

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 19, 2014**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, JUNE 19, 2014 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 Van Vliet
Councilperson Kyle Barnett
Councilperson Diane McCord
Councilperson Wayne Freer**

Carl Belfiglio, County Legislator

Administrative Recorder - Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Kouhout of 202 Tilden St. Port Ewen, addressed the Board to express his concern with the property at 198 Tilden Street. The property was occupied by James Donnelly. The lot is completely overgrown. He feels the house is in disrepair and is on the path to be condemned. Mr. Kouhout furnished the Board with a letter from a another concerned neighbor, Christopher Fortune of 200 Tilden Street, who also is affected by the overgrown vegetation that is spilling over onto his property. Mr. Fortune states in his letter that there are rats that have come from Mr. Donnelly's property into his yard and has had to call the Board of Health. Mr. Kouhout said his research shows the owner is three years behind on his taxes. Pictures of 198 Tilden Street were provided. Councilperson Kyle Barnett will address the complaint with the building inspector. Mr. Kouhout asked how the lender of the property went from Rondout Savings for \$78,000 to Ulster County Dept of Social Services for \$300,001. A copy of this complaint was provided to County Legislator, Carl Belfiglio so he can address Mr. Kouhout's question.

Historic District – Col. Hazard Payne Estate

Supervisor Coutant made the public aware we have been notified by the State of New York that the owner of Esopus Farms has petitioned the state to deem the entire area that Colonel Payne had once owned as a historical district. All property owners who are in the boundaries of this district should have to be notified in writing as to what has been petitioned of the state. Supervisor Coutant and Planning Board member Fred Zimmer identified all of the owners and determined there were three owners that had not been properly notified. Fred Zimmer was in attendance at this meeting and said there are usually restrictions with this type of designation.

Supervisor Coutant thanked Fred Zimmer for all of his research in this matter. They contacted the state to let them know there were several people who had not been properly notified and because of this the decision has been postponed until September. Everyone in this proposed district needs to fully understand how this designation can affect their property. Any improvements that may want to be made would have to be made to comply with the historical guidelines. It may also affect their ability to sell their property if it has these restrictions attached. Fifty – one percent of the surrounding property owners need to agree to the designation in order for it to be approved.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA)

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is looking for the Town to sign a 10- year Solid Waste Management Agreement. The letter that was received by Supervisor Coutant from Timothy Rose, Executive Director of the Resource Recovery Agency, petitions the town to enter into the 10 year agreement. It outlines many problems that Resource Recovery is having and describes how they would like to fix things and make it better. This will lead to a tremendous increase in what the Town pays for the various phases of solid waste transportation. Flow control has been in place and all trash has to go through UCRRA. Supervisor Coutant and Curt Dankelman, Town of Esopus Recycling Coordinator, estimate the town would pay an additional \$23,000 in taxpayers' money to comply with this.

Carl Belfiglio, County Legislator Dist 8, was the chairman of the oversight committee for the RRA. Legislator Belfiglio gave a brief history. In 1991 the solid waste management plan was to site a landfill in the county, institute a local law called Flow Control, which would require all of the garbage produced in the county be brought over the scales at the RRA and then be transferred to the county landfill. This is how they were going to pay for the RRA and Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). If all had gone according to plan we would not be in the current state we are in.

The RRA is autonomous and the legislators do not have any control over them. Supervisor Coutant said if all the towns shut down their transfer stations because of this, what would the RRA do. Legislator Belfiglio reviewed some options; the town could bond for their own trucks and bring the containers ourselves to the RRA. He also pointed out you need to submit a solid waste management plan and the county took 5 yrs to complete theirs. There is also the option to consolidate with another town.

Legislator Belfiglio's purpose in attending this meeting was to explain the history of the RRA and why they are in the condition they are in. He further explained the RRA is a public benefit corporation yet the taxpayer has no representation on that board. The board consists of five members and a chair. The decisions that are made are solely for the agency's purposes to keep their expenses and revenues in line. Legislator Belfiglio does not feel their decisions have been made in the taxpayers' best interest.

Last year there were two resolutions on the floor of the Ulster County Legislature to change the Public Authority Law. Currently there cannot be any elected officials on the board. If there were it would give the taxpayer representation. Legislator Belfiglio wanted to change this law so it would have 2 elected officials on the board. He feels if you are elected, you are elected to do the peoples work. Unfortunately it did not pass; he would like to present that option again.

We do not have to have a transfer station, we could consolidate. Rosendale and New Paltz have their own transfer stations and those options will need to be explored. August 15th is the deadline to make a decision of which direction the town will be taking.

Recreation Trucks and Trailer Update

The recreation department’s trailer with 2 mowers had been rear-ended a few weeks ago. Supervisor Coutant gave a brief update on the status. The truck has been repaired, mower has been delivered and the new trailer will be on the road within the next few days.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE
TOWN ASSESSOR TO ATTEND IAAO ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 13TH – 18TH IN ITHACA, NY**

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus Assessor is required to attend mandatory certification coursework,

WHEREAS, the courses are being offered in Ithaca, NY from July 13th – 18th at a total cost of \$1,358.07

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Jo Anna Mignone, Sole Assessor, to attend this session.

Resolution offered by: Supervisor John Coutant
Resolution seconded by: Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet

The Board was polled:

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	AYE

All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Resignations – Environmental Board, Waterfront Advisory Board

Supervisor Coutant announced we have received two resignations. Karen Grieco is resigning as a member of the Environmental Board as well as from secretary of both the Environmental Board and Waterfront Advisory Board. John Miller has resigned from the Environmental Board. Supervisor Coutant thanked them for their service. The town appreciates the time and effort put forth by our volunteers. If anyone is interested in serving on the board please contact us.

Sons of the American Revolution – Terpening Family Cemetery

For those who were not aware, Supervisor Coutant informed the public of the Terpening cemetery located off of River Road. There are some American Revolution war veterans that are at rest in the cemetery. The Sons of the American Revolution are holding a ceremony Saturday, September 13th at 11am. The Supervisor and Board members have been invited to attend. Members of the Terpening family are traveling in for the event. Supervisor Coutant invited the public to join in honoring those individuals on that day.

Bids for the demolition of Properties

A bid opening was held at 11am on June 17th by the Town Clerk. The lowest bid for the demolition of the property located at 113 East Main St was \$21,000 from Washington Estate Transit from Rosendale. The lowest bid for the property located at 193 Union Center Road was Michael Litts & Sons from Ulster Park at \$8,250. These contracts will be awarded to the lowest bidders upon Town Board approval. The Board wants to make sure the specifications for the removal of the property have been adhered to and the Building Inspector will be asked to make sure that has happened.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

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 budget adjustments and the adjustments have been examined and approved by the Town Board.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the following budget adjustments be approved for payment:

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR JUNE 2014

AO 0599.000	Fund Balance	AO 1620.403	BLDG OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 366.51
AO 0599.000	Fund Balance	AO 1680.400	CTOTEL Data Processing	\$ 1,273.86
			Harris computer increased their support after the budget was processed for this year	
AO 0599.000	Fund Balance	AO 4020.400	Vital Stats	\$26.53
			Shipping charges	
AO 0599.000	Fund Balance	AO PARKS EQUIPMENT		\$1,616.19
			Budget amount \$27,500, SPENT \$37,431.08	
			Break down of expenses – Truck \$27,287.59	
			Mower	\$ 6,624.99
			Trailer	\$ 2,500.00
			Hitch	\$ 118.50
			Repair hitch for truck	\$ 900.00

We received an Insurance Check for the amount of \$8,314.89 therefore the total budget adjustment is only \$1,616.19

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS WAS OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON Diane McCord AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON Kyle Barnett ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	AYE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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	141236 - 141300	\$ 86,443.69
---------------------	------------------------	---------------------

Highway Fund	142120 - 142144	\$ 79,889.79
Street Lights	146006	\$ 5,482.06
Port Ewen Sewer Fund	143080 - 143094	\$13,980.44
Port Ewen Water Fund	144134 - 144166	\$ 22,146.92
Total.....		\$ 207,942.90

A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WAS OFFERED BY COUNCILPERSON Wayne Freer AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON Gloria Van Vliet. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	AYE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of previous meetings was made by Councilperson Diane McCord and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Communication & Reports are available in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Miscellaneous

Councilperson Wayne Freer announced the Town of Lloyd was looking for assistance in finding a K-9 named Falcone. It has been seen in the Town of Esopus. A description of the dog was given and a picture was provided.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett thanked the volunteers that have come forward to fill the vacancies of the various boards. It is not easy to take time out of a busy schedule and make a commitment to attend the meetings; it does not go unnoticed. All volunteers are greatly appreciated by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made to adjourn the Town Board Meeting by Wayne Freer at 8:38 PM and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectively Submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**