

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING  
May 1, 2018**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 1, 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**

**Post Office Temporary Closure**

Supervisor Harris said she has put an update on facebook regarding the current situation at the Post Office. The Town initiated contact with the landlord of the property leased to the Port Ewen Post Office. The Building Inspector has emailed the landlord and told him a building permit is required. Sal will inspect the property to ensure the premise is safe and up to code. Many elders in the community are finding it difficult to get their mail because the temporary location is not within walking distance. The current owner of the building is Larry Fine, who is currently out of state, however he was soliciting bids for the roof repair. Supervisor Harris has been in touch with Sherry Bertrand, USPS Operations Director, who has agreed to work with the Town to choose an alternative location located within the hamlet of Port Ewen. Congressman Faso's office has also reached out to the Post Office to remediate the situation.

**Building Department Update – Sal Morello, Code Enforcer**

Sal Morello, Building Inspector, gave an update of things going on in the Building Department. Rich Valentine is working on a draft of Fire Safety Management and a Fire Emergency Plan for the Esopus Town Hall. Sal said the building fees have not been changed since 2011. He gave the Board a copy of the old fees as well as his proposed fees. He compared the fees to other towns such as Rosendale, Marbletown and Lloyd. Sal also took into consideration how many trips are made to the site for inspection, gas cost, and personnel wages. Even with the proposed increases, Esopus is very competitive. Sal reviewed the quarterly activity report. The MS4 report was completed and needs to be approved by the Town Board at the next Town Board meeting. The MS4 report will be posted on the website.

Supervisor Shannon Harris and Councilperson Jared Geuss attended a day long land use seminar sponsored by the Wallkill Watershed Alliance. They felt it was an informative training session and were able to give feedback. Once the plan is posted they will coordinate with the watershed alliance to create awareness about the importance of the Alliance.

**Laura Petite, Legislator updates**

Legislator Laura Petite announced grant funding is now open for the consolidation funding for community watershed and park/rec application are due the end of July. Dan Vedder, head of Buildings and Grounds, will be asked to provide a list of improvements needed at the parks. Laura has submitted a grant for the bridge on Floyd Ackert road in the amount of \$693,000.

A grant in the amount of \$4,995 has been received for marketing materials, food and flyers for the Solarize Esopus event. This Solarize Esopus event will be done with NYSERDA putting the residents first and holding a forum for residents wanting to put panels on their homes. NYSERDA will provide preliminary pre approval of the solar companies to ensure the residents know they are dealing with legitimate companies. NYSERDA has offered to do training to educate staff.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR SHANNON TO OVERSEE THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE RFP TO SOLARIZE ESOPUS PENDING THE CHANGE IN DATES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Town Clerk Holly Netter will post the RFP in the Daily Freeman as well as on [www.esopus.com](http://www.esopus.com).

The Repair Café will be at the Esopus Library May 5, 2018 from 11am – 2 pm.

The Legislature approved three additional case workers to help CPS because the opioid epidemic has impacted many families. Approximately 300 children have been removed from homes because of opioid use. Councilperson Chris Farrell had suggested offering a NARCAM training as well as CPR training at the Town Hall.

**GRANT AWARD TO TOWN OF ESOPUS**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Esopus was informed that our Restoration of Watershed Connectivity grant application was awarded \$101,800 by NEIWPC and the Hudson River Estuary. This study will rank and prioritize all of the culverts previously identified in the culvert study completed last year using the following criteria: 1) Aquatic passability 2) Physical condition 3) Ability to pass 100-year flood. By prioritize, we mean rank from most important to fix to least important to fix. We will also prioritize stream-road crossings both under Town and County jurisdiction.

1. Based upon ranking, the grant project will identify three Town crossings and three County crossings for which to develop conceptual level restoration plans/designs.
2. The grant project will also identify one Town and one County crossing to elevate to a 100% shovel ready design.

To complete these three tasks, we have \$101,800. Once complete, we will then apply for construction funding to complete the first crossing replacement. Right now the Town and our consultant, Tighe & Bond, are working on the contract with NEIWPC. Once that is complete, we will hold a kick off meeting with relevant Town departments and the County.

### **Memorial day Parade**

Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> kick off 10 am from Dollar General and will proceed to the Riverview Cemetery and will return.

### **EMS Round Tables - CPC**

EMS, Fire departments, TEVAS and Businesses met on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Port Ewen Fire Department and received good feedback. The outside planner took the lead on gathering the information. The same group will be brought back together again with church groups and youth groups prior to the preview of the master plan to validate what was heard. A tentative date of June 14<sup>th</sup> has been given.

Upcoming public meetings:

- May 5<sup>th</sup> "Your Opinion Counts Open House" 9am -3pm
- May 24<sup>th</sup> 4 pm – 8 pm "Town Wide Design Workshop"
- June 21<sup>st</sup> 5pm – 7 pm "Preview of New Esopus Town Plan"

### **Laberge Contract for Comprehensive Plan**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT WITH LABERGE GROUP FOR THE ESOPUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. THEY WILL BE COMPENSATED BY A FLAT FEE OF \$51,860 INCLUSIVE OF REIMBURSEMENT EXPENSES WITH PAYMENTS MADE PER THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: MAY 15, \$10,000/ JUNE 15 \$15,000/ JULY 15 \$10,000/ AUGUST 15 \$10,000/ SEPTEMBER 15 \$6,860. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **LEASE AGREEMENT MHVFCU TOWN GAZEBO**

**MOTION WAS MADE TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT WITH MHVFCU FOR RENTING THE SPACE FOR THE GAZEBO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1.00**

**STARTING JUNE 1, 2018 AND ENDING ON JUNE 1, 2019 WITH AUTOMATIC RENEWAL FOR 12 MONTHS 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE RENEWAL DATE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PROPOSED EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

Supervisor Shannon Harris shared her ideas of offering specialized training for Town employees. The rate for half day training is \$1,500 per class. Shannon has developed several goals for the staff and community. The topic is Turning Conflict Into Collaboration and Top Performance focusing on customer service. There are four segments of training proposed. Some training will be split between unionized and nonunionized employees. A potential training session for department heads for getting the most out of their employees. Concerns regarding cost, department peak time, and shutting business down for 3 hour increments was brought up. Town Clerk Netter reminded the Board there is also mandatory training that needs to be done for employees which is overdue and is offered by Marshall & Sterling. Town Clerk Netter suggested if training was approved they should consider shared services to alleviate the cost and minimize the closure time. If the class was offered for many towns on different days cost can be shared and it would allow departments to send individuals at different times so Town service are not interrupted. Supervisor Harris will talk to the Association of Supervisors to see if there is any interest in holding joint training. The intent is to give employees the training and the tools they need to move Esopus forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:37 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC**