

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 16, 2024, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on May 16, 2024 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson- Absent
Councilman Evelyn Clarke
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Guess
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 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 7pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Post, Commander of American Legion Post 1298 invited all elected officials to march in the Memorial Day Parade and thanked everyone for their support with the Hometown Hero Banner program.

Alice Schavoir, Fairley Dr. addressed the following items:

1. How would we go about getting the “curved road” sign back up across the street from our property? And would it be possible to get a “blind driveway” sign put up on both sides? It feels a bit precarious at times to get out. My neighbors’ sons’ car was hit once.
2. Would it be possible to get rid of the Fairley Dr sign, and officially change our addresses to 10, 12, and 14 Esopus Ave? her understanding from her neighbors is it used to be the latter, but the original owners, the Fairley’s, put up the sign, and our deed

says 10 Fairley Dr. This causes problems getting deliveries and mail. Currently they are having an issue with qualifying for the Star Credit because our income tax says Esopus and the deed says Fairley.

3. There is a very large pothole, and some smaller ones, at the top of Esopus Ave.
4. Would it be possible to get flashing light crosswalk signs out on Broadway, especially in front of Stewart's, where many people, including children, try to cross but are not noticed by drivers?

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

CHPE EM&CP RESPONSE UPDATE

Supervisor Freer provided copies of letters that were sent to the Public Service Commission on the Environmental Management and Construction Plan (EM&CP). These letters served as formal comments on the EM&CP for Segment 19B. Letters were sent from Scenic Hudson, the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7), and the Town of Esopus.

Councilman Geuss said it is clear that the project is moving forward and this is not going to stop the build. However, the Town is trying to mitigate any issues to protect itself and have an emergency plan in place.

Supervisor Freer continues to ask for County's response. There is more impact than just the drinking water. It could have an impact on swimming at the various beaches along the river. Riverkeeper worked on the original plan in 2013 but a lot has changed and the project is not lining up with that plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD GRANT ASK:

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY GRANT

The Hudson River Estuary Program offers grants to municipalities and non-profits located within the Estuary Watershed Boundaries to help communities improve water quality, adapt to climate change, enhance environmental education, and advance stewardship of habitat and natural resources. This funding will help partners implement priorities outlined in the Hudson River Estuary Grants Program and implement priorities outlined in the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda.

HEAT PUMP PROGRAM (NYS CLEAN HEAT) – NYSERDA

New York State and energy companies are offering rebates, financing and tax credits to lower your bills and stay comfortable year-round with state-of-the-art heating and cooling technology.

- Rebate Programs
- Financing Options
- Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credits

NYSERDA has created a presentation detailing the critical role and opportunity that building electrification presents in New York to reach the State's greenhouse gas emission goals and reduce local pollution. Information can be found at <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov>

Supervisor Freer had provided the information at the May workshop meeting on the above two grant opportunities that the Environmental Board was interested in applying for. She asked the Town Board for their thoughts on the grants and if they would like the Environmental Board to move forward with them.

The Estuary Grant also relates to the LWRP and is one of the Waterfront Advisory Boards' goals. It was suggested that it could be a joint application between the Waterfront and Environmental Board. If the town doesn't get it, we can try again after the LWRP is completed. Also, we should find out from LaBerge if they have other grants in mind that we are in a good position for.

Councilman Geuss felt if there was another Town working on having their code updated they would probably have a better opportunity to have the Heat Pump grant awarded. They would like the Environmental Board to get more information on the Heat Pump Grant and research it with the building department.

MISCELLANEOUS / LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND:

SUPERVISOR FREER:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – The work from the Millbrook to Salem Street has been completed. They have opened up the swales and we can already see improvements as it relates to stormwater runoff. Still need to seed and work on erosion control. They are working on stormwater on Clay Road and installed a new catch basin at the turn onto Mountainview Road.

TOWN CLERK – A \$50 donation was received from Linda Wells for Riverview Cemetery. A meeting will be held Monday 5/20. Holly Netter and Supervisor Freer will meet with the group that expressed interest in holding farmers markets at Ross Park.

COUNCILMAN GEUSS:

WATER & SEWER - Water Tank Pre-Construction Meeting was held on 5/15/24 AT 10:30 am at the Town Hall with Arold Construction, John Davidson, 2 NYSDOL representatives, Nick Butler, Mike Dauner, Deb Kain, Danielle Freer and Holly Netter.

TRANSFER STATION- Negotiating with the solar company. Since they installed the new fence, it is difficult for the RRA to remove the containers. The bins need to be repositioned and will need a new cement pad and wood for the deck. Help is needed from the company to pay for the materials; labor will be provided from the town. There is also an issue with the location of other permanent equipment that needs to stay and its current location is making it difficult for people to pull off the scales.

COUNCILMAN QUICK:

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The ZBA will be meeting on May 21, 2024. They will be considering a variance for the way a porch/deck will be built. They also will be considering a cost schedule for when appeals and decisions need to be brought before the ZBA.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

The WAB is scheduled to meet on May 29. They were asked to provide comment on a culvert replacement on Rt. 213. All members agreed that there were not any inconsistencies with the LWRP, (Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan)
The members are awaiting the NYS Department of State to approve the new LWRP.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The Assessor has been preparing the members of the Assessment Board of Review for the grievance days. The Assessor will be here on 5/21 from 5-7 to sit with the tax roll for people to view after hours. Grievance day will be on May 28, 2024, from 2-4 PM and 5-7 PM.

ESOPUS SENIORS

The Town of Esopus Seniors have had several meetings. Care of found or orphaned baby birds was presented by a wildlife rehabilitator. There also was a presentation regarding Black Bears, who often frequent our neighborhoods. Next Monday we will have an attorney from the Ulster County Surrogate Court to explain some legal information for our seniors. On June 3rd, Louis Timperio, president of the Klyne Esopus Museum, will speak about the museum and some of the new exhibits regarding local history.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS MAY 2024

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	241151-241194	\$98,852.35
HIGHWAY FUND	242086-242106	\$27,346.26
STREETLIGHTS	246002	\$6,906.67
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	243059-243072	\$18,783.52
PORT EWEN WATER	244064-244075	\$13,538.30
Capital Water	245012-245013	\$23,689.42
ARPA	247007-247010	\$33,704.82
Visa		
		\$222,821.34

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

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

Resolution duly adopted.

KEY UPCOMING DATES – VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

5.18 LAST FROST FESTIVAL AT 10AM-3PM AT MHVFCU (ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD)

5.21 ASSESSOR IN ATTENDANCE WITH TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLLS: 2-4PM & 5-7PM

5.25 ESOPUS REPAIR CAFÉ AT 10AM-2PM AT PE REFORMED CHURCH (ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD)

5.27 TOWN HALL CLOSED: MEMORIAL DAY

PARADE AT 10AM IN PORT EWEN (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN LEGION 1298)

5.28 GRIEVANCE DAY WITH BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW: 2PM-4PM 5PM-PM

6.6 NEXT TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:40 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PENDING LITIGATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:20 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

Action: none

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:02 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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