

**TB 7/23/19**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING  
July 23, 2019**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 in the Town Hall, 284 Broadway, Ulster Park, NY with the following persons in attendance:

Supervisor Shannon Harris  
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet  
Councilperson Jared Geuss  
Councilperson Kathie Quick  
Councilperson Chris Farrell

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

Supervisor Shannon Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Don Avalon, Ulster Park resident**, discussed the Habitat Restoration/Feasibility Study. He asked if property owners on both sides of the creek were notified. He encouraged the Board to request a 60 day extension to the comment period for the study. There are many people who are unaware of the situation and currently there is only a few days left for the public to express their comments. He was not for or against the project but was certain more time was needed to have questions answered.

**Bob, Black Creek Apartments resident**, urged the Town Board to consider the effects the Damskammer Plant will have on the Town's air quality and pollution levels. He encourages taking a cleaner route for renewable energy.

**Mike Pagnotta, Minturn Street resident**, discussed issues with the new rules at Sleightsburgh spit. Mike asked who was paying for the additional hours to open and close the gate and whether overtime was being paid. Supervisor Harris said Dan Vedder had altered his hours to 6 am – 2 pm. He comes in early to open the gate and leave a half hour early to return in the evening; no overtime is being paid. He commented on how much traffic is waiting to get into the spit at 6 am. He said he and the other sportsman were disappointed that the Board gave way to 4-5 people who were having issues down in the area. The sportsmen have been using the facility for years with no issues. He said in the past if they saw something they took down the license plate number and called the police. He asked why the residents never were asked to do this. He said closing the gate is not a solution.

**Doug Mains, River Rd resident** has been fishing and hunting the property for over 45 years. He said he never saw anyone dealing drugs. He said taking the keys away from the sportsmen was unfair. Duck hunters need to get in at 4:30 am – 5 am. He said there were a lot more people ticked off that couldn't make it. He said he was told one of the problems dealt with garbage in the park. He said he sees piles of

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garbage at Lighthouse Park every weekend and has also seen people camping there. He asked if all the parks were going to be closed because they all have trash.

**Ben Kohler, Saugerties,** confirmed duck hunters would need access at 4:30am. He said Saugerties tried to lock the gates as well but their Police department opened and closed the gates. They issue keys to allow access outside of park hours. The problem is there is no public access in this area for the Hudson River.

**Andrew Vanderpool, Kingston resident,** said key holders never had issues and should be given access. Penalizing this group of people was not right and they were not the source of the problems that are occurring at the location. He asked if this would be the hours be for summer or year long? Supervisor Harris said she wants to have a dialog with the sportsman to find out when the hunting season is. Duck is Oct – Dec and Striper season would also need to have early access. Supervisor Harris said she would like to propose an offline discussion with this constituency here to determine season and establish exceptions to the hours.

**Rich Letus, River Road resident,** not a key holder said April & May most of the good fishing is at night. He often goes down to fish from 7-8 pm and goes back home at 4am.

A special meeting with the group needs to be scheduled and a conversation needs to occur to discuss how this can work to benefit all.

#### **STATUS OF HUDSON RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION EDDYVILLE DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**Fran Dunwell, DEC** explained this came about with working with the Army Corp of Engineers. Over the years the Army Corp of Engineers had projects that have caused damage and they are trying to restore the habitat. They have identified 6 sites where there could be improvement and they are trying to seek the level of public interest. The DEC is not advocating to remove the dam but to conduct studies to see if there is a benefit to restore the habitat. The study is needed before they can answer the many questions that have been put forward. Removing dams in streams can restore habitats. She gave examples of Troy, Westchester and Newburgh. The removal can also restore natural river flow and improve water quality by restoring natural temperatures, oxygen levels and can increase climate resiliency. It can remove a severe flooding hazard to downstream communities. Older dams can be safety hazards and can create a significant public safety hazard and liability for dam owners. Determining feasibility includes identifying property owners interested in conceptual restoration plans. No action will be taken without explicit support from the property owner. After the study is complete, they would hold Public Sessions to share the information. Fran said, if property owners were against it, the study would not be conducted.

She was clear that this was only a study and was not a project that was ready to move ahead. There needs to be an agreement from property owners to enter onto the property to perform a study to see if it would be beneficial to the habitat and to see what impact it would have on properties north and south of the falls. The Eddyville Dam is about half a mile wide and stands 3.6 miles from the Hudson River. It is owned by Ethan Rapp as part of two parcels in the towns of Ulster and Esopus.

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Supervisor Harris read a letter she had drafted to Project Manager, NYS district Corps of Engineers, Lisa Baron, requesting a 60 day extension of the Eddyville Dam Feasibility Study Public Review Period.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO SEND THE LETTER TO MS BARON, NY ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS TO REQUEST A 60 DAY EXTENTION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. THE LETTER IS TO BE COPIED TO THE TOWN OF ULSTER, CITY OF KINGSTON, TOWN OF ROSENDALE AND THE DEC. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**HBO FILMING UPDATE**

HBO has announced they are filming "I know this much is true" using a pickup truck on a "biscuit rig" driving on the old suspension bridge and between West Union St. & Wurts St. in Kingston from 8pm – 2 am on July 24th into Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. Also on Rt. 9W/John T. Loughran Bridge between Flatbush Ave & Canal St. on Thursday, July 25th into Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. The scenes will be shot at night with intermittent traffic control at police discretion.

**SCENIC HUDSON**

Scenic Hudson has donated \$1,500 to the Town of Esopus for the Water Chestnut harvesting initiative.

**RESPONSE FROM NYS DOT REGARDING SPEED LIMIT REQUEST IN PORT EWEN**

Supervisor Harris said she gave the response given to her by the Ulster County DPW and the certified resolution for the traffic study to the Ulster County Planning Board. The subject will be raised at the next Ulster County Transportation Committee meeting to formally address DOT in why they are telling the Town to use taxpayers' money to study why we are requesting the change. The NYSDOT has a procedure for addressing speed limit requests on non State roads. They require the following information: the amount and type of development along the roadway, various roadway features and physical condition of the roadway; one or more speed studies; and a report and recommendation signed by a licensed professional engineer. Supervisor Harris said this is very onerous and has requested assistance from the head of planning to broker a conversation with DOT to hopefully get an understanding with them to declare what the speed limit is on our Town roads.

**POLICE PATROL**

UC Sheriff and NYS Troopers have increased patrolling throughout the Town of Esopus to enforce speed limits and help alleviate resident concerns.

**ULSTER COUNTY TOURISM KIOSK**

The Ulster County tourism kiosk location has been approved and marked out at the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union on Broadway. The Town is awaiting reply from an email to District Manager of Dollar General for a kiosk at second location.

**CENTRAL HUDSON GAS LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT - TOM PALMER**

Tom Palmer, Superintendent Gas Transportation & Distribution Capital Construction, provided an overview on the project to replace gas lines along Broadway and answered questions about the process. Work will commence next week and take approximately 3 months. All owners who will be affected have been notified. The project includes the span between Clay Road and Doris Street, sections of Hudson View Terrace, River Road and Cabin Lane. J Mullen will make appointments with homeowners. Any sidewalks, grass, paving etc. that needs to be removed will be replaced. Harry Van Vliet was concerned with the amount of time a business owner/resident would be inconvenienced for the replacement. Tom said the replacement lines to the individual homes are expected to take no longer than a day. If the road is open steel plates will be installed so property owners are able to access the property. Harry said he has been trying to have his old rusty meter replaced. They assured him it would be done.

As part of the comprehensive plan, people expressed the desire to have the utilities buried along the main corridor. Supervisor Harris looked into this to see if we could do it at this time. However due to the expense, legal agreements, easements, limited timeline of the project and the trenches being too narrow, it is impossible at this time.

**DANSKAMMER POWER PLANT – ANDREW PEZZULLO**

Andrew Pezzullo, Food & Water Watch, encouraged the Board to be concerned of the impact the Danskammer Power Plant could have on our community. The impact of air quality and proximity to our water shed were discussed. A Sign-on letter document to Governor Cuomo against the Danskammer Power Plant from New York Elected Officials was shared with the Board. Andrew asked them to consider electronically signing the letter opposing the plant. He also provided memorializing resolutions from other towns opposing the project. The Town Board said they would research the project and follow up. Councilperson Chris Farrell said he would like to see a Resolution on the next Board agenda.

**TRANSFER STATION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE TRANSFER STATION WITH THE INCREASE OF BULK HOUSEHOLD WEIGHT \$.15 PER POUND AND INCREASING THE COST OF ELECTRONICS ITEMS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK.**

<b>Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Jared Geuss</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Kathie Quick</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilperson Chris Farrell</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Supervisor Shannon Harris</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE 4 AYE -1 NO**

**\*\*Councilpersons Van Vliet and Farrell expressed their concern of garbage being thrown on the sides of the roads.**

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**TOWN OF ESOPUS TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER**  
**FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE DATE JULY 23, 2019**

<b>RESIDENTIAL PERMIT</b>	\$40
SENIOR & VETERAN PERMIT (over 60, proof required)	\$20
LOST PERMIT OR SECOND PERMIT (MUST BE SAME HOUSEHOLD AND SHOW REGISTRATION FOR SECOND VEHICLE)	\$5
1 DAY PASS	\$10

**BULK HOUSEHOLD WASTE** \$ .15 PER POUND  
\$12 Minimum

**TRASH BAGS**

COUPON BOOKLET 10 BAGS (1 30 GALLON BAG OR CAN)	\$45
45 Gallon Bag	\$7
30 Gallon Bag	\$5
10 - 13 Gallon Bag	\$3

**PROPANE**

PROPANE (SM CAMPING SIZE)	\$1
PROPANE (20 lb tank)	\$5
PROPANE (30 lb tank)	\$10

**APPLIANCES**

Appliance with coolant – Small/ Large	\$10/\$20
Stoves, washers, dryers	\$10

**FLUORESCENT BULBS** \$4                      **BALLAST** \$12

**YARD WASTES** – BRUSH LESS THAN 4 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND CUT INTO 4 -6 FOOT LENGTHS,

GRASS LEAVES AND DEAD PLANTS	
BRUSH (PICK-UP TRUCK LOAD)	\$10
BRUSH (DUMP TRUCK)	\$20
GRASS AND LEAVES (PICK-UP TRUCK LOAD)	\$5
GRASS AND LEAVES (DUMP TRUCK)	\$10
Leaves in Brown Bags or single garbage can	No Charge

**TIRES**

Under 20"/Over 20" (24.5" MAXIMUM)	\$10/\$15
Large Tractor tires	Call for pricing

**MATTRESS/BOX SPRING**

SINGLE	\$10.00 PER PIECE
FULL/DOUBLE/QUEEN	\$15.00 PER PIECE

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KING

\$25.00 PER PIECE

**COUCHES/SOFAS**

COUCHES & CHAIRS  
SLEEPER SOFA

Bulk waste Rate \$ .15/ lb.  
\$30

**ELECTRONICS**

CRT TV'S & COMPUTER SCREENS (UNDER 19")  
CRT TV'S & COMPUTER SCREENS (19" - 24")  
CRT TV'S & COMPUTER SCREENS (25" and above)  
Computer Towers

\$15  
\$25  
\$35  
\$10

Recyclables accepted: paper products, Newspaper, magazines, books, office paper, cardboard and junk mail

Container Products- Container Glass, Food & Beverage Cans, Plastic Containers

**Automotive**

Car batteries  
Motor oil (recycled)

\$5  
\$0

**REMINDER ALL RECYCLING MUST BE OBSERVED** -Only waste generated in Esopus is permitted to be disposed of at the Transfer Station

**KAYAK STORAGE SPACE FREER PARK**

Supervisor Harris made a proposal to rent 8 spaces in the shed at Freer Park for residential kayak storage for Town residents. This would be done by lottery every year and keys would be issued by the Town Clerk's office. Paul Kellar has reviewed a Waiver of Liability. Depending on the timeframe that this program can start, the fee will be no less than \$10 per month with a \$25 key deposit. The Town will not be responsible for items stored in the shed.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO APPROVE THE RENTAL OF THE FREER PARK SHED FOR \$40 UNTIL OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, WITH A MINIMUM OF \$10 PER MONTH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT – GEORGE HEISENBUTTEL**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN A LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER GEORGE HEISENBUTTEL FOR THE WORK HE IS DOING TO ADVOCATE FOR THE OPIOID CRISIS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**INTERVIEW FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD – NOEL RUSS**

Noel Russ had reviewed his resume with the Board and answered their questions in a public interview.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO APPOINT NOEL RUSS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**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 JULY 2019**

AO. 0599.000 Fund Balance	To	AO.3310.400	\$ 1,098.68
		Traffic Signs	

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.**

**OFFERED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell**

**SECONDED BY: Councilperson Jared Geuss**

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	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.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JULY 2019**

**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	191339 -191421	\$ 84,338.53
HIGHWAY FUND	192153 - 192190	\$ 45,022.36
STREET LIGHTS	196085	\$ 5,386.68
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	193071 193093	\$133,599.83
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	194145 -194169	\$ 28,918.92
Capital	000026 - 000029	\$ 9,644.63
TOTAL		\$ 306,910.95

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS.**

**OFFERED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick**

**SECONDED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell**

**Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet      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.**

\*\*Payment of the voucher for the Sleightsburgh Spit Sign was approved but will be held until the spelling error is corrected.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE AT 9:08 PM BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE AT 9:45 PM BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**

Town Board acknowledged Judge Grieco's request for change in his retirement date to July 31, 2019.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 1, 2019 AT 10 AM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYEE MATTERS/APPOINTMENTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:46 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC