison Chris Farrell and Supervisor Harris.

Sleightsburgh Spit

Councilman Geuss reported on the recent meeting he held with Town Clerk Holly Netter on January 28th with a group of sportsmen. Councilperson Geuss reviewed the history and said last year the Board made adjustments to the Sleightsburgh Spit due to possible criminal activity and petitions. This was a reaction based on public safety from what the Board was hearing from a few neighbors. Councilperson Jared Geuss said we are in the process of getting a security camera installed at the Sleightsburgh Spit and we are getting back to the issues. Councilperson Geuss proposed to have Sleightsburgh Park fully open between April 1st to October 31st accessible for everyone, gate unlocked. November 1st – March 31st we will go back to a key system with proof of fishing/hunting license and obtain a key from the Clerk's office. March 31st keys would be handed back in and we would change the lock annually. This year we are going to have cameras. Bailiffs had been paid to lock the gate which was an additional expense. Councilperson Geuss said after speaking to the bailiffs, they have not had any issues down there. This is consistent with the police reports that were obtained. So if there were problems, they are no longer and as the Town invests money in the Riverfront Access Plan and looks to bring recreational boating to Esopus, he doesn't think we should limit it. There was a sign inside the Spit that was vandalized with the gate locked. Someone was putting their own locks on the gate which prevented Town personnel and fishermen from entering. Councilperson Geuss said we will continue to monitor the situation. Mike Pagnotta, said last year the residents said the police were called numerous times. The fishermen did their own investigation and upon receipt of the call log for the Sleightsburgh Spit location this was not found to be true. In 5 years police were called 4 times. The hunters and fishermen are there all day and night and they had never seen anything that the residents said occurred there. Mike added he was disappointed no one from the Board did the research, except the sportsmen and just took the word of two people and acted on it. Doug Mains said Wally Fulford from the Sheriff's Department personally went to the Spit and there was 1 insolent of marijuana possession. He said if the Town provides the IP address to the camera the Sheriffs Dept. can have direct access to the video and he has no issue with sending people down there. The hope is the camera surveillance will deter unwanted activities in the warmer season, including people putting their own locks on the gate, preventing even Town personnel from entering.

Chris asked about the hours of the park. Dusk to dawn except for fishing was how the sign read. DEC has a good presence there. The Sheriff's Office and DEC will be asked to increase their presence during the warmer weather. Councilperson Evelyn Clark asked what we can do to help improve communication. The sportsmen said they were told in August that they were going to have a meeting and were all disappointed that it never occurred as promised. This meeting has put things on the right path and we will continue to have more of an open communication going forward.

SUPERVISOR HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE SLEIGHTSBURGH SPIT GATE FROM APRIL 1 - OCT 31. KEY ACCESS WILL BE FOR HUNTERS AND FISHERMEN ONLY FROM NOV 1 – MARCH 31. SIGNS WILL BE MODIFIED, SECURITY CAMERAS COMPLETED AND THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT AND DEC WILL BE ASKED TO STEP UP PATROL ESPECIALLY DURING THE WARMER MONTHS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSONN JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

2020 TEVAS CONTRACT

COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL MADE A MOTION TO SIGN THE TEVAS CONTRACT FOR 2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

LABERGE GROUP - HAMLET MEETINGS

The Esopus Zoning Task Force is taking a look at our Zoning Codes and want to make sure that the communities are in sync with the direction the Town is going. The Hamlet meetings will be lead by the Laberge Group. The first meeting will be February 19 at 7 pm at the Esopus Fire House and will take a look at Esopus, West Park, Rifton & St. Remy. The second meeting will be Tuesday, February 25th at 7 pm at the Esopus Town Hall and will cover Ulster Park, Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and Connelly.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHIE QUICK TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE LABERGE CONTRACT ADDENDUM NO. 2019083-01 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO FACILITATE TWO HAMLET PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,500. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARRED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

MCCABE COLEMAN VENTOSA & PATTERSON PLLC

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO RETAIN JOHN VENTOSA, ESQ. FOR ZONING ENFORCEMENT LITIGATION SERVICES AT A RATE OF \$195.00 FOR CODE VIOLATION ADVISORY AND \$225.00 FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY AN ATTORNEY IN CONNECTION WITH APPEALS OR RELATED PROCEEDINGS EMANATING THEREFROM AND \$100 FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY A PARALEGAL OR LEGAL ASSISTANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

GRANT - ESOPUS PARKS SURVEYS AND ENGINEERING EVALUATIONS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO ACCEPT THE \$30,750 DEC GRANT AWARD FOR THE "ESOPUS PARKS SURVEYS AND ENGINEERING EVALUATIONS" PROJECT UNDER THE 2019 HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY GRANT PROGRAM (T00876GG). THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

2020 NYMIR RENEWAL

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE NYMIR RENEWAL FOR 2020 WITH MARSHALL AND STERLING, ADDING CYBER SECURITY COVERAGE OPTION #2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,720. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH A RED CROSS SITE VISIT AND EVALUATION OF TOWN HALL AS A POSSIBLE WARMING/COOLING CENTER OR MAKESHIFT SITE IN THE EVENT OF A LOCAL DISASTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED.

PLUMBING REPAIRS LOWER LEVEL TOWN HALL

On several occasions over the past year there have been issues with the toilets backing up in the lower level of the Town Hall. The floor needs to be cut and jack hammered out to repair the sewer line. They need to replace a Sanitary TEE with a Sanitary WYE. Dan Vedder, Buildings and Grounds, received estimates from local companies to repair the issue in amounts ranging from \$13,142 – \$18,560. Dan told Supervisor Harris he was confident that he and his staff could make the repair over a weekend and the cost would be approximately \$1,500. The repair would be coordinated with Town Clerk Holly Netter when the Community Center is not being used. Dan Expects the job to be finished in 1 day however they would have employees come back on Sunday if needed to complete the work.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO AUTHORIZE DAN VEDDER AND STAFF TO MAKE THE PLUMBING REPAIR IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF TOWN HALL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

RENTAL FEES

During the 2020 budget process it was decided Town revenue needed to be increased. Town Clerk Holly Netter presented the recommendation to increase park and community center rental fees. In addition she recommended renting the Cas Landi Pavilion in St. Remy for smaller parties. In the future we would like to have a pavilion at Reiker Park in Connelly, Lighthouse Park and a second smaller pavilion at Freer Beach. Freer Park is utilized every weekend during the summer. The Town Clerks office based the increase on their research of rental fees charged by the City of Kingston and neighboring towns. No change was made to the Kitchen or Alcohol permits. The \$25 meeting charge for the community center will be enforced. County Level programs will be charged \$25. All meetings for local community service groups, including political committees, are free of charge.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO INCREASE THE PAVILION RATES AS FOLLOWS:

COMMUNITY CENTER	RESIDENT	FROM \$120 TO \$150
COMMUNITY CENTER NON RESIDENT		FROM \$200 TO \$230
ROSS AND FREER PARK	RESIDENT	FROM \$ 75 TO \$100
ROSS AND FREER PARK NON RESIDENT		FROM \$150 TO \$175
CAS LANDI PAVILION	RESIDENT	\$40
	NON RESIDENT	\$50

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

CARPET CLEANING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO APPROVE THE TOWN HALL CARPETS IN THE MAIN COURT ROOM AREA, HALLWAY TO COURT AND TOWN CLERKS OFFICE TO BE PROFESSIONALLY CLEANED BY COUNTY CARE COUNTRY CLEANERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$988.77. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

INTERVIEW FOR VACANCY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD – STEPHEN CERINI

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO APPOINT STEPHEN CERINI TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD POSITION TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2021. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

TBWS 02-04-20

Stephen Cerini made a suggestion the Assessor utilize the MLS system and visit the homes while they are on the market and based on the visual inspection she could raise the assessment before the sale occurs.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:02 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC