

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
March 6, 2018**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 6, 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 Shannon Harris called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

Department Updates

Assessor JoAnna Mignone and her department have been working on collecting the exemptions for the past few months. She has been working with the County and was happy to report we are at 100% assessed value for 2018. During the month of March, they will enter the exemption information into the computer and forward it to the County. JoAnna said there is no longer a Town vehicle to use for the field work, so mileage will need to be paid to Mara for the use of her car. She will try to utilize the Building Department's Jeep when it is available. JoAnna would like the Board to consider getting a car, which can be shared between the Assessors' Office and Mike Miller for the daily mail and bank run. Applications for 2 new Cold War exemptions were filed. The articles in the newspaper prompted 6-8 veterans to apply for exemptions who were not aware they qualified. JoAnna will be working on calculating all Ulster County Town Tax Rates for comparison to prove Esopus is marketable. Many people who buy at auction or distressed sales expect their taxes to be equivalent to the sale price but that is not the actual value of the home.

Highway Superintendent, Mike Cafaldo, brought the Board up on the status of the new recreation garage. They are waiting on the trusses. Mike provided the Board with a wish list of roads that he would like to repair in 2018. Funding will not be available for all projects but he would like to complete as many as possible. Mike has an opportunity to purchase a new 2015 5900i with dump body for \$135,920.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO APPROVE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT MIKE CAFALDO TO LEASE THE 2015 5900I WITH DUMP BODY FOR \$135,920 FROM BEN FUNK, INC. A DEPOSIT OF \$35,000 WILL BE MADE AND THE BALANCE OF \$100,920.00 WILL BE FINANCED FOR A 4 YEAR TERM. PAYMENTS WILL BE \$27,235.29

ANNUALLY FOR 4 YEARS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board asked Mike to take a look into patching a few holes on Doris Street as well as Hardenburg Road which were brought to their attention. Mike will look into it.

Supervisor Updates

- **Feedback from Community of Churches & Kingston City Schools Board public meeting 3/3/18 at the Mount Academy.** Supervisor Comments: The Kinston City School (KCS) Board and Superintendent were supportive of doing more shared services between the towns and the schools in general. The principal of Robert Graves had requested assistance with utilizing Esopus highway machinery to remove some rusted playground equipment. Our Highway Superintendent offered assistance, along with volunteers from the Community of Churches, to remove the old playground on a date TBD in April. Afterward a KCS Board member also approached Supervisor Harris afterwards to inquire whether she could speak with other Town Supervisors in the County to assess whether there is an appetite (and possible funding) available to create an initiative to install “slow - pedestrian” type signage in the neighborhoods around schools.

- **Outcomes of Drinking Water Information Public Session 3/5/18 4-6 PM Community Room.** Supervisor Comments: Approximately 22 people attended the water workshop. There were several follow up points from the workshop:
 1. Maintain public awareness that the Town is taking action with respect to participating in the Inter-Municipal Council and proactively planning for current and future water/sewer infrastructure needs. This could be a “newsletter update” in future water/sewer department mailings and social media. In particular, providing updates on efforts to:
 2. Procure and locate a new storage tank.
 3. Identifying water main infrastructure replacement, particularly in the “below the hill” neighborhood east of Broadway.
 4. Exploring alternate sources of drinking water in a shared services agreement with Kingston and building the infrastructure to support that transition.
 5. Providing updates on Kingston’s attempts to seek funding to defray the enormous costs of upgraded filtration systems to de-nitrify their sewer outtake in the Rondout Creek, which is upstream from our drinking water intake on River Road.

Supervisor Harris forwarded Riverkeeper’s presentation and enclosed a Draft Memorandum of Agreement that is under consideration between the 7 municipalities. She recommend the Town Board formally consider a more final version of the MOA at the March 15 Town Board meeting.

- Wurts Street Bridge re-opened 2/23/18-NYS DOT & Future repairs will be in the summer 2019.
 - The US Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey was completed 2/26/18.
 - Central Hudson LED streetlight conversion was to begin March 1st. Storms may have an impact on the start date.
 - Executive Mike Hein & Office of Economic Development will present an overview of UC Economic Development Services for Esopus 3/21/18 from 6-8pm at the Esopus Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.
 - Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) Training Sessions are April 27, May 11 and May 18 from 9am-3:30pm at the Orange County Arboretum Route 416, Montgomery, NY. Supervisor Harris recommends the Board request Roxanne Pecora to attend and encourage other Planning and Zoning Board members to attend.
 - Ulster County Climate Smart Committee and Legislator Heidi Haynes will be sponsoring a presentation by Tim Guinee of the Climate Reality Project on 3/15/18 at 6:30pm, 6th Floor, Legislative Office Building.
 - NEW: NYSERDA Energy Code Enforcement Training on 3/16/18 from 8AM-5 PM in the Orange County Arboretum in Montgomery, NY.
1. **DASNY Grant for Sewer Vacuum Truck.** Supervisor comments: The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York recently awarded the Town of Esopus \$150,000 from its State and Municipal Facilities Program (“SAM”) in order to purchase a new highway sewer vacuum truck. Supervisor Harris re-introduced the project (ID 8202), which was initiated in November of 2016, in order to approve the completion of this funding application.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO APPROVE THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT AS STIPULATED IN THE DASNY GRANT DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZES SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO SIGN AND CERTIFY ACCEPTANCE OF THE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY SEWER VACUUM TRUCK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VANVLIEET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTON CARRIED.

BQ ENERGY SOLAR PROPOSAL – PAUL CURRAN

BQ would like to move forward with the MOU for the expansion of the solar farm at the landfill. BQ has been working with Central Hudson and the DEC on various aspects of the project. A copy of the Lease Option Agreement was shared with the Board members. Central Hudson regulations have changed since the original option to lease was signed by Supervisor McCord

September of 2017, therefore a new one must be signed. If a subdivision of the property is needed, BQ would pay for the expenses. The lease fee BQ offered was \$25,000 per year. Town of Rochester was being paid \$10,000 per MW for a \$2.6 MW project which would be approximately the same. BQ is willing to pay Esopus a \$10,000 option fee until the farm is installed. They will monitor and maintain the existing solar field at Town Hall as part of their contract. The tracking panels will be fixed to track appropriately. They have made a promise not to apply for building permits for the Transfer Station project until the Town Hall array is fixed. The contract also includes the mowing and maintenance in and around the panels at the Transfer Station. BQ will fence in the array once the expansion is completed. Documents will be sent to Paul Kellar for review and will be placed on the Town Board meeting for March 15th.

Cablevision of Wappingers Falls/ Altice – Dan Ahouse

There are 19 homes in the Swartekill Road and Loughran Lane area that are not within the footprint of the Spectrum territory. A renewal of the franchise agreement with Cablevision of Wrappings Falls is needed to provide the necessary services to these homes. The contract will be sent to Paul Kellar for review. A Public Hearing will also need to be scheduled. The Public Service Commission will receive a copy upon completion of the Public Hearing and execution of the contract.

TBS Contract

TBS handles the maintenance of the heating and cooling unit at the Town Hall. The contract is up for renewal and expires March 31, 2018. There was a question of the increase in cost to the contract. The discussion was tabled until Supervisor Harris could research the matter.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS RESOLUTION
APPOINTING ULSTER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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 Environmental Management Council requires the recommendation of the Town of Esopus,

WHEREAS, appointment of an alternate to the Ulster County Environmental Management Council also requires the recommendation of the Town of Esopus, and

WHEREAS, there are no representatives currently serving on the Ulster County Environmental Management Council and the Town of Esopus seeks to have a representative;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Esopus Town Board recommends the appointment of Mark Ellison to the Ulster County Environmental Management Council, for a term beginning March, 2018 thru December 31, 2021, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Esopus Town Board recommends the appointment of Francesca Sansone as an alternate to the Ulster County Environmental Management Council, for a term beginning March, 2018 thru December 31, 2021.

Resolution offered by: Supervisor Shannon Harris
Seconded by: Councilperson Kathie Quick

The Board was polled:

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.

CPC update – Jared Geuss

Councilperson Jared Geuss gave an update on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. There were 22 RFQ's sent out and 7 companies responded and were interviewed. The CPC recommend the LaBerge Group located in Albany. Kingston Creative will be used for the website design. There is a need for a temporary part time individual to work a minimal amount of hours to help field questions and reach out to businesses. Councilperson Geuss will work on drafting the job description and qualifications. The job will entail public relations, community outreach and economic development.

Councilperson Chris Farrell said there are things to fix on the Planning Board and questioned why there is resistance to identifying the problem. He stated if we don't have volunteers who are working in the best interest of our Town, then we should not be appointing them or reappointing them to the board. Planning is an important board when it comes to getting business into the Town. He said the process should be user friendly and members cannot have an attitude when dealing with the public. Supervisor Harris said there are things that can be done in terms of who we appoint for the vacancy and having a discussion with certain individuals on the board and the group to share feedback. The Planning Board is going to be a major stake holder and is meant to participate in discussions. The Planning Board needs to hear what the community wants, like streamlining the zoning and planning process. Someone has to be an advocate for the business owner/applicant and help guide them through the process. Councilperson Farrell said it would be good practice if the Town Board requests a roster of

cases that are in front of the Planning Board, when it was presented, and what stage they are in to see how long the process takes. This would be helpful to determine the average amount of time projects take to complete. Communication also needs to improve. The Café owner walked away from the Public Hearing thinking his project was approved. Chris said, he also walked away thinking it was approved. In order to improve the communication between the Planning Board and the applicant, the Town Board suggested the Planning Board provide the applicant with a summary of requirements needed for the next steps in the process.

Miscellaneous

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet asked the status of the Spectrum contract. Supervisor Harris said she was aware that prior Supervisor McCord, Councilperson Freer and Public Access Volunteer Brian Barnes had met with Spectrum back in December 2017. She was unsure of the outcome of that meeting but will follow up to see what information she can obtain.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:35 pm. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GEUSS. ALL MEMEBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC