

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 16, 2023, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on March 16, 2023 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting was also available on TV 23, and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson - Absent
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Guess
Supervisor Danielle Freer**

Administrative Recorder: Erin McNierney, Deputy Town Clerk

4 WAYS TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) **In-Person – Attend the Workshop**
- 2.) **Phone in: Leave voicemail on 845 331 0676 prior to 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

Kristine Fabbie – 4 Sisters Lane - Pickleball Courts. Using them right now for games. Would like to know the date in which the pickleball courts will be completed. Would also like to request an outdoor bench for spectators to sit on while watching the pickleball games. Would also like to request the re-surfacing of the wall area which is where they practice. They are bringing a lot of other pickleball players (opponents) from other towns into the Town of Esopus along with spectators. Pickleball is huge.

Supervisor Freer said the to-do-list is quite lengthy right now. Dan Vedder is on vacation but will be returning next week. She would like to have Kristine and Dan Vedder meet at the pickleball court to assess the courts and move forward.

Steve Sloan, The Hills, would also like a bench at the pickleball courts for spectators and players.

Steve and his wife like to walk the town via sidewalks and have not been able to since the storm. Can the Town get a work crew to shovel the sidewalks so they can get into the stores?

Steve Cerini – Port Ewen, Willow tree issue at Freer Park. He is fully in support of the Board and their decision to take down the willow trees. He understands they were a liability, and this was the right decision.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHY QUICK. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ESOPUS BASKETBALL INCORPORATED – RYAN AND DANA BURNETT

Ryan and Dana have created a non-for-profit organization called Esopus Basketball Incorporated in the hopes of bringing basketball back to the Town of Esopus for ages 4-13. Games will be played at Boces and Robert Graves School and Ryan and Dana will be going to the School Board to ask for permission to use the locations. Councilman Jared Guess said to let the Town know before they do and the Town Board will be happy to provide a letter of recommendation.

Ryan and Dana are asking the Town for donations and financial support. It is their intention to hold basketball Clinics over the summer at the Ross Park basketball courts which have been reserved thru the Town Clerk's Office for Saturday, July 8, 15, 22, 29. The Town Clerk's Office has notified Ryan that they will also need insurance from Esopus Basketball Inc. naming the Town of Esopus as additionally insured, the location and dates of event.

Ryan and Dana would like to set up a table at the Easter Egg Hunt to hold registration for these basketball clinics, provide the community with information and to look for volunteers. Ryan will reach out to Councilman Laura Robinson to discuss.

Funding for this project is not in the budget for this year but we can discuss financial support for next year. Supervisor Freer would like to discuss the issue of PEAA dissolving and where the money in the PEAA account has gone? The Town of Esopus has always given PEAA a yearly donation and the Town would like to know how those funds were allocated. Those funds would go a long way to assist this new organization to get up and running.

Supervisor Freer mentioned that there are new basketball hoops and backboards in most of our parks and the remaining parks will go up this spring.

TOWN ENTRYWAY BEAUTIFICATION (DOT TREES, GATEWAY/HAMLET SIGN PLAN, SLEIGHTSBURGH PROPOSAL

Sign discussion – the prior administration had been working on the design of some beautiful signs that will now be placed at each entryway of the Town as well as each Hamlet. We have been working very closely with DOT, Timely Signs and the Bruderhof to pull this plan together. An update to the Board consists of the actual build out from Timely Sign on how the signs will look and where they will be placed.

Supervisor Freer had received a map from DOT regarding trees alongside 9W as you come into Port Ewen to assist in the beautification of the Town. DOT will begin to plant these trees in the beginning of April.

Councilman Guess discussed the trees at the entryway of the Town, which is known as the Gateway of the Town (Coming southbound into the Town of Esopus). This was originally discussed during the Comprehensive Plan for the Town and was one of the major components people wanted to see in the Town along with new Town signs. It is perfect timing; the sign project is ready to go and DOT placing the trees along 9W.

Resident, Jo Mispel of 27 North Broadway in Sleightsburgh, asked for permission for some work she would like to do along a strip of grass that comes down North Broadway and along 9W. She would be happy to get involved and plant trees, plants, bushes, something like a meadow. She would like support for the purchases and some tools and mulch. She feels this would be a great way to beautify the area and cut down on noise.

Supervisor Freer said she loves the idea and is very happy to support Jo's efforts. To move forward this will have to be a team effort. Right now, the Town does mow that area but could not handle more maintenance than that. Jo thought perennial wildflowers would be a very nice idea. Once they get started there is not much upkeep.

Councilman Guess mention the State does own a portion of the property down by the bus turnaround, we will need to get more information from the State. Supervisor Freer will research with DOT.

YMCA SUMMER CAMP

Last workshop, Heidi Kirshner, President of the Ulster YMCA, was here to speak on what we should do with the summer camp at Ross Park. It was decided, due to low participation by Town Residents (37 enrolled campers), we will not be offering summer camp this year. When weighing in that the park must be closed off to the entirety of our Town residents for the duration of the camp hours, it has been decided a better way to serve residents of the Town is to offer a monetary discount of at least \$100 per child per session to register for one of the two available park options (Camp Seewackamano in Shokan and Camp Wiltmeet in New Paltz). The Board will use the budgeted funds for this years' summer camp for Town of Esopus residents only when attending one of these camps. Interested Esopus residents should quickly connect with the Town and verify their residency. We will then send the YMCA Camp Registrar a list of verified residents with your email contact information. The YMCA will then send each camper on the list an email with a link to register. Families must register within 10 days of receipt of the e-mail or the discount will be forfeited. Families may reaffirm residency with the town to

re-establish camp discount. The YMCA also offers financial aid; families can apply at <https://form.jotform.com/223345170795055>.

Supervisor Freer said she hopes families will take advantage of the Town financial aid and should there be a lot of public opinion/feedback on this topic this year, we can adjust for the future.

LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND

SUPERVISOR FREER:

HIGHWAY DEPT. – Everyone seemed to make it through the storm okay. We are working with Central Hudson to get those who lost power back up and running. Supervisor Freer feels we did a great job as a team, especially with the snow removal considering the complexity of the storm. Highway Supervisor, Mike Cafaldo, is committed to going back in the Spring to fix any lawns that were damaged during the storm.

COUNCILMAN GEUSS:

WATER & SEWER DEPT. – The Water/Sewer Tank Grant Project that has been ongoing for the past few years is in the final stages. John Davidson, with our engineering firm, just finalized the plan to go to the State Department in Albany this week.

WATER PLANT GRANT UPDATE – Town of Esopus contracted with J&J Sass and Schultz's Electric to do the work. Schultz Electric is pricing out materials and a new control panel. They are waiting to hear the availability of these materials.

Tighe and Bond is working on the other grant for the Distribution Project. The Survey to add W. Stout and E. Main to the distribution is 90% complete. Designs will be complete and ready to go by early spring.

Supervisor Freer mentioned that the project with the water main replacements is super important and she is glad to hear we are moving along.

COUNCILMAN QUICK:

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on February 21, 2023, at 7 PM. Mark Jaffee was present and explained some new details regarding the new Zoning regulations. The members were happy to have some of this explained and Mr. Jaffee told all members that he would be happy to answer any of their questions that may come up. He said he would welcome their phone calls.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

The Waterfront Advisory Board met on February 22 at 7 PM on Zoom. David Gilmore continued to work on the revised LWRP. Josh Hunn from the Department of Environmental Conservation was part of the call. There are still many details that need to be completed.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The exemptions for seniors and for volunteer emergency workers have been completed, there are many happy residents. The office is now working on reassessments of new homes and properties that have been improved.

ESOPUS SENIORS

We will have a meeting on March 20, the first day of spring! We have a trip to Proctor's Theater scheduled for April 13. We are filling up another trip to the Riverview Inn on May 2 in Matamoras, PA. There will be a full luncheon, music for listening and dancing.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE:

EDC – Mtg. next Tues. 3/28, there are some hot topics to be discussed with the group. EDC is also recruiting so if anyone has some business savvy friends, please send them to the EDC.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD – Earth Day is 4/23. Activities will be held at Town Hall from 10-3.

The Next Repair Café will be held on 3/25 from 10-1 at the Ascension Church and held every other month. The Environmental Board is looking for volunteers for this event. Please be aware that you cannot just drop off your equipment to be worked on, you must stay while the work is being done.

NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR MARCH 2023.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS MARCH 2023

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	231075-231121	\$105,846.98
HIGHWAY FUND	232026-232057	\$111,974.70
STREETLIGHTS		
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	233035-233050	\$ 7,489.56
PORT EWEN WATER	234020-234037	\$37,040.99
Capital Water		
ARPA		
Visa		
		\$262,352.23

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

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

Resolution duly adopted.

KEY DATES – CHECK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS:

- ONGOING – PARK RENTALS FOR RESIDENTS**
- 3.20 ESOPUS SENIOR MEETING**
- 3.25 REPAIR CAFÉ HOSTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**
- 4.3 PARK RENTALS FOR NON-RESIDENTS**
ESOPUS SENIOR MEETING
- 4.6 NEXT TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP**
- 4.7 TOWN HALL CLOSED**
- 4.8 ESOPUS EASTER EGG HUNT HOSTED BY PARKS & REC**
- 4.23 EARTH DAY EVENT HOSTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER, AT 7:45 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GUESS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

*Eoin McNierney
Deputy Town Clerk*