

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 21, 2012**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Esopus Town Board was held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant  
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet  
Councilperson Wayne Freer  
Councilperson Donna McAuley  
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

**Administrative Recorder: Diane L. McCord, Town Clerk**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Susan Holland - Union Center Road Ulster Park** - Has the Town Board considered passing any resolution against hydrofracking or against using the byproducts from hydrofracking? Supervisor John Coutant answered the State of New York has studied hydrofracking for the past four years. We want to wait for the governments report before making a decision.

At this point in time, there are 7,000 people in New York are in the midst of suing towns who have passed resolutions against hydrofracking. The Supervisor believes the decision should be made after all the studies are conducted before concluding is it safe or unsafe? The State of Texas has done hydrofracking with little damage. This has caused the natural gas prices to be reduced. Councilperson Kyle Barnett said there is no immediate danger pertaining to using any byproducts of hydrofracking. If that changes we will have to look at this.

Supervisor Coutant said there is no municipal government that would want to contaminate our water resources but let's wait until we have more information.

**Rose Rana – 15 Louis Valley Road – Ulster Park** – The Building Inspector and the Supervisor have visited the house next to Ms. Rana. The property has been sold, however, we do not know the new owner. The house has been vacant and sits on an incline and is run down. The owner of the property was notified. It has now been purchased by someone else.

**1. Appointment Resolution – Town of Esopus Planning Board**

Our Planning Board is a very important board and is highly respected one. We have chosen Michael Manicone to fill the vacant position stated Supervisor Coutant.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS  
PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION**

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

**WHEREAS**, THE Town of Esopus Planning Board has a vacancy to be filled, the Town of Esopus town Board recommends the appointment of Michael Manicone,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Esopus Town Board appoints Michael Manicone to this vacancy which will expire on December 31, 2018.

**Resolution offered by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and seconded by Councilperson Donna McAuley.**

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Supervisor John Coutant</b>       | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Gloria VanVliet</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Wayne Freer</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Donna McAuley</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Councilperson Kyle Barnett</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**2. NYSDOT – Route 9W: Lloyd/Esopus Town Line to Clay Road**

NYSDOT will pave Route 9W from the Town of Lloyd line to Clay Road. We have not been told how long this construction will take to pave. The roadwork is to begin June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Appointment – Ulster County Planning Board – Fred Zimmer**

Fred Zimmer was appointed in January of 2012 as an alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board to fill the vacancy of Charles Wesley for a term to coincide with the appointment of Roxanne Pecora January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013. We have been notified by the Ulster County Planning Department that a Resolution No. 14 from April 17, 2012 recognizes Fred Zimmer as an alternate member to the Ulster County Planning Board. Supervisor Coutant said Fred Zimmer has been a real asset to the Planning Board. He is an engineer. Thank you Fred for stepping forward and for volunteering.

**4. Rowboat Theft**

The Town of Esopus has had a Waterchestnut Program in place for the last three or four years. We received an award last year and a check in the amount of \$4,500 for second place in the Northeast Make A Difference the Waterfront Challenge contest. Our waterchestnut people bought a new rowboat and we will pay the voucher this evening, however, the boat has been stolen. If you see a rowboat or have any information, please contact us. During this same time period there was also a problem with someone breaking into the lighting house. Whoever is doing this they may be using another boat to get to the site? It is shocking. Last fall we lost an anchor weighing 450 lbs. stored at the beach for use on our Waterchestnut Harvester.

## 5. Transfer Station Scale

The Ulster County Board of Weights and Measures Inspector checked our scale at the Transfer Station and it failed inspection. Our scale was constructed in 1980 and has never had a major overhaul. We had thirty days to repair the scale. It has been fixed by Valley Scale and we are up and running and it took two and one half days to do it. Thank you Highway Supt. Mike Cafaldo for allowing us to use your excavator. The scale is totally accurate. The Transfer Station was only closed for two days.

## 6. Certificate of Appreciation – Rachel Rabinowich - Lighthouse Park Sculpture

Councilperson Freer said last year we were approached by artist Rachel Rabinowich and she is known for her art work along the Hudson River. She does water rock art and it can be seen in low or medium tide. Two or three weeks ago she began her art work on River Road. There are three art exhibits she has done – one in Esopus, one in Poughkeepsie and one in Peekskill. On June 23 at 6 PM there will be a dedication at Lighthouse Park where we will present her with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town for all of her hard work. We will attach this video to our website. We will be on the front page of her new brochure. Thank you for choosing us.

With the placing of the art work in the river she opened up an area for a boat to be placed there in case of emergency. All of the stone came from the area. Ours is the first town on this side of the river to have this art work.

## 7. CSX Closing

CSX is closing the railroad tracks for repair crossing Salem Street to New Salem for the week of June 25 thru June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Supervisor has notified the Port Ewen Fire Dept., St. Remy Fire Dept. and Town of Esopus Ambulance Squad about the closing so coverage can be provided. The Supervisor will be in contact with Peter Donan from CSX if there are any problems.

## 8. Flags

Several of our flags that were put up for Memorial Day and remain up until after July 4<sup>th</sup> have become worn and tattered. The flags will be replaced as quickly as possible.

## 9. Budget Adjustments and Vouchers

**Be it Resolved**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster, State of New York

**Whereas**, the Town of Esopus has been presented with the following budget adjustments and these adjustments have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

**Therefore, Be it Resolved**, the following budget adjustments are approved for payment:

A O 0599.000 – Fund Balance

Water Chestnut Removal AO 7143.400 \$225.01

Resolution offered by Supervisor John Coutant  
Resolution seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor John Coutant       | Aye |
| Councilperson Gloria VanVliet | Aye |
| Councilperson Wayne Freer     | Aye |
| Councilperson Kyle Barnett    | Aye |
| Councilperson Donna McAuley   | Aye |

Resolution duly adopted.

**Vouchers**

**Be it Resolved**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York,

**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**, the following vouchers have been approved for payment:

|                 |               |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| General Fund    | 121263-121328 | \$38,291.86  |
| Highway Fund    | 122103-122129 | \$20,146.86  |
| Street Lighting | 126006        | \$ 5,707.10  |
| Port Ewen Sewer | 123094-123114 | \$12,071.86  |
| Port Ewen Water | 124140-124177 | \$24,965.11  |
| Total.....      |               | \$101,182.79 |

Resolution offered by Councilperson Donna McAuley  
Resolution seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Supervisor John Coutant       | Aye |
| Councilperson Gloria VanVliet | Aye |
| Councilperson Wayne Freer     | Aye |
| Councilperson Donna McAuley   | Aye |
| Councilperson Kyle Barnett    | Aye |

Resolution duly adopted.

## **10. Approval of Minutes**

**A Motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Board since the last meeting was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

## **11. Communications and Reports of Officials and Boards**

The following communications for June and reports of Boards and Officials are on file in the Town Clerk's Office:

Town Clerk's Report for May 2012  
Supervisor's Report dated June 2012  
Environmental Board Minutes dated May 16, 2012  
Waterfront Advisory Minutes dated May 8, 2012  
Port Ewen Water Minutes dated May 8, 2012  
Building Department Report dated May 2012  
Assessor's Report dated May 9, 2012

**A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer and seconded by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet at 8 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Diane L. McCord  
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**