

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEB 20, 2025, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held in person on February 20, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT, WHICH COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON SECONDED. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING
A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A SUCCESSOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ESOPUS AND UNITED PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION**

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus (the “Town”) and United Public Service Employees Union (the “UPSEU”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that expired on December 31, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Town and UPSEU have engaged in collective bargaining concerning terms and conditions of employment for Town employees represented by the UPSEU.

WHEREAS the Town and UPSEU have reached a tentative agreement for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028 which is attached to and made part of this Resolution.

WHEREAS, the Town and UPSEU signed the tentative memorandum of agreement dated February 11, 2025.

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2025, the membership of UPSEU ratified the terms of the tentative agreement.

WHEREAS, for the tentative memorandum of agreement to become binding on the parties, it must also be ratified by the Town Board.

WHEREAS, the Town now seeks to fulfill its obligation to bring the tentative memorandum agreement to a ratification vote before the Board.

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly deliberated regarding the terms of the tentative memorandum of agreement dated February 11, 2025 between the Town and UPSEU and wishes to bring the matter to a vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby Approves the tentative agreement by a majority vote of the Board. If the agreement is approved, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to implement the now-ratified memorandum agreement and to enter into a successor collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the memorandum of agreement.

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

Roll call vote was taken:

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

Resolution duly adopted.

DATED: Ulster Park, New York
February 20, 2025

** Councilman Geuss thanked Councilman Clarke and Supervisor Freer for all their work with the negotiations.

RESOLUTION TO LOWER SPEED LIMIT

ON OLD ROUTE 9W FROM 9W ACROSS WURTS STREET BRIDGE IN PORT EWEN

WHEREAS, Old Route 9W is a two-lane highway owned and maintained by New York State Department of Transportation (“NYS DOT”) in the Town of Esopus (“Town”), extending westerly from Route 9W in Port Ewen, NY, across the Wurts Street Bridge to Kingston, NY; and

WHEREAS, the varying speed limits along this route in both directions cause confusion and pose safety risks for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists; and

WHEREAS, the current speed limit on Old Route 9W and the Wurts Street Bridge, heading west, is 40 MPH, and

WHEREAS, the Town recommends lowering the speed limit on old Route 9W and the Wurts Street Bridge to 30 MPH and

WHEREAS, lowering the speed limit in this area will enhance safety for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists alike;

NOW, THEREFORE BE, IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus supports the lowering of the speed limit in the area referenced above to 30 mph;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to NYS DOT.

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER

SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmen voting as follows:

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

Resolution duly adopted.

**DATED: Ulster Park, New York
February 20, 2025**

**** The resolutions from Esopus and Kingston will be sent to DOT for approval.**

LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND:

SUPERVISOR FREER: SUPERVISOR FREER:

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING. Supervisor Freer attended a Flood Disaster Assistance Workshop, where local municipality leaders learned about the disaster recovery process and how Federal, State, and Local assistance and funding make their way to Ulster County towns following a flood. This training was hosted by NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Department of State, NYC DEP, NYS Water Resources Institute and the Ulster County Department of Emergency Management.

Highway Department

List of monthly accomplishments was provided in the agenda.

TOWN CLERK Holly Netter met with department heads throughout the week to gather information to share with Jenna Ice, Chair of the Climate Smart Task Force. Holly gathered information and provided contact information to Jenna for her to submit for our Bronze Level Certification.

At budget time, it was mentioned that the Pitney Bowes maintenance contract is up, and the Federal Government has changed the security measures on the mailing equipment. Our machine is now out of compliance and needs to be replaced. Holly worked with the Pitney Bowes representative, who reviewed the town's options. She recommended staying with the updated version of the existing machine. It would be beneficial because the current supplies can be used with the newer model, training will be minimal, and current funding procedures for the machine would remain the same for the bookkeeper. Renting vs. purchasing the equipment was recommended and is typical for municipalities. State agencies are required to purchase the equipment outright. The advantage of renting is that the maintenance agreement is included, and if regulations change again, we are not stuck with an obsolete piece of equipment.

COUNCILMAN JARED GUESS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK NETTER AND SUPERVISOR FREER TO PROCEED WITH THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO RENT THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED FROM PITNEY BOWES FOR COMPLIANCE AND TO SIGN THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCILMAN GEUSS:

WATER & SEWER—Councilman Geuss, Supervisor Freer, Water Superintendent Nick Butler, and Port Ewen Water Board member Darin Dekoskie met to discuss the current structure of the Water & Sewer Board and how to get them back to operating like they had in the past. One of the main topics was regarding Lake Shore Villas, whose owners are looking to hook their sewer system into the town’s – an ask that has been a discussion for over fifteen years. A list of requests from the property owners has been shared with the Water & Sewer Board to review and provide an opinion to the Town Board. Councilman Geuss noted that this Board is in a good place and we look forward to continuing to work with them on these projects.

COUNCILMAN QUICK:

ZONING BOARD—The Zoning Board had nothing on their agenda for February, so the time was utilized for a three-hour training session that reviewed the following:

- NYS Department of State –ZBA overview
- NYS Town Law for ZBA
- NYS Department of State guidelines for applicants to the ZBA
- Town Code chapter 123-28 Zoning enforcement and administration
- Town Code chapter 123-39 ZBA

Zoning Board members in attendance were Karl Wick, Jim Tomassetti, Karynn Zahedi and Guy Brought.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

Assessor—The office is working on exceptions and enhanced star applications. The Agricultural District Inclusions application period is March 1, 2025, to March 30, 2025. Ulster County will accept applications from landowners to have their predominantly viable agricultural lands included in a NYS certified agricultural district. For more information, call Burt Samuelson at (845) 339-2490.

REAPPOINTMENT OF SOLE ASSESSOR

COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK MOTIONED TO REAPPOINT SHANNON HARRIS AS THE SOLE ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF ESOPUS FOR THE SIX-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE THAT BEGINS ON 10/1/25 AND ENDS ON 9/30/2031. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE:

EDC – Looking to schedule a spring meeting date

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – Interviews continue for the vacant clerk position.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD – There was no quorum at the meeting due to several sick members. Their guest made a presentation for those in attendance. The **Burroughs Foundation** may be able to utilize the reforestation grant to remove invasive species. Councilman Clarke said the Environmental Board asked if they could add alternates like other boards. The request puzzled many since they have several vacancies that can be filled, so the need for alternates was questioned. They need to work on recruiting members to have a full board.

COUNCILMAN ROBINSON:

PARKS & REC Councilman Robinson, Dan Vedder, Supervisor Freer, and Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo met at Cas Landi Park to discuss the placement of the new playground equipment scheduled for delivery the week of May 19, 2025. Supervisor Freer said the DOT will work on the stormwater drainage line on 213 in April, which will help with the park's overall drainage.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FEBRUARY 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 budget adjustments, which the town board has examined and approved.

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

**AO 0599.000 Fund Balance to AO 1910.400 \$8,639.20
Town Insurance**

**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.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS FEBRUARY 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	251006-251069	\$238,786.26
HIGHWAY FUND	252002-252024	\$20,206.90
STREETLIGHTS	256000	\$7,765.12
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	253001-253017	\$39,983.70
PORT EWEN WATER	254000-254020	\$64,312.99
Capital Water	255000-255002	\$21,821.00
ARPA	257000-257002	\$77,079.07
ESCROW		
Total		\$469,955.04

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK

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

Resolution duly adopted.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MOTIONED TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:34 PM TO INTERVIEW FOR AN OPEN BUILDING DEPARTMENT POSITION AND DISCUSS CURRENT LITIGATION. COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MOTIONED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:18 PM. COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

INTERVIEW ACTION:

APPOINTMENT

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MOVED TO APPOINT CHERYLE DORNEY TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR DATABASE CLERK/TYPIST FOR THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AT \$18.50 PER HOUR, 35 HOURS PER WEEK. CONTINGENT UPON A BACKGROUND CHECK AND A 90-DAY PROBATIONARY PERIOD. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

LITIGATION ACTION:

COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO SIGN THE LETTERS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH WHITEMAN, OSTERMAN AND HANNA LLP TO LITIGATE THE ARTICLE 78 PROCEEDING "DEREK AND LORINE KARABEC V. THE TOWN OF ESOPUS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ET AL". THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

3.03 PARK RENTALS OPEN FOR RESIDENTS

3.20 NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:20 PM, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.

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