

**TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
Local Law No. 1 Cold War Veterans Exemption
& TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2018**

A Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 1 to amend Chapter 109 of the code of the Town of Esopus to provide for an exemption from real property taxes for residential real property owned by veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the “Cold War” was held on Monday, February 15, 2018 at the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Jared Geuss
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Chris Farrell - absent**

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC

Supervisor Shannon Harris called the Public hearing to order at 7:00 pm

PLEDGE

Supervisor Shannon Harris read the Local Law.

**LOCAL LAW No. 1, 2018
TOWN OF ESOPUS**

**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF
THE TOWN OF ESOPUS TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM
REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY
VETERANS WHO RENDERED MILITARY SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES
DURING THE “COLD WAR”**

Be it enacted that Chapter 109 of the Town Code of the Town of Esopus is amended by adding Article IV as follows:

Section 109-15. Findings. Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York authorizes a limited exemption from real property taxes for residential real property owned by honorably discharged veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the “Cold War” as said terms are defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b. Said Law authorizes municipalities to establish maximum exemption amounts.

Section 109-16. In accordance with the provisions of Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, residential real property owned by honorably discharged veterans who rendered military service to the United States during the Cold War (as said terms

are defined in Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b) shall be exempt from Town taxation to the extent set forth below:

Section 109-17. The maximum exemptions allowable from Town real property taxation pursuant to Section 458-b of the Real Property Tax Law shall be 15 percent of the assessed value of said real property; provided however that said exemption shall not exceed \$45,000 or the product of \$45,000 multiplied by the latest State Equalization Rate for the Town of Esopus.

Section 109-18. The exemption set forth in this local law shall remain in effect indefinitely or until such time as it is revoked by local law, or until authorizing State legislation requires modification.

Section 109-19. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing same with the New York State Secretary of State.

Public Comment:

A general question was asked for the time line of the Cold War. Cold War period runs from 1941- 1991.

**The above Local Law No. 1 was introduced on 2/6/18 and all Board members received a hand delivered copy of Local Law No. 1 prior to the meeting on 2/6/18. A Public Hearing Notice was published in the Daily Freeman on February 8, 2018.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:10 PM AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Jared Geuss
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Chris Farrell – arrived 7:15pm

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

Supervisor Shannon Harris called the Meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

MOTION TO ADOPT LOCAL LAW No. 1 2018 “Cold War” Veterans Exemption

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO AMEND CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY VETERANS WHO RENDERED MILITARY SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING THE COLD WAR AS DETAILED IN THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD PRIOR TO THIS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. THIS LOCAL LAW WILL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON FILING SAME WITH THE NEW YORK STATE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. COUNCILPERSON FARRELL WAS NOT IN ATTENDENCE FOR THE VOTE.

ANNUAL CASH AUDIT

The annual cash audit per the unified court system Section 2019–A was completed by Brian Pickard, CPA. All records were found to be accurate and in compliance.

**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 audit 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, 2017, was performed by Brian J. Pickard, CPA as part of the audit of the cash accounts,

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

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Chris Farrell

Resolution seconded by: Councilperson Jared Geuss

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Chris Farrell	AYE
Supervisor Shannon Harris	AYE

UPDATES

Tax Collector, Bernice McNierney, gave the status of tax collection for the year 2018. The 2018 tax warrant is \$9,066,548.09. Collection has been running smooth. As of February 13, 2018 the amount of unpaid taxes was \$1,835,069.45. Prepaid taxes were accepted for one day on December 29, 2017.

BQ Energy is proceeding with the MOU which was signed last fall. The question of how the power will be sold to people will need to be discussed and the annual lease rate needs to be negotiated. Research needs to be done on how much energy the 2 mw will produce so we can negotiate a price for the lease. There is a priority to sell the power to Town residents and Vassar College. There needs to be clarification on how the installments will work. BQ will be invited to the next workshop meeting.

Computer system – Server upgrade will begin over the President’s weekend.

Hudson River Drinking Water – Informational Workshop for the Town of Esopus residents will be held March 5th, 4pm – 6pm at the Esopus Town Hall Community Center. All residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be published in the Daily Freeman.

There was a wonderful response to the RFQ that was sent out from the Comprehensive Plan Committee for a consultant. Supervisor Harris and Councilperson Jared Geuss will begin reviewing the proposals tomorrow.

Councilperson Quick reported the Environmental Board was making headway on the Climate Smart Community Pledge and two items need to be developed.

Councilperson Van Vliet reported internet was still needed at the Transfer Station to allow the processing of credit cards to be expedited. Town Clerk, Holly Netter, has been working with several vendors to rectify the situation.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

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 budget adjustments and the adjustments have been examined and approved by the Town Board.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following budget adjustments be approved for payment:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR February 2018

AO. 0599.000 Fund Balance To	L1.5182.400	\$ 23,880.00
	L2.5182.400	\$ 2,695.00
	L3.5182.400	\$ 3,585.00
	L4.5182.400	\$ 5,522.00
		Cover LED BULBS for Street Lights

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilperson Chris Farrell	AYE
Supervisor Shannon Harris	AYE

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS – FEBRUARY 2018

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	181013 - 181076	\$ 56,041.32
HIGHWAY FUND	182004 - 182028	\$ 38,433.78
STREET LIGHTS	186001 - 186002	\$ 42,951.05
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	183003 - 183015	\$ 8,366.68
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	184005 - 184036	\$ 38,360.64
TOTAL		\$ 184,153.47

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell
SECONDED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet **AYE**
 Councilperson Jared Geuss **AYE**
 Councilperson Kathie Quick **AYE**
 Councilperson Chris Farrell **AYE**
 Supervisor Shannon Harris **AYE**

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PARTICULAR FORMER EMPLOYEE MEDICAL

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:45 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MEDICAL ISSUES OF A PARTICULAR FORMER EMPLOYEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GLORIA VAN VLIET TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

NO DECISION MADE. FURTHER RESEARCH IS NEEDED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PARTICULAR PERSON JOB HISTORY

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:02 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE JOB HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR EMPLOYEE. THE

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:12 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO PAY CATHY CANZIAN A STIPEND OF \$1,680 FOR THE PURPOSE OF BACKING UP THE BOOKKEEPER FOR PAYROLL AND VOUCHER ADMINISTRATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2018. THEREAFTER, CATHY WILL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL STIPEND OF \$1,785 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PARK RENTAL REMINDER

Residents may begin scheduling their park rentals beginning March 1st and non residents will be able to schedule their dates beginning April 2nd. Park dates are available May 1st – October 8th. Reservations are made through the Town Clerks Office.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS AT 8:35 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Next Town Board workshop meeting will be March 6, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC