

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP
July 1, 2021 – Starting at 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on July 1, 2021 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park immediately following public hearings on Revised Local Laws 8 & 12. Meeting was also available on TV 23, available via zoom and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus” Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Jared Geuss
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Chris Farrell
Councilman Evelyn Clarke – Participated via zoom unable to vote
Councilman Laura Robinson**

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

SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP AT 8:06 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED

Public Comment: NONE

Highway Department – Mike Cafaldo

Mike Cafaldo was looking to make a purchase of a sweeper truck and 2 new trucks. This year he is paying off a couple of trucks and had 2 to get rid of worth between \$60,000 and \$80,000

Stormwater update:

Highway Department has spent 4 days working on Horton Lane and installed 5 catch basins, replacing pipe. They will be moving to St. Remy for the next segment of work followed by Lindorf St. & Mountainview Ave, Eugene St. & Doris St. These projects are included in the budget for this year. Mike said they found pipes they didn’t even know were there. The GPS system will be updated to show the upgrades. The pipes used to be 10 inches; they were replaced with 15 inch pipes to help alleviate the flooding issues.

1. Highway has been asked for shared service of sweeping the 9 W bridge for NYSDOT. Since the Wurtz St. Bridge has been closed until repairs are made, there has been an increase of people walking, running and cycling over the 9 W bridge. The Town of Esopus is requesting that NYSDOT analyze the Bridge and adjacent sections of Route

9W for the purposes of expanding and protecting pedestrian and bicycle traffic across its length. The road narrows significantly as you enter into town.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS IN ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK
ESTABLISHING SWEEPING ROUTINES FOR THE LOUGHRAN AKA ROUTE 9W BRIDGE AND
REQUESTING AN ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC AND ROADWAY MARKINGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

WHEREAS, the Kingston-Port Ewen Suspension Bridge, AKA Wurts Street Bridge, has been closed indefinitely for construction and repairs; and

WHEREAS, following this closure, pedestrian traffic has been unintentionally rerouted to the Loughran, AKA Route 9W Bridge; and

WHEREAS, as part of its ongoing Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) update, the Town has identified the Loughran Bridge as a potential site for improvements to pedestrian and bicyclist transit and safety; and

WHEREAS, following said identification, the Loughran Bridge was determined to be in need of a routine sweeping schedule were future improvements to be made; and

WHEREAS, following a cursory inspection of the Loughran Bridge and discussion with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), it has been noted that a thorough analysis of the bridge conditions must be made before any changes can be proposed;

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that,

2. The Town of Esopus will accept responsibility for routinely sweeping the Loughran Bridge, accompanied by NYSDOT escorts whenever possible;
3. The Town of Esopus requests that NYSDOT analyze the Loughran Bridge and adjacent sections of Route 9W for the purposes of expanding and protecting pedestrian and bicycle traffic across its length.

Resolution offered by: Supervisor Jared Geuss

Seconded by: Councilman Chris Farrell

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmen voting as follows:

Councilman Laura Robinson	AYE
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	Participated via zoom unable to vote
Councilman Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilman Chris Farrell	AYE
Supervisor Jared Geuss	AYE

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

DATED: Ulster Park, New York
July 1, 2021
HOLLY A. NETTER, TOWN CLERK

Riverview Cemetery

Robert Pereira, Black Bear’s Son and Town resident reviewed details relating to the cemetery conditions and voiced his opinion that the cemetery is not being properly maintained to the standards that he has been accustomed to. He said “this historical cemetery has gone to hell”. He has reached out to Senator Hinchy’s office looking for support. The State mandates that Towns take over abandoned cemeteries yet there is little financial support to help the towns maintain the property. Robert said we can give out money to every just cause, so they should help the town take care of our history.

Supervisor Geuss said there is money budgeted for 12 grass cuttings for the Cemetery. Cemetery abandonment is a statewide crisis and requires larger state funding money to help.

A meeting will be set up to put together a list of things that need to be done. Senator Hinchy is on board to work with us. Councilman Chris Farrell said this is yet another unfunded mandate passed onto Towns and agrees on being proactive to put pressure on the state to get the necessary funding to help. Town Clerk, Holly Netter and Councilman Laura Robinson said they would like to be a part of the meeting.

Rifton Fire Department letter of Support

Rifton Fire Department is currently seeking to renew their EMS agency number with the region. They have been responding to EMS calls as a BLS first response (BLSFR) agency to assist the Town of Esopus Ambulance Squad in the Rifton Fire District. We have had an EMS agency number in the past and are looking to renew it. To do so, the application requires a letter from the Town Supervisor stating that our agency (Rifton FD) has authority to provide EMS as defined in Article 30 of Public Health Law.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO SEND THE LETTER OF SUPPORT AUTHORIZING RIFTON FD TO PROVIDE EMS SERVICES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Patriot Burial Sign

Back in 2014, the Columbia-Mid Hudson Valley Chapter SAR, (Sons of the American Revolution) did a grave marking ceremony at Terpenning Family Cemetery on River Rd. for the 18 Revolutionary War patriots buried there.

They have been approved for a Patriot Burial Sign by the Pomeroy Foundation. This special historic marker series commemorates patriot burials in New York State. It is an opportunity to recognize those who fought in or were involved with the struggle for American independence.

The purpose of the Patriot Burials Marker Program is to provide Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (ESSAR) chapters the opportunity to apply for historic markers for cemeteries where Revolutionary War patriots are buried. The signs are fully paid for by Pomeroy and come with the sign and pole.

They are looking for a letter of approval to place the sign on the side of the roadway by the edge of the property where the gate is so it is visible.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS TO APPROVE WAY FINDING SIGNAGE SUBJECT TO HIGHWAY, DOT AND/OR COUNTY APPROVAL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

ARPR RESCUE MONEY

Supervisor Geuss said the Town will be receiving \$889,800 from the federal government as part of the American Rescue Plan. Supervisor Geuss compliments bookkeeper Debbie Kain and Confidential Assistant Alex Dean for pulling necessary data together and expeditiously submitting the filing. He explained there are a lot of stipulations on what the money can be used for. The treasury is regulating how the money is being spent. Water infrastructure, Broadband infrastructure and Tourism are 3 of the known uses for the funds. Two payments are expected to be received: half at the end of July and the other half next spring.

Councilman Chris Farrell asked if any of the County rescue will come to the town. Legislator Laura Petite said the County is going to receive 24 million and they are waiting on approval for an additional 10. The first round will not go to towns.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:35 PM TO DISCUSS A MATTER OF SECURITY PERTAINING TO THE TOWN WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK AT 8:55PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:55 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively submitted,

*Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC*