

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2018**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, March 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**

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

Supervisor Shannon Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

Updates & Announcements

Esopus Business Alliance and the Town of Esopus will be hosting an event March 21, 2018 5:30pm – 8:00pm. The event is part of the Office of Economic Development's ongoing Community Economic Development initiative, which aims to engage with residents and business owners to help shape locally-driven economic development priorities. County Executive Mike Hein and the Ulster County Office of Economic Development invite residents of the Esopus area and local business owners to learn more about the services offered to support local businesses, nonprofits and communities. Topics of discussion include:

Funding assistance through grants and loans
Site assistance through site research and planning
Business counseling, training and networking
Tax incentives, such as Payments-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes (PILOTs), tax credits, and tax abatements.

Come learn and discuss how county and local efforts to boost business can be an important part of helping our local economy grow and thrive! ** Due to the potential storm this Meeting was rescheduled for **APRIL 4th**.

On March 27 there is a **Symposium called “Solar Smart Hudson Valley”** which is sponsored by NYSERDA and Scenic Hudson for municipalities on how to build clean energy while preserving important lands. This is part of the NYS climate smart initiative to transition to a 50 percent renewable energy supply by 2030, reduce fossil fuel emissions and mitigate climate change.

At our **next workshop** on Tuesday, April 3rd, we will get an update on our Transfer Station, set a date for a Public Hearing on the Altice Franchise Contract with Cablevision of Wappinger Falls. By that time the in-house counsel for Altice will have had time to respond to our attorney's comments.

Spectrum. We will also take a more in-depth look at our Spectrum Franchise Contract. Supervisor Harris will make contact with Kevin Egan, Spectrum's Director of Government Affairs, and review the actions and discussions from previous meetings as well as Town Board meeting minutes. She will summarize some of the requests and comments from the previous Town Board and from our attorney, as we prepare to renew the contract.

Retiree Health Insurance Update. The Town's attorney, who specializes in Labor Union law, is currently writing his formal written opinion on the Town's obligations as far as providing medical insurance to retirees.

Burn Ban – Annual burn ban is in effect from March 16 – May 14 across New York State. Burning Permits can be obtained after May 15 at your local fire department.

Park Rental – The 2018 park rental calendar opened March 1st for residents and will be open for non residents as of April 2nd. Applications are available online at www.esopus.com. Please bring completed application and necessary paperwork to the Town Clerks office to obtain the permit.

**HELP WANTED - Esopus Parks & Recreation Department is looking for Seasonal Employees
April–October, 40 hrs per week including weekends - \$11 per hour
Maintenance, Repairs, Mowing & Trimming
MUST BE at least 18 years of age and have a clean drivers license**

Applications are available online at www.esopus.com

Please forward completed applications to: Town Clerk, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY 12487

Legislative Initiatives & Announcements

Legislator Laura Petit gave an overview of the grant opportunities she has been working on:

- Greenway Grant for Freer Park upgrade has been filed.
- Solarize Esopus through NYSERDA was funded for \$4,995. We received congratulations from NYSERDA but cannot send out a press release until the Governor's office puts out an official notice. Funding comes prior to the Town having to spend it.
- There were two applications submitted through Bridge NY. One for replacement of the bridge on Valli Road in Esopus that has been "Yellow Flagged" by NYSDOT. The grant was submitted for just under \$700,000. The second application was for a culvert

replacement on Floyd Ackert Road East for just under \$70,000. The applications are both for "pre-application" review by NYSDOT for comments that will be incorporated into the final applications which are due in April.

More grant opportunities for the Park and Recreation Department, as well as Climate Smart Initiatives, are on the forefront.

Legislator Petit quickly reviewed the County Solid Waste Authority proposal for collaboration between Greene, Ulster and Sullivan counties to pull tonnage together to get a better disposal rate.

CPC update – Jared Geuss

Councilperson Jared Geuss gave an update on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The CPC chose the LaBerge Group from the seven consulting firms that submitted proposals for the RFQ. The LaBerge Group is located in Albany and will meet on March 29th with the CPC. On April 13th the CPC will conduct a tour with the firm and stake holders to give them a personal look at the areas and properties the Town would like to be developed. Vision workshops will be held to see what the outside firm offers. The CPC is hoping for a draft of the Comprehensive Plan by June 14th.

Councilperson Geuss said a lot of projects are being kicked off and there is a need for a Part Time Community Development/Outreach Coordinator. As the Town looks to bring in business, they will need a liaison that can gather information and forward the information to the necessary group. The following job description was given. Compensation will be determined upon review of the applicants.

Town of Esopus Community Development and Outreach Coordinator

Overview:

The Community Development and Outreach Coordinator will report to the Town Supervisor and Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. S/he will have a range of responsibilities, including developing community programs that strengthen and connect Esopus' assets, preparing applications for outside funding (grants) and managing strategies for retaining and expanding local businesses.

Duties:

- Serves as a liaison between the Town, volunteer advisory boards, professional consultants, local businesses and community groups. S/he will synthesize information from different sources, monitor social networks and maintain close contact with key stakeholders.
- Participates in regular planning meetings, captures key points for follow up, coordinates with relevant groups and implements outreach through social media.

- Coordinates special projects, meetings and events. Assignments will involve research, budget development, stakeholder management and program metrics to evaluate progress.
- The individual will oversee content on the Town’s website and social media pages. In particular, s/he will maintain the community calendar, generate periodic updates and publish approved social posts.
- The ideal candidate for the position has experience in municipal government and possesses a planning and/or economic development background. S/he is a team player exhibiting:
 - The ability to coordinate resources and provide technical assistance with respect to the timely submission of grant applications (local, state, federal and private).
 - Expertise in social media campaigns aimed at increasing public awareness.
 - An innate curiosity and proactive approach to process improvements and opportunities for government to partner with the private sector.

Qualifications:

- Writes and edits quality communications including compelling social media posts, presentations and formal correspondence with attention to detail and consideration for audience.
- Strong computer skills and familiarity with social networking platforms, especially Facebook.
- Prepares reports and can coordinate the work of planners, engineers, appraisers, etc. for infrastructure and community planning projects.
- Effectively conducts research and executes special requests as assigned. Collects and organizes data for use in community planning and economic development.
- Works to maintain confidentiality and is sensitive to following protocols necessary for interacting between government officials and community leaders.

Schedule:

- 12-15 hours per week (approx 4 hours will consist of evening community meetings).
- Eligible for New York State retirement benefits.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR POSITION TO WORK 10- 15 HOURS PER WEEK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Farrell, liaison to the Planning Board, announced during the survey it was clear many residents desired and requested a Café in the Town. Councilperson Farrell was happy to announce the **Caffeine Café** project received approval at last night’s Planning Board meeting.

They will be operating at 154 Broadway next to Steve Morris Designs. Parking is available in the rear of the building.

BQ Energy/West Shore Solar Contract

BQ would like to move forward with the MOU for the expansion of the solar farm at the landfill. BQ has been working with Central Hudson and the DEC on various aspects of the project. A copy of the Lease Option Agreement was shared with the Board members at the last workshop meeting and was sent to the attorney for review. Central Hudson regulations have changed since the original option to lease was signed by Supervisor McCord September of 2017, therefore a new one must be signed. The lease fee BQ offered originally was \$25,000 per year and BQ agreed to raise it to \$26,500 per year. BQ will be selling the electricity and are dedicated to the Town Residents.

BQ will pay Esopus a \$10,000 option fee until the farm is installed. They will also install equipment to monitor the Town Hall solar field as well as maintain the existing solar field at Town Hall as part of this contract. The tracking panels will be fixed to track appropriately. They have made a promise not to apply for building permits for the Transfer Station project until the Town Hall array is fixed. The contract also includes the mowing and maintenance in and around the panels at the Transfer Station. BQ will fence in the array once the expansion is completed. Councilperson Geuss said BQ has been very professional to deal with. BQ is excited for the project and said it is a natural and great use of the closed Landfill.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO ACCEPT THE OPTION TO LEASE REAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT WITH WEST SHORE SOLAR, LLC. THE AGREEMENT WILL INCLUDE A \$10,000 FEE PAID BY WEST SHORE SOLAR TO THE TOWN UPON EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE ADDITIONAL SUM OF \$10,000 ON THE FIRST AND SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXECUTION OF THE OPTION AGREEMENT. SHOULD WEST SHORE SOLAR ELECT TO EXERCISE ITS OPTION THE LEASE RATE OF \$26,500 PER YEAR WITH A 2% INCREASE PER ANNUM FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LEASE WILL BE PAID TO THE TOWN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A Resolution, which is subject to a permissive referendum, will need to be discussed at the April 3rd workshop.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS – NONE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS – MARCH 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:

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 181077 -181132 | \$ 47,858.58 |
| | | |
| HIGHWAY FUND | 182029 - 182060 | \$ 196,245.28 |
| | | |
| STREET LIGHTS | 186003 | \$ 6,970.05 |
| | | |
| PORT EWEN SEWER FUND | 183016 -183023 | \$ 10,165.72 |
| | | |
| PORT EWEN WATER FUND | 184037 - 184065 | \$ 79,465.19 |
| CAPITAL | 000001-000005 | \$ 40,379.23 |
| TOTAL | | \$ 381,084.05 |

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

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

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|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 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.

A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING GREG MCCORD FOR A VACANCY ON THE PLANNING BOARD WAS MADE AT 7:40 PM BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS AT 8:02 PM. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

***A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO APPOINT GREG MCCORD TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR A 7 YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively submitted,

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