

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING  
JULY 18, 2017**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

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

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor Diane McCord opened the meeting at 7:33 pm.

**Public Comment – None**

**TRANSFER STATION CARPORT ROLL OFF COVER**

Councilperson Jared Guess, transfer station liaison brought the Board up to date on the status of the roll off cover that was ordered through West Park Service Center for the transfer station. Several times the installers have cancelled. The Town had planned to use the lift from BQ energy however due to the cancellations the lift was no longer available to the Town. The Town then agreed to pay an additional \$200 for the installers to use ladders to set it up. The installation was supposed to be on a Saturday the company never showed up. Lenny contacted the company and made arrangements for Brian to meet them on Sunday and open the gates. The company showed up on Sunday and the cover was not installed properly. We have stopped payment on the checks. Jared contacted the salesman from North Carolina and explained we paid extra to have the installers cut the steel because it was suppose to be on the raised portion. It had been agreed upon and we paid to have half of the steel cut and instead they just put it next to the building. Brian opened the gate and was not in charge of overseeing the job, instructions were given to call Lenny if any change orders needed to be made. They installed and left. Jared gave the company his email address and asked them to show information that would back up the installation being done the way it was and what was done wrong on our part because it does not appear the Town did anything other than what they were suppose to do. Councilperson Guess will keep the Board informed once he hears from them.

Councilperson Wayne Freer said that he was at the transfer station Saturday and it poured. He said the cover did it's job by keeping the contents of the bin dry. However there is a problem caused by the cuts not being made. The beams were suppose to be centered and instead are extremely right and toward the back, which is a contractual issue, plus the anchors were also not done correctly according to our agreement.

## **Supervisor announcements**

Supervisor McCord shared information regarding the oil tank clean up at the transfer station. As discussed previously the transfer station will no longer be storing bulk waste oil. There had been a roof over the tank. The company offered to decrease the bill by \$150 if we let him have the roof. The roof was not needed so it made sense to give it to them and save money. The job has been completed and certificate of insurance was received.

Ulster County Sales tax check was received in the amount of \$71,455.90 which is a few thousand more than what was expected.

The Board was asked to review Peter Graham's letter regarding alternates to the Boards. The resolution will be voted on at the next Town Board meeting.

## **WEST POINT MEETING – JUNE 23, 2017**

On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> Superintendent Don Kiernan and Supervisor McCord attended a seminar on Water Contamination at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, N. Y. Those in attendance all drew drinking water from the Hudson. The meeting was put on by the Hudson Valley Regional Council and the Riverkeeper.

Eight million people use Hudson River water for drinking. In the past year we have seen the following:

1. Severe drought
2. Major contamination of drinking water in one of our Cities
3. A billion dollar construction project to repair a leak under the Hudson
4. Smaller but substantial leaks in other communities
5. Issues with lead in the drinking water at schools and other facilities due to aging infrastructure.
6. Issues with demand for water to accommodate growth in commerce.
7. Issues with potential contamination from trains carrying hazardous waste materials.
8. Issues with storm water.
9. New MS4 regulations

The goal of this meeting was to learn from each other and to help each other. We may need to set new standards and regulate new chemicals. We may need to find more funding for protecting our water sources. The State will be requiring all water systems to do further testing. New York State has a new drinking water council underway. Local municipalities may need laws initiated to be protective and we may need industrial discharges to be regulated. Questions we should ask ourselves are how can we as a municipality be prepared for the unexpected and where do we go for help?

Esopus is unique being surrounded on three sides by the Hudson River, the Rondout Creek and the Wallkill River. The Wallkill River is highly contaminated and the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance is requesting our help in applying for two grants. One grant is for Land Use Leadership Alliance training for municipal leaders focusing on the Wallkill watershed and a second grant to develop a 9-Element Watershed Management Plan for the entire Wallkill River. This grant will be used to develop a roadmap to a cleaner river, based on data currently being collected by DEC. Together, these projects will provide powerful tools as we continue to restore the Wallkill River and the communities surrounding it. In this vain, I am asking the Town Board to send a letter in support of the efforts to clean the Wallkill River.

Another interesting tidbit learned was that 56 percent of the workforce involved in water treatment will retire within the next five year period. This would be an opportunity for people looking for employment to go to school to major in environmental science. There are two year programs available at Ulster County Community College and at Delhi. Instrumentation Specialists are also needed to test the water. This would be good for people interested in a career where they can stay close to home

### **Hudson Watershed**

Don Kiernan and I met with Dan Shapely from the Riverkeeper and other Town Supervisors, Mayors and Water Superintendents from:

Poughkeepsie – City and Town  
Fishkill – supplied through Poughkeepsie  
Wappingers Falls – supplied through Poughkeepsie  
Rhinebeck – City and Town  
Lloyd  
Hyde Park  
Esopus

This was an informal meeting to determine how many people draw their water from the Hudson. We have 150,000 water users between all our cities and towns. This is an enormous number of users and it was determined we would have more power concerning the Hudson River if we united to make certain our water is as clean as it can be and as protected as possible.

This would also concern the anchoring in the Hudson where the U.S. Coastguard has asked for input. They are on hold at this point but the anchoring issue has not gone away. Will they seriously look at the issue? We do not know where we go from here. They may want to quiet us down and just go ahead and approve the anchoring. This is not a time to remain quiet. The river could become a parking garage while Albany waits for prices on crude to increase.

Should our towns join in a coalition to work together for Hudson River Water Protection? Can we collaborate with the Center for Watershed Protection? This is a question for our Town Board. The Riverkeeper will come to our Town Board on July 26 to give a brief presentation to create a new Source Water Assessment for our water supply. Riverkeeper and the Center for Watershed Protection are ready to assist us in a project that should position our municipalities well to take advantage of significant new state funding that will be available for assessing and protecting drinking water supplies.

There is nothing more important to our communities than clean, safe drinking water. We can and should take positive steps now to protect and restore our water quality.

Riverkeeper will give a presentation for July 26, 2017.

### **Don Kiernans - Anchorage**

Water Superintendent Don Kiernan said for the first time in 20 years he is seeing the Towns form an alliance regarding water. Councilperson Freer asked who would be driving the alliance; the Water Departments, Town and city Governments or Riverkeeper. He thinks the towns will have the last word. The Coastguard is forming a committee which will include 6 people from the boating industry and 4 from the water industry. One of the water representatives is the head operator of the Poughkeepsie water treatment plant. Hudson River water conservatory has been formed to deal with the concerns of the lower Hudson Valley water districts.

### **SHARED SERVICE MEETING JULY 12-2017**

Chris Kelley from Ulster County met with several Town Supervisors in Esopus Town Hall on July 12, 2017.

The Shared Services Grant will be submitted August 23, 24, or 25<sup>th</sup> requesting 20 million dollars. Ulster County is one of six counties requesting this grant. If we are successful it will not commit the towns to participate. The vote on this grant doesn't commit us to the plan.

The Supervisors and Highway Superintendents commented that the County does not always get the best prices. If the County shared information with the Towns and the Towns with the County we could achieve the best prices. Sharing the information is important for everyone concerned. We should all talk with our Highway Superintendents to share information.

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said she would have liked to know about the meeting and why wasn't the Board notified since there were people sitting in the audience. Supervisor McCord

said this was the forth meeting that has been held by the town, this one just happened to be at our location.

### **Culvert Grants**

Sal Morello, Mark Ellison, Marion Zimmer and I met with Erin Moore from Tighe & Bond Engineers and Environmental Specialists and Megan Lung an Environmental Analyst from DEC concerning the grant we received to do Culvert Assessments in Esopus. This is a grant that has no financial contribution from the town.

This firm will inventory our culverts with regard to critical habitat concerns, flooding hazards, scouring, erosion and development of a central database. The objective of this plan is to inventory and assess road-stream crossings within the town for condition and aquatic pass ability. It will also prioritize watershed improvements to benefit both wildlife and the town. The project will happen through July and August and they will report their findings to the Town Board in September.

Councilperson Freer asked once the inventory is complete and if we find out we have a problem, are we responsible to pay? Supervisor McCord said she believed they would go for another grant.

### **Meeting with Central Hudson and BQ July 14, 2017 at 1 PM**

A meeting was held with Central Hudson, BQ representatives Paul Curran and Michael Rauch along with Supervisor McCord and Dan Vedder on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm to discuss what was happening at the Transfer Station. A review of the accounts that would be credited once the Central Hudson lines were attached to our solar panels was also discussed.

BQ is ready to go once the lines are brought over the CSX tracks. They have a representative sitting on CSX to make this happen. The Central Hudson accounts have been verified as to where the credits will be given. There will be a few months conversion time getting the credits to go where they are supposed to go.

Joe Hetsler will be retiring from Central Hudson and the new man in charge will be Jason Malizia. He is the District Director and New Business person in the Upper Hudson Division. Any time there was a problem with Central Hudson Joe helped the Supervisor. Supervisor McCord said she will miss him dearly.

Town Clerk Holly Netter asked if there was any update on whether BQ would be needing internet service to monitor the solar field. Councilperson Freer said in the contract BQ said they

would monitor the production but it did not say how. He did not think there would be someone physically going to the site. This matter needs to be clarified with BQ.

BQ will also add a meter to the Town hall at no cost to monitor how much energy is being made at the Town Hall location.

### **Water/Sewer Superintendent Contract**

Supervisor McCord said the contract for Don has not changed. Councilperson Wayne Freer said during last year's budget process the Board talked about making the half time positions of Building Inspector, Highway Superintendent and Water/Sewer Superintendent back online to full time. Councilperson Wayne Freer asked if they are going to do that with the Water/Sewer Superintendent this year. Supervisor McCord said there are so many other things that are coming up this year she does not want to try to tackle this one in the 2018 budget. Councilperson Freer said it is one that he wants to look at. Wayne said in his opinion since there is need for a new tank it may be a transitional time where we have to go back to full time. Supervisor McCord said she did not feel that it was necessary at this time. Councilperson Jared guess said with the watershed project and tank project we need a liaison who knows what is going on to oversee the projects. The situation can be assessed by all parties and perhaps offer a 1 year contract if not two. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said it would be a lot to tackle and achieve before January; one year may be an option. Although there was not an active contract for the prior Building inspector who was part time, the town still ended up having to pay him unemployment when they hired a Full Time Inspector. The Board does not want a repeat situation.

### **D'Anna Property - New Water Tank**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER AT 8:00 PM TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE POSSIBLE OFFER WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY GOING ON TO OBTAIN THE PROPERTY FOR THE NEW WATER TANK FOR THE WATER DISTRICT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD. WATER SUPERINTENDENT DON KIERNAN WAS INVITED INTO THE SESSION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARREID.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15 PM BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARREID.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD TO CONTACT THE WATER ATTORNEY TO SEND A LETTER MAKING AN OFFER FOR THE PROPERTY AND EXTEND THE WATER DISTRICT TO INCLUDE THE PROPERTY IN THE WATER DISTRICT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY**

**COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARREID.**

**GIRL SCOUT TROOP 60162 – ST REMY FREE BOOK LIBRARY CAS LANDI PARK**

The girl scout of Troop 60162 has asked permission to erect a free Book library at Cas Landi Mini Park. Information was shared and discussed by the Board. Everyone on the Board was in favor of allowing the project to proceed.

**T- MOBILE CELL TOWER REQUEST**

Chris Bevans from T- Mobile explained Historic Hudson Valley Radio, T-Mobile’s Landlord, has decided to terminate their lease as of August 6, 2017. T- Mobile is requesting the Town to allow them to use Town Property as a temporary solution until a permanent location can be acquired. Chris presented a proposal to temporarily place a cell tower on town property. He was looking for a 6- 12 month temporary solution with a possibility of a permanent contract. Councilperson Freer asked many good questions which Chris was unable to answer at the time and will return to further discuss the matter at the Town Board Meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilperson Van Vliet said she needs a lot more information and feels it should be placed in a less populated area. Councilperson Guess is not against a temporary solution. Councilperson Freer said it would have to be a minimum of \$1,000 per month and would have to be on a month to month basis. Councilperson Quick asked if it will benefit the town residents with better reception. Chris said the temporary tower would only be for T- Mobile customers a permanent tower would be able to benefit whatever other carriers would have to make arrangements to rent from the town.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING NYS DOT  
TO INSTALL TWO “RECYCLING COLLECTION CENTER” SIGNS**

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

WHEREAS, the New York Department of Transportation has available signs titled Recycling Collection Center and

WHEREAS, these signs would be available to direct residents to our Recycling Collection Center and

WHEREAS, the present signs we now have available do not comply with the New York State Department of Transportation regulations,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus requests NYS Dept. of Transportation make available and post two Recycling Collection Center signs in order to let us be compliant with the NYS DOT rules and regulations.

**RESOLUTION OFFERED BY Supervisor Diane McCord**  
**RESOLUTION SECONDED BY Councilperson Jared Guess**

<b>COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED.**

#### **ESOPUS BUSINESS ALLIANCE – FEE WAIVER REQUEST**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DIANE MCCORD TO WAIVE THE FEE FOR THE USE OF FREER PARK AND ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR THE ESOPUS BUSINESS ALLIANCE EVENT BEING HELD ON AUGUST 22, 2017, PROVIDING THEY FILL OUT ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK AND PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR THE ALCOHOL LISTING THE TOWN AS AN ADDITIONAL INSURED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **TBS REFUND**

Technical Building Services, Inc (TBS) overcharged the town \$319.00 for their annual maintenance contract; a refund is in process.

#### **Highway Department Boiler Insurance policy**

There was an oversight when Marshall and Sterling took over the insurance and the boiler at the Highway garage was not covered. Paul Kesick had thought the insurance was held by NYMIR but it was not. We have now been sighted by the state for not having the insurance. The policy is \$1,105.00 year; \$547.80 to cover the remainder of the year.

The Board will take care of the payment for the remainder of the year and have Mike look into a new heating system which can be included in his budget for 2018.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RSS LITIGATION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE AT 8:45 PM BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION REGARDING RSS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:00 PM BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**NO DECISION WAS MADE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:05 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC