

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

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held in person on March 20, 2025, at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. The following persons were 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](mailto: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 –**

**Kathy Albamont** – State Trees on the west side of the Broadway Corridor are growing into the grates and need to be trimmed; didn't know which department to bring it to.

**Dylan Lacombe**, 354 Broadway, understands that the town is involved in an Article 78 proceeding with PZR (Lighthouse Village/Cooney Project) and inquired whether the officials were supporting the residents or if the board was not addressing the detrimental impact. Mr. Lacombe said, " I'm sure the Town is not going to speak on that, but does the town have anything to say about whether they are backing the townspeople's understanding on how detrimental this project will be, or does the board just throw their hands up?"

Supervisor Freer reminded Mr. Lacombe that the purpose of public comment was to allow residents to address the board, not to answer questions during the public comment period.

In an attempt to defuse Mr. Lacombe's continued verbal disruption, Councilman Jared Geuss stated that the Planning Board is working with an attorney on the Board's behalf, which would support the Planning Board's decision.

**Laura Petit** stated that she had been conducting research on the Cable Franchise Agreement and submitted a FOIL to the Town Clerk for a copy of the most recent Cable Franchise Agreement with Spectrum.

Councilman Geuss said he recalls that the town was held up a little because certain residents in the southern section of town had an agreement with a previous cable supplier (Wappinger's Falls/Altice). Since we had an agreement with them at the time, we couldn't make a different agreement with Spectrum.

Laura said she was following up because Kingston Radio is interested in helping.

Councilman Geuss said the backlash to the franchise agreements also results in additional costs for people's cable bills.

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

**GUEST SPEAKER: ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**

Environmental Board member Jenna Ice was delayed at a prior engagement and was unable to attend the meeting to give her presentation.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD  
TOWN OF ESOPUS**

**Expressing Support for the Ulster County Legislature's Adoption of Resolution No. 102 -  
Establishing A Policy to Fund, Facilitate, Perpetuate, and Support The Augmentation And  
Operation Of Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) In and For The County Of Ulster**

WHEREAS, the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is essential to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the Town of Esopus and Ulster County as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus, along with other municipalities in Ulster County, faces increasing operational costs in maintaining reliable EMS services, including personnel, training, equipment, and infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the recently released EMS Services Delivery Report for Ulster County, New York, prepared by the Center for Public Safety Management, LLC, has identified significant

challenges, including staffing shortages, increasing response times, and financial instability among local EMS providers; and

WHEREAS, proposed Resolution No. 102 establishes a policy to fund, facilitate, perpetuate, and support the augmentation and operation of local EMS in an amount not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) per annum, thereby providing much-needed financial relief and stability to municipal EMS services; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 102 further mandates transparency and accountability by requiring that funds be used solely for EMS-related expenses, including staffing, training, equipment procurement, and operational costs, with annual reporting requirements to the Ulster County Legislature and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus recognizes that the sustainability and enhancement of EMS services are critical to public health and safety and that Resolution No. 102 represents a proactive and fiscally responsible approach to addressing EMS challenges in Ulster County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus hereby expresses its strong support for the Ulster County Legislature’s adoption of Resolution No. 102 and urges its full implementation to ensure the continued availability of high-quality EMS services for all residents of Ulster County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Ulster County Legislature, the Ulster County Executive, the Ulster County Department of Emergency Services, and any other relevant agencies as an expression of the Town of Esopus’s support for sustained EMS funding and service enhancement within the County.

**OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS**

<b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**ROEMER, WALLENS, GOLD & MINEAUX, LLP AGREEMENT**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH LABOR RELATIONS LAW FIRM ROEMER, WALLENS, GOLD & MINEAUX, LLP. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) LETTER TO UCTC FOR THE VALLI ROAD BRIDGE IN ESOPUS**

We previously applied for the Bridge NY grant for Valli Road, but unfortunately, did not receive it. Supervisor Freer believes that this is a great opportunity to apply for the county grant. We can utilize all the data collected from the prior grant application to meet the requirements of this new grant. Additionally, Ulster County has loaned us a temporary bridge for Valli Road, indicating their awareness of our needs and that the issues with the bridge have been under discussion for quite some time.

**COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK MADE A MOTION FOR THE SUPERVISOR TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) LETTER TO THE ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (UCTC) FOR THE VALLI ROAD BRIDGE IN ESOPUS. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPOINTMENT COURT BAILIFF**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT PAUL WATZKA TO THE POSITION OF COURT BAILIFF AT A RATE OF \$26 PER HOUR. COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilman Quick said she personally knew Paul, and his extensive law enforcement experience would make him a great asset to the town.

**2025 ULSTER COUNTY SPCA (UCSPCA) CONTRACT**

**COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE 2025 ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH UCSPCA FOR THE CARE AND BOARDING OF CANINES. COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS - MID HUDSON REQUEST (NAMI-MH)**

NAMI is a nonprofit organization that provides support, free education, and advocacy for individuals affected by mental health issues. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and NAMI has requested permission to display white ribbons in Town, as they did in 2024. For more

information and assistance, visit the national website at [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) or the local website at [www.namimidhudson.org](http://www.namimidhudson.org).

**COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE NAMI TO HANG RIBBONS IN THE TOWN TO RAISE AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH IN MAY. COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR; THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**YMCA SUMMER CAMP DISCUSSION**

The Town Board continues to believe that the best way to serve our residents, as was done last year, is to provide a monetary discount of at least \$100 per child per two-week session (\$50 if attending only one week). The YMCA and Ulster County, in collaboration with the Town of Esopus, will offer Monday – Friday Day Camp for 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Two camp options are available: Camp Seawackamano in Shokan, with bus transportation from the Dollar General parking lot in Port Ewen, included in the price, and Camp Wiltmeet in New Paltz. Parents are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Camp Wiltmeet.

Interested Esopus Residents are encouraged to quickly connect with the Town to verify residency and register their camper as soon as possible; registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration link can be found on the Town website at [www.esopus.com](http://www.esopus.com) or <https://ymcaulstercountycamps.campbrainregistration.com>.

All members agreed that this worked out well last year. There were 8 children and 5 families that used the program. Supervisor Freer will also post on social media.

**LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND:**

**SUPERVISOR FREER:**

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Highway Department is getting the sweeper ready so they can begin sweeping the streets.

**PAVING PROJECTS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR:**

- ESOPUS AVENUE – (SMALL SECTION) FROM UNION CENTER TO WHERE they LEFT OFF
- FLOYD ACKERT ROAD – FROM SWARTEKILL / TO VALLI ROAD
- POPLETOWN ROAD - FROM UNION CENTER /TO THE SEASONAL SECTION
- BURROUGHS DRIVE – FROM ROUTE 9W / TO WHERE WE LEFT OFF
- HARDENBURGH ROAD - FROM SOPER / TO SUOMINENS
- 2ND STREET - FROM CENTER / TO GIRARD

**TOWN CLERK**--Worked with Jenna Ice collecting information for the Climate Smart Bronze certification. Park rentals began on March 3rd for residents, and the calendar will open to non-residents on April 1st. Fishermen are starting to come in for their licenses. Clerk Holly Netter is

assisting Ulster BOCES teacher Mary Keiser, whose class is working on a garden project. Holly is coordinating with the Environmental Board to partner and provide education on composting. BOCES is partnering once again with the town for a local government field trip, which was previously held in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic. The bid opening was posted for the water main project, scheduled for April 2 at 2:00 p.m., and she is working with the Water Superintendent on the other bid opening for the water plant SCADA system.

**COUNCILMAN GEUSS**

WATER AND SEWER: Conversations continue with Lake Shore Villas regarding connecting to our sewer system. Engineers will then meet with the water board, and eventually, will be passed up to the Town Board. Two vacancies on the Water Board need to be filled if anyone is interested. Applicants must live in the water district. Work on the Tank projects continues; as soon as the ground is ready, they will pour the concrete pad. Nick is also working on the bid for the control panel.

**COUNCILMAN QUICK:**

ZONING BOARD- no meeting

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD – canceled

ASSESSOR’S OFFICE – Busy working on the Tax Roll.

Esopus Seniors – Offering Defensive Driving Classes on April 7th (FULL) and May 12; still room available. All-day class \$40; bring a bag lunch.

**COUNCILMAN CLARKE:**

**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD** – There are two vacancies available for interested individuals. The last Frost Festival will take place in May, and the location is still being finalized.

The Environmental Board continues to explore EV Charging Station options. There is an opportunity for the board to research and partner with a group that would analyze where to place the chargers at no cost. Locations under consideration are the Ross Park area and BOCES. A battery station is being discussed for the Transfer Station. Councilman Jared Geuss added that the Hudson House is the first group in town installing the EV stations, and progress is being made on their plans.

Supervisor Freer said she is willing to meet with Jenna if she is unable to attend the meeting tonight. A meeting will be essential to enable new members to work through the history of this project, as the existing grant of \$35,000 is still available from a grant that was approved some time ago.

The community garden project is coming along well in Connelly. Nina Nichols is talking about working with BOCES on composting. Jenna Ice is organizing research for the Bronze level certification.

**COUNCILMAN ROBINSON:**

**PARKS & REC.** The new Cas Landi playground equipment is scheduled to be installed on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Robinson thanked Highway, Dan Vedder, and the Parks and Recreation staff for all the work they have been doing to prepare the area. DOT is working on the drainage on 213. Supervisor Freer is drafting letters to request pedestrian signs on Route 213 (State Road) and traffic calming signs on Union Center Road (County Road). A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled to take place sometime this summer.

4/19 Annual Easter Egg Hunt Hosted by Parks & Rec at Ross Park, 1 pm-2:30 pm, rain date 4/26

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS MARCH 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	251070-251120	\$80,594.72
HIGHWAY FUND	252025-252052	\$148,565.10
STREETLIGHTS	256001	\$7,796.58
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	253018-253037	\$25,818.67
PORT EWEN WATER	254021-254046	\$58,790.47
Capital Water	255003-255005	\$340,593.43
ARPA		
ESCROW		
Total		\$662,158.97

**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.

**KEY UPCOMING DATES**

**3.29 ESOPUS REPAIR CAFÉ HOSTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD - ASCENSION CHURCH, 10 AM-2 PM**

**4.1 NON-RESIDENT PARK RENTALS OPEN**

**4.2 BID OPENING FOR WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS**

**4.17 NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**4.18 TOWN HALL CLOSED: GOOD FRIDAY**

**4.19 ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT HOSTED BY PARKS & REC - ROSS PARK, 1 PM-2:30 PM**

**\*\*REMINDER: THE ANNUAL STATEWIDE BAN ON RESIDENTIAL BRUSH BURNING IS IN EFFECT THROUGH MAY 14, 2025. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE DEC WEBSITE. \*\***

**ADJOURNMENT**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 PM, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

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