

## **TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

A Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor Diane L. McCord**  
**Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet**  
**Councilperson Wayne Freer**  
**Councilperson Les Kalmus - Absent**  
**Councilperson Kyle Barnett – Absent**

**Recording Administrator Erin McNierney – Deputy Clerk**

**Supervisor McCord called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE**

### **LENNY LIBERTA – TRANSFER STATION ISSUES**

Lenny presented a six month profit and loss statement. Lenny mentioned that in the past, the Town has lost 60,000 yearly. This year, with the Boards help, the Town has broke even in six months. We made 30,000 in six months. Lenny would like to see the yearly permit sales climb a little higher for the Town. The Town Board is very happy with the job Lenny is doing.

Lenny said the Transfer Station is basically in compliance with laws/regulations. The Town still needs to maintain a roof over the containers to keep off the snow and rain which would add too much weight, resulting in the Town paying extremely high prices when pulling the containers.

Lenny obtained two quotes from contractors. Fall fittings, Inc. had a quote of \$20,624.00 to build the roof structure using their own cement. Councilperson Wayne Freer suggested to Lenny that he go to Rosendale's Transfer Station to take a look at their containers and possibly use the same contractor. The second quote was obtained from Eagle Carports. This is the contractor who built the same structure at the Rosendale Transfer Station. Although Lenny feels that this is not exactly what he would like to see at the Transfer Station, the price quote at \$1,595.00 falls in line with what the Town Board would like to see. Lenny felt the contractor from Rosendale was a good place to start at a reasonable price. Lenny also mentioned that an overhang from the car to the container to cover the patrons from the rain is needed on each container. Council person Wayne Freer did not think that the over hangs were necessary since not many people come to the Transfer Station in the rain. Councilperson Wayne Freer also

mentioned a cover over every other container would be fine, not every container. We don't need the extras.

The Board was in agreement that this project will have to wait till January to begin with the new budget. Lenny feels the money the Town makes on recyclables will pay for the project.

Lenny discussed offering the Veterans in Town a discount at the Transfer Station. Veterans of this Town have done their share. The Town owes them a little touch of gratitude. We need to give them a discount. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet asked, how will we know if they are a veteran? Lenny explained that all veterans have id and must show proof at time of discount; allowing only one discount per veteran.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO OFFER ALL TOWN VETERANS A SENIOR DISCOUNT AT THE TOWN OF ESOPUS TRANSFER STATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017 AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VANVLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:45 PM TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT. THE BOARD MEMBERS INVITED THE BUILDING INSPECTOR, SAL MORELLO, INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VANVLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:20 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. NO DECISIONS WERE MADE.**

#### **SMARTWATT ENERGY – LED STREET LIGHTING PRESENTATION**

Chance Parker and Scott Clark from SMARTWATT ENERGY gave an introduction of their company, a quick overview of the need for LED street lighting, a preliminary feasibility assessment and recommendations and financials. This is an energy proponent contract project looking at energy savings and maintenance savings specifically.

Councilperson Wayne Freer raised the issue surrounding the savings associated with the solar project at the Transfer Station. Were these numbers incorporated into the financials provided by SMARTWATT ENERGY that were just presented to the Board? Were they aware of the Net metering contract associated with the solar project? Are there any other government agencies or municipalities in this area using SMARTWATT ENERGY to switch over to LED Lights? Scott

Clark said there were a few municipalities in the area that they were dealing with and would be happy to provide references to the Board. The Board thanked SMARTWATT ENERGY for the presentation.

Wayne feels that there are other Lighting companies out there that are as lucrative if not better, since they are all working under the same guidelines. One thing we need to look at is seven years to break even. What the Town is doing with the Solar is not built in or reflected in the numbers presented by this company. There is more involved in this process. Les and Kyle will need to review the presentation materials.

### **JOHN BURROUGHS BLACK CREEK TRAIL – SCENIC HUDSON – PETER BARNARD PRESENTATION**

Joan Burroughs spoke about the National Geographic map that everyone is talking about. This map will be circulated to 6.2 million people globally and 6 million in the US spotlighting this region as being green which will attract more green minded people and businesses.

John Burroughs and DEC have been working together along with Peter Barnard, Urban Designer from Scenic Hudson. The first project they are talking about is the John Burroughs Black Creek Corridor. Thanks to Scenic Hudson assembling various parcels, they now have a continuous corridor along Black Creek which is perfect for building a Tourism Infrastructure.

Now that Scenic Hudson has an almost continuous piece along the Black Creek Corridor, they want to make sure it is working for the economy of the Town of Esopus and Lloyd and really turn this area into something that becomes a regional destination as well as a tourist destination for residents and tourists.

Peter gave a presentation on the Black Creek Preserve Continuous Corridor Project and shared the main idea of the project, which is How do we build a trail without any additional property acquisition. How do we link the corridor up to other areas of the region that people are already coming to for outdoor recreation. The goal is to build a multi model trail one part biking, one part hiking and one part paddling, that will bring people thru the entire corridor.

The three phases of the project are:

Ecological preservation, how are we managing the increased foot traffic and making sure that we are keeping it a natural area that people want to keep coming back too.

Land Conservation – there is one small piece of the corridor that will need a public access easement by the stone barns, between the Gordan property and the Black Creek Preserve.

There is no linking property right now. Scenic Hudson said it is not looking for an acquisition but a public access easement. They definitely want to see those barns used by the community.

Economic Development – revitalize the historic properties in Town. Many properties are coming up for sale lately and Scenic Hudson views this as a key opportunity to spear some economic development in Town and getting them back on the tax role.

Scenic Hudson would like to see cross promotional advertising to make the public aware of this area. The Town’s Economic Development Committee has already started talking about the need for advertising at their last meeting, making the public aware of everything going on in this area. Scenic Hudson will be attending the next Economic Development Committee meeting to discuss the Cabrini Property and the 35 acres sectioned off from the High Banks Preserve along 9W. Hopefully, coming up with a positive vision of what that can and should be.

DEC is holding a Scoping Session of the Planning Process at FDR Estates on Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a public forum regarding the impact DEC operations will have in this area in the future.

**LOCAL LAWS TO APPOINT ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO PLANNING/ZONING BOARD**

The Town Board will review the local law Chapter 35 information passed out at this meeting. This issue will be discussed at the next Town Board Meeting.

The Board would like to know who’s term is up on the Planning, ZBA and Zoning Board. We need to advertise all Board Position Openings.

The Board has been discussing the need for having Alternatives for the Planning/Zoning Board.

**HARRASSMENT POLICY**

The Town Board will need to appoint a male staff member to the Harassment Committee since Tim Keefe is no longer with the Town. Supervisor McCord will ask the new Building Inspector, Sal Morello, to volunteer for the Harassment Committee. The Board will approve at the next meeting.

**RE-ZONE FROM NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL**

Scott Dutton, located at 56 Main St. is requesting a zoning change for Captain Vantastic property in Esopus from neighborhood commercial to general commercial. Miles’ opinion was that it could be done. Scott has paid the \$2,000 Zoning Fee. The Board now needs to decide if we want it done.

Supervisor McCord will get more information regarding this issue and discuss it further at the next Town Board Meeting. Wayne felt it was important to get the public's opinion/feelings on this issue. As such, a Public Hearing will need to take place.

**KATHLEEN BARRY, TILDEN STREET – STREET LIGHTING BRIGHTNESS**

Kathleen Barry would like the street light by her house on Tilden Street to be turned down. It is too bright and disruptive.

The Town Board members will need to take a ride to see the light at night to observe the brightness. Discuss further at the next Town Board Meeting.

**MEETING BETWEEN CENTRAL HUDSON, STEVE AARON AND TOWN OF ESOPUS**

A scheduled meeting between Central Hudson, Birches/Steve Aaron and the Town of Esopus is now scheduled for 12/12/16 at 10 am. Steve Aaron has not paid the Central Hudson bill on the pump station yet \$12,000 - \$14,000. According to Don Kiernan, the pump station is not in compliance with regulations at this time. Steve Aaron has not yet turned over the pump station to the Town. Councilperson Wayne Freer mentioned that all reports show that Steve Aaron has complied with regulations. Councilperson Wayne Freer would like to know if we need a third party involved in this issue. Why hasn't the property been turned over to the Town? Is there a problem with the property or just the grease trap? Does the Town need to own the property to be able to maintain the Pump Station? Does Steve have a clear title?

Diane McCord said the Pump Station property was tied into the apartment housing so it had to be on a separate deed in order for the Town to take the Pump Station over, according to the Town attorney. Wayne feels this had been done. Councilperson VanVliet and Supervisor McCord thought it had not been done. We need to find this out.

Supervisor McCord will ask Don Kiernan to come to the next Board meeting to answer these questions.

**REVIEW OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FORM**

Supervisor McCord discussed the Town of Esopus Performance Evaluation Form. The example form used was based on an Ulster County Performance Evaluation Form. The Board members approved the form.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Diane did send a letter to the D'Anna family regarding the water tower replacement. She has not heard back.

The Environmental Board has received a letter from a Cornell student in the regional planning program who is conducting a field workshop on open space protection in Esopus and has requested a copy of our present Comprehensive Plan. There will be a meeting at the FDR Estate, National Historic Site on Saturday, December 10, 2016 from 1pm – 3pm and he would like the Board to come if they are able. The student is making a case study for Esopus at that meeting.

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet discussed changing the Volunteer Board policy of missing three meetings per year to four a year? We need to advertise the vacancies of all the Boards.

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet asked if there was demolition going on at Cabrini? If so, do they have a permit? They are taking down the old dormitories on the East Side of the property. Gloria VanVliet will ask Sal to go take a look. Sal will need to take a ride through Town once in a while to see what is going on.

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:27 PM BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectively Submitted,

Erin McNierney  
Deputy Town Clerk, RMC