

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 18, 2024, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on July 18, 2024 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson
Councilman Evelyn Clarke - Absent
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Guess - Absent
Supervisor Danielle Freer**

Administrative Recorder: Erin McNierney, Deputy Town Clerk

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 – ireynolds@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 7:05 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Mead, Esopus Ave. Had three questions: Regarding the Iron Mountain settlement, do we owe them \$3M? Her question regarding Dyno Nobel was left off the 7/6/24 minutes, and was the email address supervisor@esopus.com deleted? Supervisor Freer reminded Joann that during the Public Hearing, the Board is not allowed to respond to questions. However, if there is something that needs to be followed up on, we will do so at a later time.

Steve Cirini 257 Mountainview Ave. – Is very confused about when the Town became a nefarious entity. Now that the Town is taking steps to combat the water/flooding issues in Town, there are complaints. These water/flooding issues are not new, they have been around for many years. Why so many complaints currently. He is confused as to why there is continuous pitting of residents against the Town representatives. This type of behavior is doing

the Town a great disservice. He finds the Supervisor and Town Board members transparent and very cooperative.

Stephanie Lettieri, 219 Clay Rd. – Agrees with Steve Cirini. The Supervisor and Town Representatives are always approachable. The Supervisor’s door is always open. Thank you for everything you do for this Town. She does have a few concerns, however. She has attended the Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings but cannot figure out what is going on at the meeting. What the planning process actually is. Her concerns go deeper than the Lighthouse Project. People want to see the Town grow but she has difficulty with the entire planning process. She is concerned about the Millbrook flood mitigation project. She was told that Clay Rd. would be paved very shortly. She is thankful but is concerned about her driveway being changed. In the past, when Clay Rd. was paved, it created a gulley that would cause her car to bottom out. She would like to know how the new paving will affect every driveway and the effect on stormwater drainage. She asked if the lines at the top of Clay Rd. will be re-done. Cars are not keeping to the right side of the ride. Stephanie would like to thank the Town Board for supporting the new veteran banners in Town and their hard work on behalf of the town.

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

PLANTASIA CREEK/MILLBROOK FLOOD MITIGATION CLEAN UP PROJECT UPDATE

The town’s Environmental Council sent a letter to the DEC on 6/24/24 asking very specific questions about what next steps are on their side because they’ve caused confusion amongst some members of the community. Supervisor Freer followed up that letter with additional questions as it relates to more work needed to be completed in that area. The town requested a meeting for this week but still have not heard back. DEC has responded to resident inquiries on this topic, which has been helpful. This week, some residents along the Millbrook have received letters from EHS Support, Dyno Nobel’s sampling agency, asking for access to their property as they go in to take samples. While the town is pleased to hear additional sampling is taking place, the continued lack of transparency remains an issue and Supervisor Freer will continue to reach out regarding next steps.

WURTS STREET BRIDGE COMPLETION/REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTARY LETTER OF SUPPORT

Supervisor Freer mentioned that the Wurts Street Bridge has opened and there was a beautiful ceremony on July 2nd hosted by DOT and attended by various elected officials. There was concern that the public was not invited to the ceremony. Supervisor Freer would like to figure out ways to possibly celebrate as a town and with our partners over in Kingston. The group working on the Wurts Street Bridge Documentary, Neville Bean, has provided a draft letter of support she has asked the Town to support which the Town Board agreed to send.

CHAMPLAIN HUDSON POWER EXPRESS (CHPE UPDATE) – COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

The Public Service Commission did approve the segment of CHPE that will go through the Hudson River. Hudson 7 and the Town of Esopus have been providing input to the EM&CP and have sent letters to the PSC outlining concerns around this project and the potential impact it will have on the Hudson River. Supervisor Freer will continue to make sure the town’s concerns are heard – she has had meetings with Senator Hinchey and Congressman Ryan’s offices who have been very receptive to learning what our concerns are. One of the bigger items of importance is the monitoring of drinking water pre, during and post installation. Supervisor Freer feels this is not a burden that should be put on the town and has requested for CHPE to pay for third party sampling along the way. Additionally, she is continuing to emphasize the importance of making sure an emergency plan is in place with all other municipalities and Counties should there be a need. There will be a CHPE Community Open House held on July 30th from 6-8pm at the Kingston Best Western. Residents can go and learn more about the project – Supervisor Freer highly encourages residents to attend the open house and to spread the word about the project.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TAX CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT RESOLUTION
Iron Mountain Information Management, LLC and Iron Mountain, Inc
SBL No. 63.2-2-10 (150 Ulster Avenue) and
SBL No. 63.2-3-3 (448 Broadway/Route 9W).**

WHEREAS, tax certiorari proceedings have been filed against the Town of Esopus by Iron Mountain Information Management, LLC and Iron Mountain, Inc., in regard to the assessments upon certain property located in the Town of Esopus and designated as SBL No. 63.2-2-10 (150 Ulster Avenue) and SBL No. 63.2-3-3 (448 Broadway/Route 9W).

WHEREAS, it is desired to settle the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 proceedings.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus authorizes Kyle W. Barnett, Esq., of the law firm of Van De Water & Van De Water, LLP, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 to negotiate a settlement whereby the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 assessment will be settled in accordance with the attached proposed Consent Judgment. The Parties agree that these Proceedings shall be consolidated for the purposes of

filing this Stipulation of Settlement under Index Number EF2023-1678. The settlement is as follows:

Grid No.	Current Assessment	Reduced Assessment	Reduction
63.2-2-10	\$3,850,000	\$2,350,000	\$1,500,000
63.2-3-3	\$8,330,000	\$6,500,000	\$1,830,000

and Kyle W. Barnett, Esq is authorized to sign such documents as are necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Dated: July 18, 2024
Esopus, New York

Offered by: Councilman Kathie Quick

Seconded by: Supervisor Danielle Freer

Councilman Laura Robinson	AYE
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	Absent
Councilman Kathie Quick	AYE
Councilman Jared Guess	Absent
Supervisor Danielle Freer	AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

PLANNING BOARD REQUEST REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A “RIDGELINE MAP”

The Planning Board sent a letter to the Town Board requesting they consider engaging professional services to develop a ridgeline map identifying actual ridgelines located in the Town of Esopus.

Supervisor Freer sent the letter to the Town Board and to Matt Rogers at LaBella to see if this is something he could help us with. His recommended approach would be: *Prepare a map identifying all ridgelines on private property using ArcGIS using USGS topography. The Town can then identify which ridgelines should be regulated under the zoning law. Applicable ridgelines should be chosen based on visibility from roads and other publicly accessible areas. This may require the preparation of viewshed maps. Once ridgelines are identified, we would revise the map to depict these ridgelines and prepare an*

amendment to the Zoning Law. This process can take a few months working directly with the Town Board and the Planning Board.

ULSTER COUNTY APPLICATION TO DEC MS4 MAPPING GRANT REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

This is the Municipal County Mapping Grant the County wants to do. The Town has done an enormous amount of work in the past surrounding stormwater management in Town and the Supervisor feels that with the County doing their thing at the County level, we can easily tie in what we have done in the past and perhaps update it. The Supervisor feels that it is a good thing to submit this letter. Councilman Quick and Councilman Robertson agreed. Dan Valentine from Tighe and Bond also believes the Town should strongly support Ulster County's application for the MS4 mapping grant.

MOTION

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ULSTER COUNTY TO APPLY FOR THE MS4 GRANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

RENTAL FEE WAIVERS

ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFF CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ulster County Sheriff's Department is looking to use Freer Park on September 28th with no fee for training purposes.

MOTIONS

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE THE RENTAL FEE FOR THE USE OF FREER PARK ON 9/28/24 FOR THE ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFFS' DEPARTMENT FOR TRAINING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

HV NATIONAL CENTER FOR VETERAN RE-INTEGRATION WALK RECEPTION

The walk begins at the Walkway Over the Hudson and will end at Town Hall. They have requested to use the Community Room on Sunday, September 21st with no fee.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE THE RENTAL FEE FOR THE USE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER ON 9/21/24 FOR THE HUDSON VALLEY NATIONAL CENTER FOR VETERANS RE-INTERGRATION WALK RECEPTION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

PAT RYANS' OFFICE – SOCIAL SECURITY PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Congressman Pat Ryan's Office will be hosting a Social Security Public Information Event on Friday, August 16th from 9:00-3:00 and requested to use the Community Center. Supervisor Freer will post on the website and promoted where we can.

MISCELLANEOUS / LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND

SUPERVISOR FREER:

HIGHWAY DEPT - Paving to begin with Hardenburgh Rd. As Supervisor Freer gets the information from the Highway Supervisor, she will update the Town website and social media to keep residents informed.

There has been some concern regarding the appearance along 9W in the village of Port Ewen regarding the overgrown trees and that they are not being taken care of. Supervisor Freer just wanted to let the community know that she hears them on this issue. When she first took office, the Board passed a law that would allow for the Town to put unpaid violations on residents' tax bills in hopes that residents would take care of their property specifically along 9W. Supervisor Freer has been working with the Buildings and Grounds Dept., the Highway Dept. and the Building Dept. to go through the beginning of Town and push through the business district to get the strips between the sidewalks and the road as best they can. Supervisor Freer does not want to set a precedent whereas the Town will be doing this moving forward. Hannah Palen in the Building Dept. will send letters to those residents that have violations ensuring that that is known. Hopefully we can all work together on this and see a noticeable difference next week.

Supervisor Freer shared a list that Mike Cafaldo, Superintendent of Highway shared, which indicates all projects the Highway Dept. has been working on for July/August. This will be helpful for the residents to understand the projects the Highway Dept is working on.

COUNCILMAN GEUSS

WATER/SEWER - A reminder that the Lead Service Line Inventory is ongoing and asked the residents to read the letter they received from Superintendent Butler and call the Water Dept. with any questions.

TRANSER STATION - The Town received a \$5,500.00 check from WestShore which is the solar co. putting the solar in at the Transfer Station. This check is to pay for work to be done to 2 boxes that were affected by a fence that Westshore put in. Dan Vedder and Lenny Liberta will be working on that.

There is a Household Hazardous Waste Event hosted by the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency at the New Paltz UCRRA Facility on August 24th from 8:00 am – 11:45 am at Clearwater Rd.

COUNCILMAN QUICK:

ZBA - The Zoning Board of Appeals met on Tuesday July 16, 2024. The definitions of Structure and Seasonal were reviewed. The meanings of continuous and contiguous were confused by several members of the public. The ZBA has several decisions to make regarding definitions of seasonal and structures. The planning board will have to decide how much of a variation of a pre-existing non-conforming lot is too much. The PB may request the ZBA for a variance. The request for the Town Board to explore the definition of ridgeline has been activated and there may be a planner/engineer who will be able to draw up a map of all possible ridgelines in the town.

WAB - The Waterfront Advisory Board did not meet because there are not any new actions or business to review. They are still waiting for NYS approval of the recently developed LWRP, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE - The Assessor has been attending a required course by the NYS Assessors Association of updates of rules and suggested procedures.

ESOPUS SENIORS - The Town of Esopus Seniors has met twice in July. There is a trip planned for August 13 to The Brownstone in Paterson, NJ to see a musical tribute to Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton. The trip is now full.

COUNCILMAN ROBINSON:

PARKS AND REC – First movie night had about 20 people. Next movie is on August 3 – Kong Fu Panda. We need more signage to advertise the movie night.

PARKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Cas Landi Park – started the tennis courts, paving to begin shortly, Getting the ground ready for the playground equipment to be put in. The Cas Landi Committee is looking for new committee members.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS JULY 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 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:

AO.0599.000 Fund Balance	to	A0.3310.400	181.75
		TOWN SIGNAGE	

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR FREER
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN ROBINSON

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

Resolution duly adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JULY 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	241254 -241277 241778-241804	67,387.63
	VOID – 241278-241777	
HIGHWAY FUND	242132 -242158	68,208.06
STREETLIGHTS	246004-246004	6,771.02
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	243098 - 243105	2,761.15
PORT EWEN WATER	244103 - 244116	21,022.74
Capital Water	245018 - 245020	51,122.50
ARPA	247014 -247014	290.00
ESCROW	248000-248000	1,527.76
		219,090.86

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR FREER
SECONDED BY: KATHIE QUICK

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

Resolution duly adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 7:41 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,
 Eoin McNierney
 Deputy Town Clerk*

