

**TOWN OF ESOPUS  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 19, 2023  
7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on September 21, 2023, in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting was also available on TV 23, and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

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

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

**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](mailto: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 7:12 pm, following the 2024 Budget Workshop meeting #2.**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Chris Marta** 28 Parsell St. said he set up a trail cam and recorded the entrance of the Sleightsburgh Spit for 60 days starting on August 9. He said he captured 11 “violations” or improper actions and would share the information with the Town Board members. He said he has photos, license plates, etc. He would like to close a chapter on this situation.

**Councilman Jared Guess** said that may be illegal Chris said the camera was placed on a tree on the Van Vliet’s property.

**Stephen Cerini 257 Mountainview Ave.** Made an appeal to the entire Town community for fencing posts (4x4 or 4x6) in Reicher Park, for a community project with the Environmental Board. If you have leftover supplies and are willing to donate them to the cause it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Stephen Cerini or Lori Reynolds in the Supervisor's office.

Supervisor Freer said plants that had been recently planted by the Environmental Board at Reiker Park were vandalized and the situation is being investigated by the Sheriff's Department. If anyone has information regarding that situation, please reach out to the Sheriff's Department.

Stephen also sits on our Tree Task Force and said they are actively recruiting individuals to join the group which currently meets at 11 am on Fridays. The committee is working on reference guides to help make recommendations for planting.

**MOTION WAS MADE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **BUDGET UPDATE AND APPOINTMENTS**

Supervisor Freer reminded everyone that on October 5 the Public Hearing was held for the 2024 Budget and was passed. The budget was within the allowable 2 % cap. There were a few necessary motions resulting from the 2024 Budget that will go into effect in January.

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT HANNAH PALEN AS FULLTIME MUNICIPAL ZONING OFFICER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT ROGELIO HERNANDEZ GARZON (ROCKY) AS FULL TIME LABORER FOR PARKS/BUILDING AND GROUNDS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **RESOLUTION**

#### **AUTHORIZING GRANT AGREEMENT AND LOCAL MATCH FOR THE NEW YORK STATE DEC/EFC WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus owns and maintains a wastewater collection system providing wastewater service to businesses and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus requires an assessment of the existing wastewater collection system infrastructure in order to prioritize and plan for needed improvements and repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (“NYSEFC”) has provided an engineering planning grant for funding for this type of engineering study; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to accept said grant, the Town of Esopus needs to provide NYSEFC a resolution for an authorized representative and appropriation of a local match;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Town of Esopus Town Board authorizes Supervisor Danielle Freer to execute a Grant Agreement with the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and to execute any and all other contracts, documents, and instruments and to take such action as is necessary to complete the project to fulfill the obligations of the Town of Esopus under said Grant Agreement.

2. The Town of Esopus authorizes and appropriates a minimum of 20% local match as required by the Engineering Planning Grant Program for the CFA Project No. 120103 – Wastewater Evaluation Project. Under the EPG program, this local match must be at least 20% of the EPG eligible project costs of \$62,300. The EPG grant award of \$49,840 provides the remaining project cost. The source of the local match, and any amount in excess of the required match shall be ARPA SLFRF funding. The maximum local match shall not exceed \$12,460 based upon a total estimated maximum project cost of \$62,300. Supervisor Danielle Freer may increase this local match through the use of in-kind services without further approval from the Town of Esopus Town Board.

**MOTION BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK**

The Board was polled.

<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>AYE</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**REVIEW OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BQ ENERGY / WEST SHORE SOLAR PROJECT**

BQ Energy is ready to break ground on the next phase of the solar project. They have been before the Planning Board. They are hoping to start construction soon and anticipate completion in April of 2024. Councilman Guess gave a brief history about the solar projects that have been placed at the capped landfill. He said this is land we are unable to use anyway so this is a great opportunity to use it for a solar farm. Work that was done in the initial phase at the site made it an attractive project since there were necessary items already in place.

**COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR FREER TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BQ ENERGY / WEST SHORE SOLAR PROJECT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MISCELLANEOUS/ LIGHTENING LIAISON ROUND**

**Town Clerk Holly Netter:**

Reminder **Winter Kayak Storage** will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>, some space is still available; cost \$90 for 6 months Nov 1 – Apr 30.

**Water bills** are due November 2, 2023, no payments will be accepted after 4 pm on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Outstanding bills will be re-levied to the 2024 taxes.

**HALLOWEEN CURFEW**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO SET THE HALLOWEEN CURFEW AT 7:00 PM IN THE TOWN OF ESOPUS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Annual Training** -Sexual Harassment and Workplace Violence training is underway at Town Hall. The entire staff is mandated to take the courses on an annual basis. The first class was given Tuesday 10/17 and the other will be held Monday 10/23.

**10.29 TRUNK OR TREAT AT TOWN HALL FROM 1-4PM HOSTED BY PARKS & REC**

**Congressman PAT RYAN'S C.A.R.E.S. Van at Esopus Town Hall 10/19**

Congressman PAY RYAN'S CARE VAN C.A.R.E.S. WAS AT TOWN HALL TODAY. Tim Weiderman was here representing and fielding resident's questions and concerns. He met with Supervisor Freer and listened to her concerns about CHPE and connecting the EDC to the County.

TB 10/19/2023

Constituent Advocacy Resources Empowerment Services (C.A.R.E.S.) Van will visit all 82 municipalities in New York's 18th Congressional District, bringing vital federal services directly to the people.

**Councilman Kathie Quick** -Office of the aging will be offering a Chronic Disease self - management program for dealing with chronic illness for seniors and caregivers. The program will be offered on Mondays, 11/13 – 12/18 from 10 am – 12:30 pm in the Esopus Community Hall.

**Councilman Evelyn Clarke** – Environmental committee is still working on the EV Charging stations, one will be in the rear of Town Hall they would also like another location to be considered at Ross Park.

Due to Thanksgiving, the next Repair Café at the Ascension Church in West Park on December 2

Emergency Preparedness cards with a QR code are available at town hall with helpful hints. Supervisor Freer gave thanks to the Environmental Board and Cornell Cooperative Extension for getting the information linked out on the web to assist residents.

The Economic Development Committee members are making progress working with the web developer on a listing of commercial properties for sale in town. Information will be updated monthly to show available properties.

11/26 will be Sojourner Truth Day, resolution of proclamation will be drafted and read in November.

**Councilman Jared Guess** said they have finally received feedback from the Planning Board about having a joint meeting to work through their concerns. They will be talking to Matt Rogers to schedule a meeting to work through items to get things accomplished.

One item that should be helpful is a flow chart that has been drafted to help business and homeowners through the process and what to expect.

**Transfer Station-** two additional carports are complete over compactors. Supervisor Freer said Lenny will be putting together a proposal for one final bin for the glass and moving the bin location; then things should be good for a while. The scale needs some work, but Dan Vedder is looking into that. Compactors are up and running and the weight pulled was considerably more than the usual pulls. Councilperson Guess said he estimated the savings to be about \$400.

### **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS OCTOBER 2023**

**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 AO.1110.400 \$88.50  
Justice Contractual

AO.1620.437 \$2,658.00  
Dutchess Tekcon

OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER  
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS

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

Resolution duly adopted.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS OCTOBER 2023**

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	231425-231479	\$60,325.25
HIGHWAY FUND	232212-232239	\$138,826.25
STREETLIGHTS	236003	\$6,834.12
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	233152-233157	\$102,994.85
PORT EWEN WATER	234172-234192	\$24,861.82
Capital Water	235019	\$76,570.01

<b>ARPA</b>	<b>237010</b>	<b>\$10,670.00</b>
<b>Visa</b>		
		<b>\$421,082.30</b>

**OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS**

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

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**UPCOMING KEY DATES – MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:**

- 10.29 TRUNK OR TREAT AT TOWN HALL FROM 1-4 PM HOSTED BY PARKS & REC**
- 11.2 NEXT TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP**
- 11.7 TOWN HALL CLOSED: ELECTON DAY**
- 11.10 TOWN HALL CLOSED: VETERANS’ DAY OBSERVED**
- 11.16 NEXT TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 7:45 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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