

1/23/25

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 23, 2025, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held in person on January 23, 2025, at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Geuss
Supervisor Danielle Freer**

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

4 WAYS TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) **In-Person – Attend the Workshop**
- 2.) **Phone in:** Leave a voicemail on 845 331 0676 before the meeting
- 3.) **EMAIL – lreynolds@esopus.com with the subject line “Public Comment”**
- 4.) **MAIL – mail written comments to:**
*Town of Esopus, P.O. Box 700
Port Ewen, NY 12466*

Supervisor Danielle Freer called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Wayne Freer. Wayne was a past Councilman who served his community for years as a public servant and first responder at the Town and County levels.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephen Cerini, Mountain View Ave. I wish everyone a Happy New Year. He thanked all of the various departments in the town for their service. He wanted to express his gratitude for all of the hard work they do for the Town.

1/23/25

Derick Kerabec, Hudson Lane, read the following regarding the Sunday Freeman Article of Sunday, January 12, 2025:

We would like to address the quoted statement we read in the Sunday Freeman, a couple of weeks ago written by William J. Kemble entitled "Focus in 2025 will be on Infrastructure, Freer says"

We were shocked to read the quote "There have been a couple of projects on the table that have experienced ... the normal (not in my backyard response) and we just need to make sure that we are providing an experience for applicants that is friendly".

Although, no references have been made to what these projects are, we have been attending the meetings for the past two years and will say that the opposition has been based on real zoning issues, concerns, lack of enforcement and artful zoning.

We agree the Town should be open for Business, it appears it is with the revival of the Stone Barns property, Streamside Apartments, even Ball and Claw. However, the same rules should be required across the board for both established and new businesses. The Town should be friendly to new applicants, but it should also be just as friendly to its residents and not dismiss them.

It appears over the past couple of years, the Town of Esopus has different standards for the enforcement of zoning, primarily selective and crafting it to mean things other than what is written.

Our hope for the Town of Esopus in 2025, is for the Town to actually look into issues and address the residents' concerns and questions. This would be a good start to keeping our Town the friendly town we all want.

SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

1/23/25

**RESULTS OF AUDITS: LETTER FROM TOWN CPA BRIAN PICKARD CERTIFYING COMPLETION OF
TOWN CLERK, TAX COLLECTOR, AND JUSTICE COURT AUDITS**

Supervisor Freer read the following letter from Brian Pickard:

Brian J. Pickard, CPA

30 Grand Street, PO Box 1368, Kingston, NY 12402
T (845) 339-9926 F (845)339-9928
BPickardCPA@gmail.com

January 10, 2025

Ms. Danielle Freer, Supervisor
Town of Esopus
284 Broadway
PO Box 700
Port Ewen, NY 12466

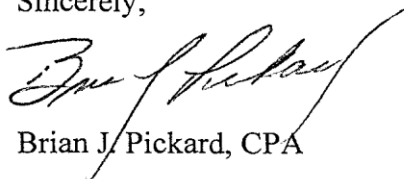
Dear Supervisor Freer,

I have conducted an audit of the cash accounts of the following town offices for the year ended December 31, 2024: Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice Court. My audit was conducted to render assurance that all cash receipts and disbursements were properly recorded by the individuals in these departments.

The accounts of each of the custodians of town money were found to be accurate. The town justices are current in their reporting to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the TSLE&D program and the handling of their cases.

Thanks to all individuals for their professionalism and cooperation during the audit. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Pickard, CPA

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUDIT OF COURT
FINANCES AND RECORDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York the following;

WHEREAS Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that the Town Justices annually provide their court finances and records to be audited by the Town auditing board;

WHEREAS such records be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the Board’s proceedings to increase monitoring of Town Board compliance with section 2019-a;

WHEREAS an audit of the Court finances and records for the year ended December 31, 2024, was performed by Brian J. Pickard, CPA, as part of the audit of the cash accounts,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Esopus Town Board acknowledges the required audit was conducted.

**RESOLUTION OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER
RESOLUTION SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON**

COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON	AYE
COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE	AYE
COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK	AYE
COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS	AYE
SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER	AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

ULSTER COUNTY SOFTWARE ACCESS AGREEMENT

COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO SIGN THE SOFTWARE ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH ULSTER COUNTY FOR THE TOTAL COLLECTION SOLUTION (TCS) SOFTWARE TO COLLECT AND ENFORCE PROPERTY TAXES. COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

**Ulster County Legislature passed Resolution No. 609 on November 19, 2024, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to sign an Inter-Municipal Agreement with various municipalities to purchase licensing and year-one hosting for the Systems East Total Collection Solution – Department of Finance. The Town will be responsible for the annual maintenance

1/23/25

fee and contracting directly with Systems East Inc. to pay for the Software hosting/maintenance for subsequent years.

Liaison Lightning Round

Supervisor Freer:

The Highway Department has submitted a report of work being completed throughout the town. Supervisor Freer said she would include the monthly update in the Board's packet for their reference.

Supervisor Freer continues to work on reducing the speed limit to 30 MPH when crossing the Wurtz St Bridge onto 9W and continuing to the 9W intersection. The discrepancy was noted when the bridge was reopened and brought to the town's attention. The bridge speed coming to Port Ewen currently is 40 MPH, and the reduction to 30 would help coincide with the speed limit heading to Kingston. She will prepare a resolution for the DOT. The Board will review and vote on it in February. The resolution will then be forwarded to DOT to see if they will implement the request.

Councilman Quick mentioned that AOT had several resolutions pertaining to home rule on this year's agenda, one of which dealt with allowing Towns to regulate their own speed limits. She told the board she would email them the document from AOT relating to the 17 resolutions to be voted on at the conference so they could review it, and if they had any input, she would take it with her as the town delegate.

Councilman Geuss:

Water & Sewer—Councilman Geuss and Water Superintendent Nick Butler will discuss infrastructure next week and add-ons to the system. Nick was grateful he received his 2024 truck, which had been on order.

Councilman Quick:

Zoning Board – there were a few appeals that were voted down:

The Waterfront Advisory Board is reviewing a spa proposal on Floyd Ackert Road. They continue to review the state's LWRP comments and clean up the language so they can complete, adopt, and send it back to the state.

Assessor's Office- working on exemptions

A small group of Esopus Seniors met to discuss what day trips they would like to take this year.

Councilman Clarke:

Environmental Board—The Environmental Board has received a \$14,625 ecological restoration grant. Nina Nichols submitted this grant to Partners for Climate Action for planting a community pollinators garden at Reiker Park in Connelly.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS DECEMBER 2024 FINAL

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, as follows:

WHEREAS the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment, and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND	240043-240076	\$53,521.27
HIGHWAY FUND	242305-242329	\$126,329.29
STREETLIGHTS	246007	\$7,635.97
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	243195-243210	\$196,900.56
PORT EWEN WATER	244220-244238	\$39,854.99
Capital Water	245036-245038	\$15,503.90
ARPA	247027-247030	\$90,573.98
ESCROW		
Total		\$530,319.96

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER

SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS

COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON	AYE
COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE	AYE
COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK	AYE
COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS	AYE
SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER	AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JANUARY 2025

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, as follows:

WHEREAS the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment, and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

GENERAL FUND	251000-251005	\$18,816.20
HIGHWAY FUND	252000-252001	\$15,858.00
STREETLIGHTS		
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	253000	\$747.65
PORT EWEN WATER		
Capital Water		
ARPA		
ESCROW		
Total		\$35,421.85

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON

COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON	AYE
COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE	AYE
COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK	AYE
COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS	AYE
SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER	AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:25 P.M. TO HOST INTERVIEWS FOR VACANT COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER BOARD VACANCIES AND THE INTERVIEWS FOR THE SENIOR DATABASE CLERK/TYPIST FOR THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT. COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

*Recreation Commission Chair Hannah Palan was invited to join the executive session for the interview for the Recreation vacancy.

*Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Mark Jaffee and Municipal Zoning Officer Hannah Palen were invited into the session for interviews with the Building Department's Senior Database Clerk/Typist applicants.

SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:30 P.M. COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MOVED TO APPOINT JO MISPEL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD, WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 12/31/2026. COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

1/23/25

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MOVED TO APPOINT LYNN CORCORAN JOHNSTON TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION, WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 12/31/2025. COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

1.25 Repair Café hosted by the Environmental Board

2.15 6th Annual Sojourner Truth Life Walk

2.17 Town Hall Closed: Presidents' Day

2.20 Next Town Board Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:31 PM, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,
Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC*