

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2013**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board was held on Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Town Hall at 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Donna McAuley
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Administrative Recorder: Diane L. McCord, Town Clerk

Supervisor Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Pledge to the Flag

Public Comment: None

1. Recognition Certificate – Linda Smythe

Supervisor John Coutant said we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers on our boards and within that group we recognize the volunteers and their families that put up with all the meetings the volunteers attend.

Linda Smythe has served on the Planning Board and as well as our Zoning Board of Appeals and she has attended most of those meetings. The Town Board has decided to ask Linda to attend this meeting and award her with a Certificate of Appreciation for all of her service over the past fifteen years. Linda accepted the award and said this is just a reprieve until I get my health back. Linda said Don Cole has worked so hard on the Zoning Board of Appeals and he deserves to be thanked. Supervisor Coutant agreed we have so many volunteers who do an outstanding job in the Town of Esopus.

2. Resolution to Accept Brian Pickards' Audit

Supervisor Coutant explained how our Certified Public Accountant Brian Pickard audits all our departments and goes through the Court System as well. The following letter has been received:

“Dear Supervisor Coutant,

I have conducted an audit of the cash accounts of the following town offices for the year ended December 31, 2012: 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 all 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. It should be noted that there was no interest earned on the tax collector's account.

I would like to thank all individuals for their cooperation in the audit. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Pickard, CPA

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING
2012 COURT AUDIT**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus has been given a letter from Brian Pickard, CPA, for completion of the 2012 Supervisor's Audit,

WHERE AS, this audit included the Town of Esopus Justice Court and all cash receipts and disbursements were properly recorded,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board utilizes this communication in addition to this resolution to notify the State of New York Unified Court System of the results of this audit

Resolution offered by: John Coutant

Resolution seconded by: Kyle Barnett

Board was polled:

Councilperson Wayne Freer Aye
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet Aye
Councilperson Donna McAuley Aye
Councilperson Kyle Barnett Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

The Town Clerk will certify this resolution and send it to the Unified Court System with a copy to the Town Justice.

3. Dog Contracts

We have received several dog contracts for use at the Town of Esopus Kennel for 2013 and they include:

Town of Lloyd, Town of Ulster, Town of Wawarsing, and the City of Kingston.

4. Mystery Inquiry

The Supervisor said basically the Town Board is in receipt of an unsigned communication which questions the property being taken off the tax rolls by Scenic Hudson. Councilperson Kyle Barnett explained the issue is a concern that Scenic Hudson has purchased a substantial amount of real estate in the Town of Esopus and they are a tax exempt entity. When that property goes off the tax roll, it increases the amount to be paid for by the other taxpayers in the town. This is a "state issue" and it is the state who decides who is exempt and who is not exempt. It is the state law and there is not much the town itself can do about it.

The anonymous person writing this email thought we should certainly address it. We do not know who sent the email to us. Supervisor Coutant said we decided to place this in the minutes and obviously whoever sent this message will now have our response. If there are any questions or concerns we welcome your comments from the public.

5. NYMIR INSURANCE

The Town received notice from NYMIR regarding our premiums for 2013. Last year's premium when annualized to include a new vehicle and some changes to our equipment schedule during the year totaled \$62,801.19. The renewal premiums total \$58,624.08 or 6.7 % less. The Supervisor said this is very good news for the budget and for the town economics. Over the last three years we have saved over a \$10,000 on our insurance. We are being rewarded for the safety programs we have initiated in our town.

6. BONDING FOR WATER PLANT – PAID

The town bonded for the damage that was done to our water treatment plant back in 2008. We borrowed 1.5 million dollars for the restoration of the water plant. We received \$600,000 from FEMA and SEMO. It has taken three years to receive the remainder of the payment from FEMA and SEMO and only with the help of Congressman Chris Gibson who had the money sent at the end of the week after meeting with the Supervisor and Councilperson Gloria VanVliet. We thank the Congressman for his help.

7. Grant Possibility/Program Development (To Walk Through Town of Esopus)

The Town has an opportunity to obtain a grant to develop walkways through the Scenic Hudson property and town owned property. Diane Dintruff and Marion Zimmer met with the Supervisor and we discussed an opportunity which would be good for tourism and for the economics of our town. After you complete some of these trails you would pick up a patch as a Town of Esopus Explorer. If we succeed and the grant is secured we will announce it in early June. Some of these trails could include cross country skiing.

8. Payment of Vouchers

**PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS
February 21, 2013**

Be it Resolved, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, State of New York as follows:

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

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

General Fund	131019-131083	\$95,178.19
Highway Dept.	132008-132032	\$39,546.50
Port Ewen Sewer	133010-133027	\$15,631.03
Port Ewen Water	134009-134045	\$42,191.00
Street Lighting	136002	\$ 6,275.36
Total.....	\$198,822.08

**Resolution offered by Councilperson Donna McAuley
Resolution seconded by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet**

Supervisor John Coutant	Aye
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	Aye
Councilperson Wayne Freer	Aye
Councilperson Donna McAuley	Aye
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

9. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

10. Communications and Reports

The following reports of boards and officials are available in the Town Clerk's Office for review:

Town Clerk Report for January 2013
Building Inspectors' Report for January 2013
Planning Board Minutes dated January 9, 2013
Recreation Minutes dated January 7, 2013
Environmental Board Minutes dated January 9, 2013
Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes dated January 8, 2013

A Motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer and seconded by Supervisor John Coutant at 7:55 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane L. McCord
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**