

**Town Board Workshop Meeting  
September 8, 2022**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop meeting was held in person at the Esopus Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY on Thursday September 8, 2022, at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Danielle Freer  
Councilman Kathie Quick  
Councilman Jared Geuss - absent  
Councilman Evelyn Clarke  
Councilman Laura Robinson**

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC**

**4 ways to give public comment:**

In person at meeting

Phone – 845 331 0676

Email – [lreynolds@esopus.com](mailto:lreynolds@esopus.com) with subject line “Public Comment” and meeting date

Mail – Town of Esopus PO BOX 700 Port Ewen, NY 12466

**SUPERVISOR FREER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:20 PM FOLLOWING THE BUDGET WORKSHOP.**

**PLEDGE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Lidia Gershey 79 Riverview** requested a moratorium on the removal of the willow trees at Freer Park until they have an opportunity to make a presentation to the Environmental Board. She renewed her concerns about the removal of the willow trees at Freer Park as she discussed in depth at the August 18<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. “You don’t know what you have until it is gone”.

Lidia said while she was listening to the tail end of the budget meeting, she had an idea. She thought the Water Treatment plant should consider having stationary solar barges or solar farms around the facility to support the environment and the budget. She wanted a promise that nothing will happen to the trees this year.

Supervisor Freer said you will not get that from us. Supervisor Freer has been working with the Building and Parks team and next week she will be meeting them at Freer Park along with Mark Weinberger. Mark works for the Highway Department and owns his own tree service. Some trees have severe damage. In the fall they will cut damaged limbs or cut the trees down. They are still determining it.

Supervisor Freer said you mentioned the beautiful stump- it is not beautiful it is rotten; something has been eating at it. It is going to topple over. They are in really bad shape.

Supervisor Freer said again she was going to meet with Dan Vedder, Ed Clark and Mark Weinberger to view the trees at Freer. Lidia asked to be present at that meeting. Supervisor Freer agreed for her to join them and said she hears what Lidia is saying. Supervisor Freer thinks the trees are beautiful too and hates to see them go but safety is their number one concern. We will meet and have a conversation there but prepare to shift the conversation to see what the next steps are in order to replace them if they do need to come down.

**Ronnie Hazzard Riverview** - said this was not acceptable to her; “we need a moratorium and more people need to make a decision about this”.

Supervisor Freer said, again her number one priority is safety.

Ms. Hazzard continued to say she was afraid to come home and see them all gone. Supervisor Freer said she was afraid to find someone dead under a limb as Town Supervisor. Supervisor Freer said, “Let’s go down there together and assess the situation”. The team is open to pruning the trees if that is a safe option.

**Patty Kowatch Bowne St.** – Knows there is a Planning Board Public Hearing on the Port Ewen Fire Department project on September 19<sup>th</sup>. She said she was hoping Jared would be here. I just want to make sure that the road opening is not part of the approval process. She is looking to get more involved again if she needs to she will get loud and raise awareness about reopening the street. She said she is trying to be proactive and not sit back waiting until it’s too late.

Supervisor Freer said she still had questions about it too. She has been told the request for an egress on Bowne Street from the Planning Board had nothing to do with the Fire House project. There is information that needs to be gathered.

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION AT 7:30 PM TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING UNION NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEGAL COUNCIL VIA PHONE IF NEEDED. BOOKKEEPER DEBRA KAIN WAS INVITED INTO THE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION AT 7:45 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**

Supervisor Freer said this tentative agreement is the product of the give and take required by collective bargaining. I believe that the terms are just and reasonable for both parties and achieves the need of the Town to balance adequately paying Town employees and mitigating employment

benefit costs in areas such as health care. I fully support this tentative agreement and encourage the Board to adopt its terms.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A SUCCESSOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ESOPUS AND UNITED PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus (the “Town”) and United Public Service Employees Union (the “UPSEU) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement that expired on December 31, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the Town and UPSEU have engaged in collective bargaining concerning terms and conditions of employment for Town employees represented by the UPSEU.

**WHEREAS** the Town and UPSEU have reached a tentative agreement for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.

**WHEREAS** the Town and UPSEU signed the memorandum of agreement dated August 23, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, about September 1, 2022, the membership of UPSEU ratified the terms of the tentative agreement.

**WHEREAS**, for the tentative memorandum of agreement to become binding on the parties, it must also be ratified by the Town Board.

**WHEREAS**, the Town now seeks to fulfill its obligation to bring the tentative memorandum agreement to a ratification vote before the Board.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has duly deliberated regarding the terms of the tentative memorandum of agreement dated August 23, 2022, between the Town and UPSEU and wishes to bring the matter to a vote

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby Approves the tentative agreement by a majority vote of the Board. If the agreement is approved, the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to implement the now-ratified memorandum agreement and to enter into a successor collective bargaining agreement incorporating the terms of the memorandum of agreement.

**Offered by: Supervisor Danielle Freer**

**Seconded by: Councilman Evelyn Clarke**

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmen voting as follows:

<b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**CENTRAL HUDSON**

Work on 9W is scheduled to begin on 9/14. The starting point is 9W and Lampman Avenue. Supervisor Freer said she did not see anything listed for this project online but will keep an eye out and follow up.

**Hudson 7**

The purpose of this Resolution is to allow for the H7 to hire for a coordinator position which will be funded by all involved municipalities. Supervisor Freer agrees with the need for this position but questioned why Ulster County opted to be a member of the organization but declined the right to vote. Dutchess County has opted into membership and the right to vote. Supervisor Freer asked this question of the H7 and was directed to discuss directly with the County legal team. A call to Clint Johnson was not returned by the time of the meeting. Supervisor Freer said she would follow-up and Councilman Evelyn Clarke offered to help get in touch with someone at the County level.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REVISED HUDSON RIVER  
DRINKING WATER INTERMUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**Whereas**, the Hudson River Estuary is the primary drinking water supply for over 100,000 people in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, Village and Town of Rhinebeck, Town of Hyde Park, Town of Lloyd and Town of Esopus; and,

**Whereas**, maintaining and enhancing water quality in the Hudson River and its tributaries is essential to the public health, economic well-being, environmental resources and quality of life for these communities; and,

**Whereas**, source water protection is a series of measures, defined and encouraged through federal and state programs, including the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996 and New York's Drinking Water Source Protection Program, designed to take a watershed approach to protecting public drinking water supplies from contamination; and,

**Whereas**, a review of source water protection-related programs by the Center for Watershed Protection and Riverkeeper in 2018 recommended a number of actions, including the formation of an intermunicipal drinking water council and securing of funding for the council to hire support staff; and,

**Whereas**, a memorandum of agreement was entered into on the 31st day of May 2018 by and between the seven municipalities to form the Hudson River Drinking Water intermunicipal Council (the Hudson 7); and,

**Whereas** The Town of Esopus has a voting member on the Council; and,

**Whereas**, Riverkeeper has provided an interim coordinator on a part-time basis for the Hudson 7 for the past five years with an end date of approximately January 1, 2023; and,

**Whereas**, a subcommittee formed by the Hudson 7 to define a coordinator position in 2020; and,

**Whereas**, through its first five years, the Hudson 7 has addressed significant source water issues, and has been recognized by all levels of government and the business community as a respected stakeholder in issues affecting the quality of the Hudson River; and

**Whereas**, ongoing work by the Hudson 7 includes developing a first-ever source water protection plan via New York State's Drinking Water Source Protection Program, negotiating protections for drinking water intakes during permitted construction and remediation activities, liaising with the U.S. Coast Guard and other agencies on industrial spill prevention and response, and other activities; and,

**Whereas**, none of these activities are possible by any municipality or drinking water utility alone, and have only been possible through the collective effort of members of the Hudson 7 and its partners; and,

**Whereas**, a key to ongoing progress on these and other issues requires dedicated support staff for the council; and,

**Whereas**, Dutchess County (DC) and Ulster County (UC) have each committed \$25,000 annually for three years to support the hiring of a full-time coordinator for the Hudson 7; and,

**Whereas**, DC's funding is contingent on all Hudson 7 members contributing to support the cost of a coordinator position. DC wants to be a voting member, as a party contributing monies; and,

**Whereas**, DC has also committed up to \$19,999 for legal services to support the hiring of a coordinator; and,

**Whereas**, The Town of Esopus' commitment to hiring a coordinator is (\$2,500.00) per year for an initial three years, along with the commitments of the counties and other Hudson 7 municipalities; and,

**Therefore**, The Town of Esopus approves the revised Intermunicipal Agreement as presented; and,

**Whereas**, there will be three phases in hiring a coordinator for the Hudson 7; and,

**Whereas**, Phase one will include revising the IMA to add DC (voting member) and UC (non-voting member); add language allowing DC to appropriate money to H7 for the legal consultant; add language that spells out the future contributions by each County and municipalities, for purposes of hiring of a project coordinator. This revised IMA would go before each H7 Municipality first for a vote, and then the Counties will vote.

**TBWS 9-8-22**

**Whereas**, Phase two will include DC to contribute \$19,999 for the H7 to hire a legal consultant who will further advise;

**Whereas**, Phase three includes once a legal consultant has revised and opined, and new by-laws are drafted, monies can be transferred to the H7; the project coordinator search can begin.

**Be It Resolved**, The Town Board authorized Supervisor Freer to sign the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council Memorandum of Agreement Amendment #1

**Offered by:** Supervisor Danielle Freer

**Seconded by:** Councilman Laura Robinson

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmen voting as follows:

<b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

#### **LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND**

Economic Development Committee is meeting in person 9/27/2022 at 5:30 pm. They will be reviewing the vision for the future and to see who wants to be involved.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CLARKE AT 8:06 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

*Respectively Submitted,  
Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC*