

**Town Board Meeting  
October 21, 2021**

A regularly scheduled Town Board meeting was held at the Esopus Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY. The meeting was also available via zoom, live streamed on Facebook and televised on local access channel 23 on Thursday October 21, 2021, at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Jared Geuss  
Councilman Kathie Quick  
Councilman Chris Farrell  
Councilman Evelyn Clarke  
Councilman Laura Robinson**

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

Supervisor called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Beth Green 8 Fawn Meadows Ct Ulster Park** – New trees planted at the Storage Units on 9W across from TEVAS impedes motorist’s view and makes turning left difficult. She said as the trees grow the vantage point will diminish. She would like to see them removed for safety purposes.

Councilman Chris Farrell, liaison for the Planning Board said during the application approval process the Planning Board requested vegetation. Supervisor Geuss said the Building Inspector Mark Jaffee had been down at the site earlier in the week. It was undetermined whether all the trees had been planted at that point in time. This will be investigated; possibly reach out to see if the vegetation could be converted to shrubs vs trees to improve the sightline.

Councilman Farrell pointed out weeds and pipes are still at the site which need to be cleaned up as well. It is still an active construction site and drainage pipes had not been set yet.

Supervisor Geuss said when the complaint was received, the Building Inspector went to the site and deemed it in compliance with site plan. Mark Jaffee will be asked to go inspect the site. A suggestion was made to possibly install a mirror across the street as a safety feature.

**Diane Hull, First St Connelly** - She said she was frustrated because she had started the process back in April and feels it shouldn’t have taken so long to install the stop signs that were suggested. She would like to know when they are going to be done. She was under the

impression that Mike Cafaldo had the signs, and they were going to be installed after the last meeting. If speed bumps cannot be placed on the roads what is going to stop the motorists.

**SUPERVISOR GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**TOWN HALL ROOF**

Supervisor Geuss said contracts were found and reviewed. It appears that the breach of contract for workmanship and design had long expired for the Town Hall. The guarantee was for 3-4 years. It is now thirteen years since the construction and there is little that can be done. The Board can move forward getting estimates for the repairs. In order for any company to give a warranty, the job would have to be a complete rip & replace. A partial repair of the roof cannot be warranted. Three quotes were received but are now outdated and would need to be recalculated ensuring it is bid at prevailing wage. The question was asked what type of guarantee would be given for shingles and workmanship. Supervisor Geuss will follow up to get answers to the questions. Once the information is received the Board can decide whether to proceed on a partial or whole rip and replace based on the quotes and guarantee.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO GET THE NECESSARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED AND OBTAIN UPDATED QUOTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**RESOLUTION – OPPOSING PLACEMENT OF COUNTY-WIDE LANDFILL IN ESOPUS**

The County is searching for landfill locations throughout Ulster County. Supervisor Geuss said we have some space but does not think we want a landfill in our Town. Councilman Quick said she doesn't think the residents would want it. Many residents would have to worry about their wells. Several years ago, the County proposed this, and she recalled not being impressed with the benefits being proposed to the Town at that time. Councilman Chris Farrell said he did not think the benefits would outweigh the quality of life: the landfill would not improve the quality of life. Supervisor Geuss said the Comprehensive Plan update prohibits landfills, but the County can do what they want if they choose to. This resolution was put together by the Supervisor's Association. The intent of the resolution is to join with other municipalities opposing the landfill, show strength in numbers as well as solidarity with other towns who also do not want it located in their municipality.

**RESOLUTION  
OPPOSING THE CREATION OF A COUNTY-WIDE LANDFILL IN THE TOWN OF  
ESOPUS**

**WHEREAS**, it has been reported in the *Daily Freeman* (Oct. 5, 2021) that the head of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (hereinafter the “Agency”) board expects a list of potential county-wide landfill sites to be ready before the end of the year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency allegedly wants to keep the list of potential county-wide landfill sites “under wraps to avoid public controversy;” and

**WHEREAS**, it appears that the Agency is creating such a list of potential county-wide landfill sites at the direction of the Environmental Committee of the Ulster County Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a county-wide landfill inside the borders of the Town of Esopus will harm economic development in the Town of Esopus, have a negative impact on quality of life of Town residents, and runs counter to the Town’s duly adopted Comprehensive Plan dated July 9, 20019; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus hereby establishes as a policy of the Town of Esopus that a county-wide landfill site should not be located anywhere in the Town of Esopus; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, the Ulster County Executive, and the Chairwoman of the Ulster County Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board of Directors.

**Motioned by: Councilman Farrell**

**Seconded by: Councilman Kathie Quick**

<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 CHRIS FARRELL</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS</b>	<b>AYE</b>

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

**REDUCING THE SPEED LIMITS IN THE HAMLETS OF CONNELLY AND SLEIGHTSBURGH.**

In 2019 the Town requested a reduction of speed on several roads in the town. The DOT required a traffic study, several types of speed studies and a licensed professional engineer was also needed. Now that the town owns the speed trailer, the question came up whether the data retrieved from the signs could be used in conjunction with a broader resolution to reduce speed in dense residential areas town wide. Councilman Farrell wondered if a local law was

made would it still require a traffic study. The town's attorney will be consulted. Councilman Clarke asked where would we start with the sign? Connelly and Sleightsburgh.

### **HALLOWEEN CURFEW**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS TO SET THE HALLOWEEN CURFEW AT 7:00 PM IN THE TOWN OF ESOPUS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **TAI-CHI FOR ARTHRITIS – OFFICE OF THE AGING**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE ESOPUS COMMUNITY ROOM ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM FOR TAI-CHI CLASSES FOR 6 WEEKS BEGINNING ON JAN 11, 2022. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

### **NO PARKING SIGNS – MINTURN ST.**

The Building Inspector has been contacted by residents on the north end of Minturn St about the parking in the turnaround area. The road is narrow with no room for parked cars. No parking signs are recommended to be placed in the area so it does not impede emergency vehicles. Mike Cafaldo will be asked to install the signs in the area.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Election Day – Tuesday, 11/2 Polling locations for Esopus residents are in the Esopus Town Hall, the Esopus Fire Department, and the Rifton Fire Department. To confirm your polling location, please visit: [www.bit.ly/UCPolls2021](http://www.bit.ly/UCPolls2021).

### **NOISE ORDINANCE UPDATE**

The Noise Ordinance is currently under further development by Laberge Group in conjunction with the Building Department and Town Board. A meeting was held with Kyle Barnett, Matt Rogers the Building Inspector and Councilman Farrell. Councilman Farrell gave an overview of the meeting. They reviewed the documents and kept the restrictions as 9 pm – 7 am for ATV usage and increased the distance from 1000 – 2000 ft. They also would allow for situations where an ATV could be used for legitimate reason such as hunting, etc. Snowmobiles will also be added to the ATV definition. The County Sheriffs: department does not have noise meters. Building department will research the cost of the noise meters. It was suggested the town buy 2 meters and donate one to the Sheriff's Department. Nighttime decibel levels will remain at 45 db. Exemptions for air conditioners and related household appliances will be added. Primary noise complaints have been related to construction, jackhammering and noisy neighbors.

Existing business should be excluded. Future business can get an exclusion. Revisions to the law will need to be made and the law will need to be re-introduced.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GUESS AT 7:50 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE HISTORY OF AN EMPLOYEE IN THE SUPERVISOR’S OFFICE, CONSIDER A CANDIDATE FOR THE OPEN POSITION IN THE TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE, AND DISCUSS A MATTER OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION REGARDING THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS AT 8:30 PM THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR JARED GUESS TO APPOINT MARIE LANE AS DEPUTY TOWN CLERK AT THE RATE OF \$16.00 PER HOUR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN QUICK TO PROCEED LOOKING INTO NORMAN STAFFING FOR A CONFIDENTIAL ASST TO THE SUPERVISOR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS 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 OCTOBER 2021**

<b>AO 0599.000 Fund Balance</b>	<b>AO 1355.400</b>	<b>\$1,434.28</b>
	<b>Assessor Contractual</b>	

AO 1355.401 \$2,400.00

Dan Baker

AO 5182.401 \$16,618.00

ESOPUSOL

DA 0599.000 Fund Balance

DA 5112.400 \$92,538.80  
Chips

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

OFFERED BY: COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL  
SECONDED BY: SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS

COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON AYE  
COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE AYE  
COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK AYE  
COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL AYE  
SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS AYE

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS OCOTBER 2021**

**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	211492 - 211559	\$85,734.88
HIGHWAY FUND	212173 - 212199	\$216,864.51

STREET LIGHTS		\$0
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	213103 – 213114	\$72,693.52
PORT EWEN WATER FUND	214202 - 214229	\$21,312.34
Water Capital		
Rec Escrow		
TOTAL		\$396,605.25

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

**OFFERED BY: COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE**

COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON	AYE
COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE	AYE
COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK	AYE
COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL	AYE
SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS	AYE

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:30 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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