

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
March 05, 2019**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 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 Absent
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. Waterfront Advisory Board - The WAB will meet prior to the Future of Esopus meeting on March 6 at 5 PM at Esopus Town Hall to kick off the DEC / Esopus / Scenic Hudson River Access and Connections Project.
2. Public Hearing and Community Meeting – The Future of Esopus Reception on March 6 at 7 PM Esopus Town Hall; expecting a lot of people and will have traffic direction. Employees have been asked to provide input on the plan and attend the meeting to view the presentation on projects affecting their work, as well as hear community concerns and questions. Councilperson Van Vliet questioned whether Supervisor Harris had the authority to make the meeting mandatory for the employees without the consent of the Board. The letter was attached to the payroll checks on Friday, March 1st; 3 business days prior to the meeting.

Councilperson Van Vliet said according to Town Law, the Supervisor does not have authority to send out a letter to employees, it's considered personnel. Personnel and monetary matters involve the whole Town Board. She had no problem with mandating employees to come to a meeting during business hours. She suggested Supervisor Harris send the employees a new notification to say we hope you will come but not required to attend.

Supervisor Harris said according to Matt from Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux, LLP she had the right to make it mandatory. Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo said the Highway personnel called their union and Mr. Kutski told them they did not have to attend and if they did attend they were entitled to 3 hours of overtime.

Councilperson Van Vliet pointed out the Supervisor has no more authority than any other Board Member. She had also consulted with an attorney who said it should be a Board decision. Councilperson Van Vliet said. "The Town Board does not have to approve moneys that are going to be spent? Why don't we all resign as Town Board members; you can just take over and run this Town." Supervisor Harris said, "There is a process for what you are saying and it's called run for Supervisor Gloria". Shannon said it was her right to call the meeting and it's in their contracts that we set their hours they work. Supervisor Harris said "I am Supervisor, I am Chief ... "Gloria responded, "You are not Mayor you are one of 5 members that sit on this Board."

Supervisor Harris sent an email to department heads who were instructed to offer comp time or alter the office schedule to compensate for the employees' time. Some offices that are unable to do so will need to pay the employee's overtime.

Councilperson Geuss said he was in a tough spot. This meeting is the "super bowl for my committee tomorrow night so I want everyone there. Councilperson Geuss has worked hard on the Comprehensive Plan since its inception and wants to see as many people there as possible. Councilperson Geuss said he was trying to determine what the argument was. If there is evidence that a procedural violation occurred, that would have to be corrected.

Councilperson Van Vliet asked why the Board always makes motions to authorize the Supervisor to sign letters and contracts but no need to make a motion to send out a letter to personnel, which falls under the action of the five member Town Board. Councilperson Van Vliet has no problem with the inviting of the employees, the problem is with the monetary cost associated with the employees attending which the Board was not apprized of or did not discuss in advance. This was a letter that should have been authorized prior to distribution.

Councilperson Quick said Supervisor Harris felt the need for employees to hear from the community and know why this plan is important. There is a lot of disconnect even with the other Boards. The Master Plan has an affect on how we operate and serve the community with recommendations that will affect all departments and employees. Councilperson Quick said without this Comprehensive Plan, we wouldn't have gotten a lot of the grants.

Chris Farrell asked Mike Cafaldo how many employees he had and what the cost of attendance would be for those individuals. Mike said it would cost \$1300- \$1500 for the thirteen employees to attend. There had been a snowfall so no one was interested in comp time or they were already maxed out. Councilperson Farrell said, typically the people who are mandated attend but tune you out anyway and people who want to be there come on their own. Councilperson Farrell agreed with Councilperson Geuss, "We definately want as much participation as possible, it's a big deal and event and for the Future of our Town but I think any mandates to work outside their work hours can breed resentment." Councilperson Farrell agreed it should have been presented to council. He added it is fine to mandate but getting input from everyone should be practice in the future.

Supervisor Harris said she never expected disagreement from anyone just support because she is the human resource leader. She said she followed the advice of the union attorney and said she was within her right to call the meeting.

Supervisor Harris shared a recorded conversation with the union attorney. Supervisor Harris and Highway Superintendent Cafaldo will call Mike Kutski in the morning.

Gloria asked if there was any repercussion or retaliation if the employees do not come. Supervisor Harris said no retaliation. She said she takes notice when people care about who they serve and where they get their direction from. It should be from the Public since they pay our salary.

3. NYSDEC Hercules/Dyno Nobel Contamination Meeting - Public Meeting and comment period for State Superfund Site Monday, March 11 at 7 PM Esopus Town Hall. Estimated cost to Dyno Nobel to implement the remedy is \$10,287,000.
4. HV Clean Water Success Forum - Scenic Hudson in collaboration with The Riverkeeper will be convening a Municipal Leader's Forum here at Esopus Town Hall on Thursday, March 14 from 2 - 4 pm.
5. Old Rondout (Wurts Street) Bridge Meeting - Public stakeholder meeting for bridge rehabilitation project by NYSDOT Friday, March 15 at 10 AM Esopus Town Hall.
6. UCRRA recycling meeting - Saturday, March 16 from 9-11 AM at the 999 Flatbush Rd. address. Continental breakfast provided. Need to RSVP.
7. Environmental Board - On Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 PM we will kick off the Stormwater Drainage Taskforce scope of work followed by the Climate Smart Taskforce meeting that same night at 7 PM.
8. Water Storage Tank - Update on legal steps that have been taken towards land acquisition for the D'Anna property presented by the Town Clerk's office.
9. Esopus Residential Assessment Ratio - New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services changed the Town of Esopus' Market Value to 95% for their Residential Assessment Ratio (RAR) and Level of Assessment (LOA). This is also happening with several towns across Ulster County. A reappraisal of assessment is being required of any impacted town in order to retain the 100% level of assessment. JoAnna Mignone, Sole Assessor, mentioned in her letter. It should be noted that this decision was impacted by 2 large commercial properties selling at a rate well beyond their market value and residential properties selling at higher than their assessed value. The State has agreed to delay having the town complete the reassessment until 2021. This will give the office time to prepare the files, documentation and

budget properly for the town wide reassessment. The state has also agreed to come to the office during the slow season and help update the report files in preparation for the non reappraisal assessment. Councilperson Chris Farrell asked if there were any trends we should be looking at.

10. Vacancies - The Town is looking for a new part-time janitor position at Town Hall.

Volunteer Board Vacancies:

- Waterfront Advisory Board exp 12/31/19
- Water Sewer Board exp 12/31/21
- 2 ZBA positions exp 12/31/22 & 12/31/23
- Park and Recreation Commission 12/31/20

11. Klyne Esopus Museum - Melinda McKnight followed up with the Town Board's request with projected allocations for how the Town's money will be spent. They also plan to send their 2018 Year End Financial Statement along with a letter to breakdown the disbursement of 2019 funding provided by the Town.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A FREIGHTLINER TRUCK
FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Be it Resolved, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York the following:

Whereas, our Highway Superintendent, Michael Cafaldo, has submitted a request to purchase the following equipment, which was agreed by the Town Board at the 2019 Budget Meeting.

2020 Freightliner Model 108SD.....	\$189,136.00
Lease payment.....	\$ 41,686.38
 2020 Freightliner Model M2106	 \$160,783.00
Lease payment	\$ 35,437.25

Total Purchase Price: \$349,919.00

PAYMENT TERMS – 60 months or 5 YEAR TERM LEASE\$77,123.63 PER YEAR

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Esopus Town Board authorizes the purchase of the two (2) 2020 Freightliner Trucks: Model 108SD and M2106, requested for the Town of Esopus Highway Department.

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Jared Geuss
Resolution 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.

APPOINTMENT – PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO APPOINT JEN FUENTES TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC