

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**August 20, 2019**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 20, 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 TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Ronnie Barry** - Requested the Board to consider placing 3 stop signs on the corner of Plantasia, Connelly and Millbrook Roads. Town Board members have observed and driven the intersection. They will discuss the matter with Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo to get his input and make a decision to place 1 or more new signs in the area.

**Scott Taylor**, Rondout Harbor Building 1– recognized the Highway Department built a berm to help divert some of the storm water in front of Rondout Harbor in front of buildings 2 & 3. Mr. Taylor said it still poses an issue by building 1, approximately a quarter mile down the road. He has video and offered to email it to the Supervisor for review. He asked for the Board to look into diverting the water further down Connelly Road. Supervisor Harris said they will confer with the engineers, perhaps making a deeper swale and a higher berm to keep the water channeling away from the building and down the road.

**Gary Rogers**, 4 sister’s Lane, said the water from the hill and ground that once caused puddles in their basement has now increased to 7,000 gallons being pumped out in a day when it rains. Supervisor Harris said she received emails from 7-8 residents in the community in their area.

**Carol Rogers** added they have done everything they can do by putting in pipes and sump pumps but there is no drainage down there. They pump 5,000 – 7,000 gallons of water out during the rain storm. When the swales on the highway can’t handle the rain it comes down the hill and causes issues.

Supervisor Harris said they are looking broadly at the stormwater all over town and the study that will be presented was from a survey of people who initially asked to take part in the study. The Board has been proactive to commission the study.

**Carrie Bono** – St. Remy/Rifton said she has owned her home on 213 for 10 years. Ms. Bono commented she has needed a sump pump over the past year – year and a half. She offered pictures of the problem. Neighbor bought a home and septic caved in and she has cracks in the foundation.

**Nancy Cericola**- asked for an update on the Post office. Supervisor Harris said the Post Office has entered into contract with April & Co. Both Parties have signed or are in agreement. The Post Office is developing designs for the building and a public meeting will be held when they have the plans. This is expected to take several months. Shannon follows up with the Post Office every couple of weeks.

## UPDATES

**Budget** -Annual open Town Board Budget Workshop meeting on September 5, 2019 at 9 AM.

**Transfer Station.** NEW SUNDAY HOURS from 1 to 3 PM at Esopus Transfer Station through the end of October. Esopus Transfer Station passed a surprise DEC inspection on 8/2/19. Compliments for the cleanliness and organization were received and no violations were found.

**Community Service Recognition** to Victoria Van Wagenen of Troop 60033 for improvements to James Reiker Sr. Park in Connelly as part of her Girl Scout Golden Project. Special thanks to local businesses for donations. Supervisor Harris encouraged everyone to stop by to see the improvements.

### Upcoming events:

- **Fri, Aug 23, 9 AM** – Repeat of Drinking Water & Storm Water Presentations plus Esopus employee GIS training seminar that interacts with UC parcel viewers to map utilities.
- **Wed, Aug 28** – Next meeting of the Esopus Riverfront Access Study starting with **ADC site visits at 1 PM** (Sleightsburg Spit) followed by the **regular meeting at 5 PM** (Town Hall). **At 7 PM** there will be a **Composting 101 hour-long introductory course** hosted by the Esopus Environmental Board. Those who complete the course will receive a free composting bin. Esopus residents only. Contact Mark Ellison at [mellison@hvc.rr.com](mailto:mellison@hvc.rr.com) or call (845) 399-5763 to pre-register.
- **Tue, Sep 3, 7 PM** – Town Board Workshop (not televised).
- **Tue, Sep 17, 7:30 PM** – Town Board Meeting (televised on Channel 23).
- **Thu, Sep 19, 7 PM** – Sexual Harassment Training option #1. Meets all NYS municipal requirements for annual training. Open to the public if anyone needs the training.
- **Fri, Sep 20, 9 AM** – Sexual Harassment Training option #2. Evening session for those who could not make the evening option. Open to the public if anyone needs the training.

- **Wed, Sep 25** – Kick off of Zoning Update at 4:30 PM. Esopus Riverfront Access Study 7 PM.
- **Sat, Sep 28, 8 AM** – Esopus Apple Festival and community town-wide yard sale until 4 PM. Call 339-1811 x 107 to have your name listed on the yard sale map.
- **Sat, Sep 28, 4 PM** – Family Fun Night at Ross Park after the Apple Festival.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### Stormwater Analysis

Highlights of Stormwater Analysis were presented by Dan Valentine and Ryan Morrison of Tighe & Bond Environmental, Coastal, Drinking Water and Wastewater Engineering firm. The slide show presentation is attached to the minutes as *addendum A*. A recording of the presentation can be found on the Town's Facebook page.

Councilperson Chris Farrell said some of the stormwater issues could have been from the lack of developers foresight years ago. Today storm management is regulated and projects must be approved through the Building Department and Planning Board on larger projects.

The improvements which are needed will come at a cost. The Town will need to seek grant opportunities and budget accordingly to make improvements in the future. Councilperson Farrell asked if there could be a cost savings if some of the work could be done in house. Do we have the skill level to do the job? Would it possibly make sense to add additional full time highway workers to focus on the project? Cost analysis would be needed to see if it would make sense for the manpower and equipment that would be needed.

How do you determine if it's a property owners issue vs a Town problem? Problems caused by ground water are not the Town's responsibilities. The Town has very little legal obligation unless there is a public threat on public roadways. The Town wanted to be proactive and requested the study to work with residents to look at flooding issues. Once the findings are complete residents that have private property matters may want to create drainage districts or develop community associations to share the expense of rectifying drainage issues in their area. The Town has already started to make improvements, such as acquiring the Vac Truck and Highway scheduling routine maintenance of the drains. As roads are repaired swales can be adjusted to help runoff. The GIS mapping and inventory has been completed. Permanent action will need to take place to improve the infrastructures and the budget will need to be increased to cover cost as the projects get started. The studies that have been completed raise the probability for the Town to

receive grants. We are a MS4 community and require new development to have no net increase on storm water.

**Art Cross , former Highway Superintendent** said as people improve their properties over the years and add fill in areas, they often inadvertently degrade their neighbors property. These are private matters and not the Town’s responsibilities and need to be handled in civil court.

Councilperson Geuss said the study started off with 20 properties and ended up encompassing 33 for the initial study. There is a growing list of issues many of which are private property matters.

**Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvement Plan**

**Update:** Water Storage Tank property has been acquired by eminent domain. The design process has started and it is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The RFP for the scope of work is scheduled to go out March of 2020 and work will commence spring of 2020.

Highlights of Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvement Plan were presented by Kyle Kortright and Dan Valentine. The slide show presentation is attached to the minutes as *addendum B*. A recording of the presentation can be found on the Town’s Facebook page.

**Port Ewen Water District Improvements - SEQRA. Resolution classifying the Action as Type II SEQRA and declaring the Town Board as lead agency.**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD**

**Town of Esopus**

**Ulster County, New York**

**August 20, 2019**

**Whereas**, the Town of Esopus intends to undertake a capital improvement on behalf of the Port Ewen Water District that involves the replacement of a 2.0 Million Gallon Water Storage Tank immediately adjacent to the existing Water Storage Tank; and

**Whereas**, the project requires that an Environmental Review be conducted pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Part 617 of NYCRR (SEQRA); and

**Whereas**, the project is an unlisted action pursuant to SEQRA, and

**Whereas**, the actions required by the Town Board includes project financing and contracting.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Town Board declares its desire to be Lead Agency and authorizes the Town Clerk to distribute a Lead Agency Coordination Form and Environmental Assessment Form to the other involved agencies.

**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. RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED.**

**Resolution of the Town Board**  
**Town of Esopus, Ulster County, NY**  
**August 20, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, 6 NYCRR Section 617.5 (Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations) under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) provides that certain actions identified in subdivision (c) of that section are not subject to environmental review under the Environmental Conservation Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus has reviewed an engineering report for proposed improvements to the Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System for the Port Ewen Water District, consisting of water treatment plant improvements and installation of new water mains to replace existing distribution lines;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Esopus hereby determines that the Water Treatment Plant and Distribution Improvement Project is a Type II action in accordance with 6 NYCRR Section 617.5(c) (1), (2) and (5) which constitutes:

- (1) maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility;
- (2) replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 of this Part;

(5) street openings and right-of-way openings for the purpose of repair or maintenance of existing utility facilities;

and is therefore not subject to review under 6 NYCRR Part 617.

**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. RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED.**

**RESOLUTION AND ORDER CALLING PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. REGARDING A WATER TREATMENT  
AND DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE PORT EWEN  
WATER DISTRICT, IN THE TOWN OF ESOPUS IN THE COUNTY OF  
ULSTER, STATE OF NEW YORK, PURSUANT TO SECTION 202-b OF THE  
TOWN LAW**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Esopus (herein called "Town Board" and "Town"), respectively, in the County of Ulster, New York, on behalf of the Port Ewen Water District, in the Town (herein called "District"), requested T&B Engineering, P.C., engineers duly licensed by the State of New York (herein called "Engineer") to prepare an engineer's report for the improvement of facilities of the District, consisting of water treatment plant improvements and installation of new water mains to replace existing distribution lines, described as Alternative 2 in the "Drinking Water Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan" for Port Ewen Water District prepared by the Engineer dated August 2019. Pursuant to the direction of the Town Board, the Engineer has completed and filed with the Town Board such engineer's report for the increase and improvement of facilities of the District; and the Engineer has estimated the total cost thereof not to exceed \$4,274,000;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. A Public Hearing of the Town Board of the Town shall be held at the Town Hall in the Town on September 3, 2019 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. (Prevailing Time) to consider said improvement of facilities of the Port Ewen Water District and to hear all persons interested in the subject thereof concerning the same and for such other action on the part of the Town Board with relation thereto as may be required by law;

2. The Town Clerk shall publish at least once in the Daily Freeman, being a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town and hereby designated as the official newspaper of the Town for such publication, and post on the signboard of the Town maintained pursuant to subdivision 6 of Section 30 of the Town Law, a notice in substantially the form attached hereto, the first publication thereof and posting to be not less than ten (10) days or more than twenty (20) days before the date of such public hearing.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**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. RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED

**PEAK POWER – GENERATOR**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO SIGN THE BI-ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH PEAK POWER FOR 1 SERVICE FOLLOWED BY 1 INSPECTION WITH START UP AND CALIBRATION (ONE YEAR CONTRACT WITH 2 VISITS PER YEAR) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,395.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

**NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AUGUST 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,

**WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>191422 - 191482</b>	<b>\$ 71,112.97</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>192191 - 192220</b>	<b>\$ 137,660.32</b>

<b>STREET LIGHTS</b>	<b>196086</b>	<b>\$ 5,321.13</b>
<b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b>	<b>193094 -193103</b>	<b>\$ 3,485.10</b>
<b>PORT EWEN WATER FUND</b>	<b>194170 - 194193</b>	<b>\$ 19,620.88</b>
<b>Capital</b>		<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 237,200.40</b>

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

**OFFERED BY: Councilperson Chris Farrell**

**SECONDED BY: Councilperson Kathie Quick**

**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.**

**MISCELANEOUS**

Father Grohe had made a request to have a light placed on the corner of 9W and Peter’s Lane due to poor visibility

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF THE LIGHT ON 9W & PETERS LANE WITH CENTRAL HUDSON; \$12.77. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:32 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC