

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

November 19, 2014

A Public Hearing was scheduled prior to the Town Board Workshop Meeting on Wednesday November 19, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM 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
Michael Cafaldo
Don Kiernan
Fred Zimmer
Kathy Robinson
Mike Cafaldo
Toni Remson**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – TO POTENTIALLY AMEND THE 2015 BUDGET

A public hearing was held to potentially amend the 2015 Budget which was passed on November 3, 2014. Members of the audience were asked if there was any public comment. Fred Zimmer, resident of Port Ewen, pointed out current retirees get full health care for Life. Fred suggested employees that are hired in the future should be capped either by a dollar amount or percentage which they would pay toward their benefits. Currently if the employees have 20 years of service the benefits are free.

A motion was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett to discuss the union negotiation at 7:40pm the motion was seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord. All members were in Favor.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet to come out of executive session at 8:10 pm; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All members were in Favor.

Councilperson Barnett explained the Budget does not change in terms of Expenditures and Revenues. We are reallocating expenditure in the salary line to the social security line, and this will be an even transfer.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord. All members were in Favor.

A motion was made to approve the 2015 Budget as amended by Councilperson Wayne Freer and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All members were in Favor.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett said we needed a written agreement under Town Law section 268, regarding the highway expenditures that are made. Councilperson Barnett said he will sit down with Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo and review a form which will need to be completed listing each of the town roads that are expected to be repaired and their estimated cost. Councilperson Kyle Barnett will also draft a resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Remson resident of 123 East Main Street Port Ewen is requesting the fee for a lot line adjustment on her property. The Remson's are combining three parcels because an addition was built on their home. Dan Terpening combined the properties at the local level but at the County they were still recognized as individual parcels, which raised an issue with her acquiring her Certificate of Occupancy. The building permit was issued and the addition was built. When the structure was complete, Tim Keefe, Building Inspector for the Town, told her he was unable to issue the Certificate of Occupancy because the parcels were not properly combined at the County level. Conversation went back and forth and the Board had questions that needed to be addressed to the Building Inspector. Councilperson Kyle Barnett will follow up with Tim Keefe to get those questions answered. Councilperson Barnett said if because of this situation, Tim Keefe needed a survey which otherwise would not have been required. He was ok with waiving the fee of one lot line adjustment. Mrs. Remson added it was an unforeseen expense that they did not expect to have since the addition was done already and now they were told they needed a survey. Councilperson Freer thought it was fair if the Town waived the fee for the lot - line adjustment for the parcels that were combined on the tax roll and Mrs. Remson would be responsible for the other. All members were in agreement. Town Clerk Holly Netter will give a copy of these minutes to the Planning Board Secretary, April Oneto, for the Remson File.

The second issue Mrs. Remson had was the building of a retaining wall which will be on the Remson property and adjacent to a paper road belonging to the Town. It was determined that Mrs. Remson needed to contact Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo to obtain a work

permit. The Remsons will provide a waiver of liability should the contractor need to cross onto the Town property to perform their work.

Willy Freer and members from the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad (T.E.V.A.S.) attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of getting some assistance snow plowing. Several years ago the amount of funds budgeted for TEVAS was decreased from \$40,000 to \$20,000. Willy explained one of the major expenses is keeping the area plowed during a snow storm so the ambulances are able to respond to emergencies. They are not looking to put any hardship on the Town but he hoped to agree to share services. The Town Trucks opened up the entrances which were blocked from the State plows. In lieu of asking the town for money to help defray the cost of plowing, TEVAS was asking for assistance with the plowing of their parking lot. If the Town is to share any services it needs to be added to the annual contract. John Coutant asked for last year's financials, Bill Liese, will drop them off to the Town Clerks office. Bill Liese said they had their budget meeting last week and they are scraping to get by. Mr. Liese explained it may look good on paper but that is not the case. This year TEVAS spent \$10,000 to repair an ambulance and are a year behind on replacing the vehicle. TEVAS has made almost 800 calls so far this year. The Board will talk to Mike Cafaldo and if plausible the contract will need to be amended. As long as the service is written in the contract there is not an issue with performing the duties in exchange for TEVAS assistance in all of the Town events such as the Memorial Day Parade, Fall Festival and Tug Boat Festival.

Willy Freer also represents the Esopus Fire Department and gave Supervisor Coutant a letter addressing a concern with the discrepancy of 911 addresses within the Esopus Fire District. Many times the house numbers do not go in order or multiple buildings are located on one parcel. When there is a call the responders have no way of knowing which building the emergency is in. An example was given of Cabrini, Marist Brothers, Christian Brothers & Holy Cross. It was determined these issues may not be unique to Esopus. Discrepancies can also be found in Port Ewen, St. Remy, Connelly and Rifton districts. Further investigation is needed to determine how we can get the problem rectified.

KATHY ROBINSON – WINTER WONDERLAND PARADE

Kathy Robinson updated the Town Board with the marketing efforts and status of the Winter Wonderland Parade. There will be a run at 2:30 that afternoon organized by Austin Benjamin of Essential Fitness to benefit families in need, which is new this year. Kathy explained how the hot chocolate poses a problem whether Quick Chek or the Town provides Hot Chocolate. This Parade is run by only 7 people from the Recreation Committee, they do not have the man power to get this all done. The committee starts at 7am in the morning and work throughout the day decorating and cleaning up. Kathy gave an example of what was needed to provide the Hot Chocolate. She said in order to have Hot Chocolate you need: the hot chocolate machine, Binnewater needs to come with the water, 3 generators, 6 tables which she gets donated, the tent and lights then need to be set up. This is why there is a change this year and it will be just Cookies given out by Mrs. Clause. The parade is December 13, 2014 with a snow date of

December 14, 2014 at 5:30 starting at Medrex. The committee is doing a hat, gloves and mitten drive throughout local businesses in town. Kathy was also able to get donations from the following businesses: Mario's - Five \$20 Gift certificates, Essential Fitness five \$100 Gift Certificates, Harry VanVliet giftcards for Target and Betty Shanley - Manicone will give five \$25 gift certificates. April & Co will donate five Salon Certificates for a family of four. Donations are still coming. These certificates will be distributed to deserving families from Robert Graves School. Dr. Anderson donated \$100 for coats, hats and mittens to families from Robert Graves School. Hats, mitten and gloves will be distributed to George Washington Elementary School, John F Kennedy Elementary School and the Shelter for Battered Women and Children.

There will be music by Greg Gatine and the tree will be lit. At the conclusion of her update, Kathy Robinson submitted her resignation to the Board as Organizer of the Winter Wonderland Parade. Kathy had this vision 9 years ago and the parade has gotten better each year. The Board was saddened by her resignation.

Water/Sewer Department - Resolution

Don Kiernan provided the Town Board with a copy of the Resolution for the increase in sewer rates. He would like to have the resolution presented at the November Town Board meeting.

Tucker Pond

Fred Zimmer, Planning Board Member had a conversation with Town of Esopus Building Inspector, Tim Keefe, regarding Tucker Pond. It appears six units are rented instead of the four units that have Certificates of Occupancies. Fred said Tim Keefe called his contact from Tucker Pond and issued an Order to Remedy. The units were supposed to be town homes and not rental apartments. Tucker Pond has filed paperwork to create a home owners association. Fred said as they get their C.O.'s their assessments will increase.

UCSPCA CONTRACT

The Dog Contract was drafted by Town Clerk Holly Netter and a copy was provided to the Board for review. All Board Members will review and share any comments or concerns prior to the contract being sent to the UCSPCA.

TRANSFER STATION

Councilpersons Diane McCord and Wayne Freer met with Town of Lloyd Supervisor, Paul Hansen to discuss the possibility of shared services of our transfer station. Councilperson McCord said she had hoped if Lloyd wanted to come to Esopus we could share equipment and split all of the cost evenly. This was not what Supervisor Hansen had in mind. Councilperson Freer said he felt between the time the meeting was set up and when they actually met, Lloyd had a change in heart of what they were going to do. Originally Lloyd had planned to close their transfer station, hence what Esopus thought was going to be offered was not offered at all.

The offer Lloyd had provided was to be open 3 days and have Esopus open 3 days. The two towns could utilize either station for a fee. This offer did not have substantial benefit to the Town of Esopus. Lloyd shared how they currently operate their station and some suggestions were made. Lloyd does not accept cash payments, customers purchase cards at the Town Clerks office and cards are punched at the transfer station to pay for their transaction. Lloyd has cameras set up in the dumping area. Esopus will also need to increase fees charged. Councilperson Wayne Freer said he liked Lloyd's concept of charging for brush. Lloyd offered to have their residents pay \$5 to use our station on the days we operated. The Board agreed they do not have to be open 5 days a week.

Employment Agreement – Questions – Timothy Keefe

Supervisor Coutant asked if the Board Members had any questions or comments regarding the contract for Tim Keefe, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer. Councilperson Freer said he had the same concerns as in the past with regard to paying extra money for driving to work. Councilperson Freer also stated Debbie Pugliese is the only one he every sees on nights and weekends responding to the calls. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet felt Tim should attend the ZBA meetings. If Tim is asked to attend additional meetings he would flex his schedule or earn comp time.

APPLICATION – ROSELINA WILLIAMSON – ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Roselina Williamson is a resident of Esopus attending Dutchess Community College who would like to join the Environmental Board. An interview will be set up at a future workshop meeting.

RESIGNATION – MICHAEL MANICONE – PLANNING BOARD

Michael Manicone has resigned from our Planning Board. Advertising will need to be done to fill the positions available on the various boards. It was determined since the Planning board meeting for December was cancelled, they would postpone the advertisement in the paper until a later date.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION AGENCY – SWITCH-ON-ELECTRIC

Switch-On-Electric is requesting to be included on the Town's list of approved electrical inspection agencies. The Town Board will make a decision at the November Town Board Meeting.

SUPERIOR PHONE COMPANY – CALLER ID

When the Town Hall was built there was a Board which was never installed to provide the caller ID to display on the individual phones. The cost of the board is \$488.00 plus one to two hours of installation cost. This is a capital improvement to the building and will be charged as such. This

is a onetime fee; Cornerstone already provides caller ID service as part of our monthly package. All members agreed to have the Town Clerk place the work order.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Diane McCord, President of the Esopus Seniors reported she already had 76 signed up for the Senior Christmas party. Diane would like to utilize the balance left in the senior's budget to put toward the Christmas Party. They are having the Party December 15th here at the Community Center. All Board members were in agreement to utilize the remaining balance for the party.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:15 PM was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**