

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday June 17, 2020**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on June 17, 2020 in the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke
Councilperson Jared Geuss
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Chris Farrell**

Matt Rogers, Laberge Group, via zoom

Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC

THIS MEETING WAS TELEVISED LIVE ON CHANNEL 23 PUBLIC ACCESS and LIVE-STREAMED ON "TOWN OF ESOPUS" FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: call (845) 328-0483 to leave a voicemail or email outreach@esopus.com for assistance.

SUPERVISOR HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO OPEN THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING AT 7:00 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

Central Hudson - Ross Park/Sleightsburgh Park

Upon an audit of Central Hudson it was determined this pole was mis-billed to the Town of Esopus and therefore Central Hudson will be refunding overpayment to the Town plus interest.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO REMOVE THE STREET LIGHT POLE # 42237 AS INDICATED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Central Hudson will be replacing a gas line at Sleightsburgh Park and will require the park to be shut down for approximately a week in September, no specific date has been set. They will restore and tie in the new line, widen the driveway that parallels their caged area 4 ft and install a new fence.

WATER TANK - RIGHT OF WAY APPRAISAL

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF HUDSON VALLEY APPRAISAL AND APPROVE THE AGREEMENT TO COMPLETE THE REPORT TO DETERMINE THE COMPENSATION FOR A PERMANENT ACCESS EASEMENT OVER THE NECESSARY PARCELS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,400. THE MOTION WAS SOCONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

TRANSFER STATION- MULCH/COMPOST AREA

Lenny Liberta joined the meeting by phone to discuss the plans to open up the area where the brush is stored. He proposed renting a large dozer to push brush back to the property line. This will allow enough space for 6-8 years of collection. He said if this was not done he felt they would have to cut back on their ability to take leaves and brush. Councilperson Quick offered the use of a dozer free of charge but Lenny felt it was too small for the job and wasn't fair because of the age of the machine, he would feel bad if something goes wrong. The Highway will share the area to compost their leaves and produce his top soil in the area. The plan is to open up the area and make better use of the space. Mike Cafaldo will operate the machine to do the clearing. The machine will run 8 hours a day. Fill can be brought in to level the ground out and make it drivable.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY EVELYN CLARK TO RENT A DOZER FOR THE TRANSFER STATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,354 FROM PARTNER RENTALS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

TOWN OF ESOPUS RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE 4/3/2018 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR
TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, by Resolution at a Town Board Workshop on April 3, 2018, the Esopus Town Board authorized Town Supervisor Shannon Harris to execute an Inter-Municipal Agreement regarding the participation by the Town of Esopus in the Hudson River Drinking Water Inter-Municipal Council, (Hudson 7) in substantially the form annexed,

AND WHEREAS, the resolution should have stated that Town Supervisor be designated as the "Primary Representative" and Port Ewen Water/Sewer District Superintendent as the "Alternate Representative" to the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council for the Town of Esopus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Esopus Town Board does hereby acknowledge the change to designate Supervisor Shannon Harris as the "Primary Representative" and Superintendent Don

Kiernan as the “Alternate Representative” for the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council for the Town of Esopus.

Offered by: Supervisor Shannon Harris
Seconded by: Councilperson Jared Geuss

Councilperson Evelyn Clarke	AYE
Councilperson Jared Geuss	AYE
Councilperson Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilperson Chris Farrell	AYE
Supervisor Shannon Harris	AYE

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Farrell asked why Don wasn’t the representative. Supervisor Harris said the Council consisted of all Supervisors and it has one water treatment technical expert from Poughkeepsie. Supervisor Harris explained, due to the nature of representing the whole Town’s interest beyond just water treatment operations and due to the advocacy and other legal nature of the mission of the Hudson 7, it is the Supervisors who are the representatives on the Council. This group was organized by the Supervisors with the assistance of Riverkeeper. She said Don has accompanied her at meetings and felt comfortable having him as the Alternate Representative. Supervisor Harris offered to have any council members attend in her place if they desire. It is a good experience meeting with the other neighboring municipalities.

WORK SHARE PROGRAM

Since the last update we have 10 administrative employees enrolled in the program. This will maintain reduced hours for employees and save money by shifting the payroll to the State of New York for administrative, non unionized, non essential personnel. Staff hours are reduced 60% and the Town is projected to save \$21,014 in payroll through July 31st. All employees will be made whole and then some for enrolling in the program. Supervisor Harris said it was a win- win for Town and employees; it is also possible to extend beyond that time. Right now plans are to re-open to the public after July 31st. This will enable the necessary safety precautions to be installed.

Town Clerk Holly Netter talked about reopening plans for the parks. Phase 3, June 23rd, will allow gatherings up to 25 people. Town Clerk Netter and Supervisor Harris talked to the County to get some advice from them. Dan Vedder has said he can have the parks ready for rental as of July 4th. Freer Park will have 16 tables under the pavilion with 6 ft distance from all sides; Ross Park can have 10 tables. Extra tables could be spread through the park. Signs will be placed on tables reminding people not to move them and adhere to social distancing guidelines. The kitchen, tables and bathroom will be wiped and sanitized between parties. Our policy will continue to have 1 rental per day. Tables will be the

responsibility of the renter since the area is open. There is no guarantee that someone may sit at the tables between the time they are cleaned and the start of a party. Most renters cover the tables before use and supplies will be provided to them. It will be the responsibility of the renter to ensure the social distancing protocols are being followed. Guidelines from the CDC will be given as part of the Addendum that will need to be signed by the renter agreeing to enforce the guidelines. It was later determined that Ross Park does not have power at this time and will not be rented for the remainder of the season unless the power is restored.

Elections will be using the building next week. Councilperson Farrell asked what precautions are being taken by the Board of Elections. Supervisor Harris and Clerk Netter had a conference call earlier with the Board of Elections and they were told a box of supplies would be given to the workers consisting of masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, etc. They did not have specific plans as to monitoring the total headcount of the facility. Clerk Netter contacted the poll chairs and lead inspectors to explain stanchions would be placed in the halls to prevent access to the Town Hall and allow access to the restrooms. Councilperson Farrell said we should be specific and ask them to mark the area for 6 ft social distance requirements both interior and on the exterior of the building.

Although the building has been closed to the public and now that the Board of Election has used the facility, Town Clerk Netter asked if the Board wanted to move forward allowing the indoor Community Center rentals to resume providing the number of guests fall within the Governors orders. Supervisor Harris said she would be comfortable allowing the parties to resume in accordance with the orders. Other Board members did not comment. Town Clerk Netter asked the Board to think about how they would like to proceed by the next workshop meeting July 7th.

Plexiglass proposals were received from 5 businesses; Kingston Glass, Rondout Glass, Spinneweber's Supply, Sickler's Glass and Usheko. The lowest quote for the necessary plexiglass to keep employees safe was \$4,248.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON EVELYN CLARK TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO PLACE THE ORDER FOR PLEXIGLASS FROM USHECO IN ROSENDALE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,248. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Usheko is expecting their shipment on June 29th. Pieces will arrive precut and Dan Vedder and Ed Clark will work on the installation.

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Supervisor Harris said Ulster County Legislature wants Ulster County to contract with Airbnb. The County is already contracted with Airbnb and has more leverage without a public statement on the record forcing them to accept Airbnb's terms. They are trying to negotiate better terms for the local municipalities than what Airbnb has initially offered. Supervisor Harris said she is not supporting the bill because it takes away the possibility to get local leverage to enforce registration of Airbnb's in our municipalities which is what we need to do in order to have oversight in individual communities. The

Mayors and Supervisors are opposed to the bill. It will be up for vote tonight at the Legislative meeting. Councilperson Chris Farrell asked where our local representatives stand. Supervisor Harris said Legislator Laura Petite opposes it not sure where our other representatives stands.

Sales Tax

The City of Kingston and County of Ulster are in an agreement to extend the current 5 year agreement which leaves the Town with 3% of the sales tax money. This is what the Town has had for the past 5 years. It provides us with a level of certainty in terms of what to expect from our sales tax revenue. In addition Supervisor Harris said they are working on a negotiation to include a high water mark. Supervisor Harris said if by some chance there is a surplus and we recover economically, the surplus will trigger the Mayor and the County Executive to revisit the allocation and possibly increase the Town portion of the sales tax. Given the current situation economically things could be worse next year, so this will lock the Towns in at 3% which is what was always received. The new agreement will have the new language for the surplus water mark to allow for a possible increase should there be a large surplus in the next 5 years. This agreement has not been finalized and the Mayor and County Executive are keeping the Supervisors apprised.

CAVALCADES

The County has announced there will be no centralized firework display or live stream. They are encouraging Towns to have their own drive through cavalcade. Port Ewen Fire Department will move forward, not sure if other Fire districts will join or hold their own. Everyone will stay on their lawn and watch as they proceed through Town.

The purpose of the Simultaneous Cavalcades across Ulster County:

To recognize and thank the front line workers

To allow the County residents a venue to celebrate and be part of something even if it's from their own front yard.

To celebrate Independence weekend with the current limited constraints.

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROJECT- MATT ROGERS

Matt Rogers from Laberge Group joined the meeting via zoom. Matt is preparing the kick off with the Waterfront Advisory Board. Mercedes Ross and Margaret Phalen are co-chairs. The Town had previously received a \$75,000 grant for the LWRP and will include a \$9,000 cash match in-kind service. Matt reviewed the scope of work that will be completed. The plan is to have an online presence to get public comments since Large gatherings are prohibited at this time. They will expand the LWRP further west to include the Wallkill River. All included areas are eligible for grants in the future. The draft plan will be a 12-13 month process. Matt reviewed the process and gave an update of the scope of work.

Councilperson Jared Geuss thanked Matt, Margaret and Mercedes for their assistance in the project.

Authorization was previously given to sign.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JUNE 2020

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	201232-201279	\$79,515.75
	201249 void	
HIGHWAY FUND	203102-203125	\$12,982.24
STREET LIGHTS	206004	\$ 5,660.41
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	203066-203074	\$ 30,550.84
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	204104 – 204121	\$ 9,910.50
TOTAL		\$ 138,619.74

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.

OFFERED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell

Councilperson Evelyn Clarke **AYE**
Councilperson Jared Geuss **AYE**
Councilperson Kathie Quick **AYE**
Councilperson Chris Farrell **AYE**
Supervisor Shannon Harris **AYE**

ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK AT 8:17 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE ENTERED THE WORK SHARE PROGRAM. THE MOTION WAS

SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:40PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:41 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

*Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk*