

## **SPECIAL TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING**

**October 24, 2014**

A Special Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Friday, October 24, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 9:00 AM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant**  
**Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet**  
**Councilperson Wayne Freer**  
**Councilperson Diane L. McCord**  
**Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk**  
**Debbie Kain, Bookkeeper**  
**Brian Pickard, CPA**  
**Jill Shufeldt , Dog Control Officer**  
**Mike Cafaldo, Highway Superintendent**

**Deputy Supervisor Kyle Barnett called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE**

#### **Budget**

The Town Board continued to discuss the budget. Although the Board has diligently made cuts to the expenses, the revenues are down. The Town continues to look for ways to save money and cut expenses. The decision has been made to close our Dog Kennel. The kennel is in dire need of repair and we do not have the funds to build a new kennel. A contract with the SPCA will be made to board the Town of Esopus Dogs until their owners come to redeem them or homes can be found for them. Supervisor Coutant will meet with the SPCA to address the agreement that will be made between the Town and SPCA. Councilperson Diane McCord will draft a letter to the Supervisors of the current towns that are in contract with Esopus to board their dogs. Dog Control Officer Jill Shufeldt was present at the meeting and shared her concerns about the closing of the kennel. There is a lack of kennel space in the area and some municipalities have already closed their shelters. That is why they bring their dogs to Esopus. The majority of the dogs that have been boarded at the Esopus kennel over the past year do not belong to Esopus residents. It is not fair to our Esopus residents to be paying for a building that is mainly occupied by dogs belonging to other municipalities. An alternative offer was made to host a new dog kennel. The offer would be an Inter-Municipal Agreement sharing the cost of the construction which is estimated to be \$60,000.00. This is the only way the kennel would be able to continue. The dog control officer will still remain on the Town payroll to comply with State law.

Bookkeeper Debbie Kain reported the retiree's health care will be switched to CDPHP. It is comparable coverage and is more cost effective saving approximately \$4,000 in the upcoming year. Debbie will arrange an open enrollment meeting for the employees. A letter will be sent to the seniors who will have to submit paperwork for the new company.

The Transfer Station has been operating at a loss for many years. In 2015 the Transfer Station will operate 3 days a week. Changes need to be made in order for the Town to continue to offer this service. Many municipalities are facing the same problem and are contemplating closing their facilities. The Town will have 2 part time employees operate the facility. CPA Brian Pickard said Marbletown brings in \$12,000 in revenue from the sale of their metal. Currently the recycling coordinator gets to keep those funds. Many new changes will need to be implemented in the future in order for this to be cost effective. The particular changes will be discussed at a future workshop meeting.

We are out of contract with Curt Dankelman, recycling coordinator and his contract will not be renewed.

The Budget will fall under the tax cap. A 1% raise will be given to everyone, which is approximately \$18,000.00. The Board wanted the employees to know they are appreciated and although it is not much, at least it is something.

A Public Hearing for the 2015 Town Budget will be held at the next workshop meeting November 3, 2014 at 7:30 pm here at the Esopus Town Hall.

### **Solar Energy Contract**

Randolph Horner, Solar Project Manager, and Supervisor Coutant met with Town Attorney Paul Keller to discuss the Sun Edison Contract last week. The issues the Town had with the contract were sent back to Sun Edison who revised the contract. A side by side comparison of the contract was given by Sun Edison for review. The Town Board needs to have time to review the changes to the contract and a special meeting will be scheduled prior to November 1, 2014.

### **Executive Session**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:55 AM TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE REGARDING A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT.**

**A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE AT 11:05 AM BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER.**

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

**Church Property**

It has been decided the town will need to Bond for the church Property in the amount of \$40,000.

**Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn at 11:10 am was made by Councilperson Diane McCord and seconded by Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk**