

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Monday, February 4, 2013 at the Town Hall 284 Broadway in Port Ewen, New York with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant  
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet  
Councilperson Wayne Freer  
Councilperson Donna McAuley  
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

**Administrative Recorder: Diane L. McCord, Town Clerk**

Supervisor Coutant called the meeting together at 7:30 PM.

**Public Comment:** None

**1. Marion Zimmer – Re: Esopus Explorers Walking Program**

Marion Zimmer along with Diane Dintruff would like to establish a walking path with a grant through Scenic Hudson. They are looking at Dutchess County where they have a walk about trail where you get a patch for doing the walk.

She has presented an RFP: Improving Access to the Hudson River Estuary and its Tributaries for Environmental Justice Neighborhoods and proposed the Esopus Explorers would encourage access to the Hudson River Estuary and its Tributaries for the Environmental Justice Neighborhood in the Town of Esopus. Marion is applying for a grant. She would try to connect the John Burroughs' trails along with Sleightsburgh Park Trail and the trails at the George Freer Memorial Park. This would be pulling everyone together and it would be called the Esopus Explorers with a patch for completion of walking these trails. She explained we already have people coming into town, we could have brochures telling them where they can walk and this would promote business.

Last week a grant opportunity came out and we have put it together showing a map of Esopus, Shaupeneak Ridge, Black Creek and we have outlined the grant and today we found a tourism grant. We only have five or six weeks to put these together. Joan Burroughs from Slabsides would like to participate. We have contacted Scenic Hudson, however, they want approval from the Town Board. We will ask them to fund it for two seasons. We need to sit down with Scenic Hudson. This would be a family program. Brochures with the application could be distributed at the kiosks. They could be taken to the Walk-Across the Hudson Bridge. We will ask the businessmen to distribute them along with Klyne Esopus. There are many ways we could deal with the brochures and applications. We will need to purchase the brochures and the patches and money will be needed for little signs telling about the patches.

Supervisor Coutant asked what we would need to do to get this grant? Marion Zimmer said a letter from the Town Board showing your support would be the first step. Scenic Hudson would like to meet with us. If we do not get a grant and Scenic Hudson does not want to fund this, we may be able to use some of the Water Harvester money? Diane and Marion would write the grant. They would like to set up the meeting with Scenic Hudson, Supervisor Coutant and Councilperson Donna McAuley. The Supervisor will write a letter of support to place with the grant. Other letters of support would be requested from the Ulster County Legislators, Klyne Esopus, Esopus Businessmen's Association and from Joan Burroughs.

Diane Dintruff said the environmental education would include reaching out to those areas and groups to help students go to college meetings on Environmental Justice. The educational component would be phasing in the Hudson River. Doing these educational programs is a goal but first we to apply for the grant.

## **2. Executive Session: Court Bailiff Interviews**

**A Motion to enter into Executive Session to interview candidates for court bailiff positions was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer at 7:45 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**A Motion to adjourn from Executive Session was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer at 8:04 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

### **3a. Executive Session: Personnel Issue**

**A Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue in the Highway Dept. was made by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and seconded by Supervisor John Coutant at 8:04 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**A Motion to adjourn from Executive Session was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer at 8:21 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

### **3b. Executive Session: Personnel Issue**

**A Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue in the Maintenance Dept. was made by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and seconded by Councilperson Donna McAuley at 8:22 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**A Motion to adjourn from Executive Session was made by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett at 8:32 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

#### **4. Congressman Gibson – 1.1 Million for Bonding Payment**

Supervisor Coutant and Councilperson VanVliet met with Congressman Chris Gibson at the grand opening of his new office on Broadway in Kingston, New York. They explained the difficulty in having FEMA pay the money that was promised for the repair of the Port Ewen Water Treatment Plant during hurricane Irene in 2007. The town had to appropriate the funds and pay for the repair first and they were promised FEMA would then pay us back. The good news is the Congressman said we should expect the balance of the payment to be received later this week. We will keep the Congressman posted when we receive the money.

The question remaining is we were suppose to receive a return of three percent amount to help with the financing of the loan and now this amount may be down to two percent said the Supervisor.

#### **5. Transfer Station A. Roof**

The Transfer Station now has the stickers for 2013. The Supervisor explained two years ago Curt Dankelmann bought the materials to build a shed for computers, etc. Half the plywood roof was put on but no shingles were applied and the roof is damaged. Shingles were not purchased. Dan Vedder looked at the roof and he does not believe shingles could be applied to the damaged plywood. A metal roof could be purchased and applied for \$900. This would be a capital expense. The Town Board agreed to place a metal roof on the structure.

#### **B. Freeze-Up**

Due to the pipes being buried only sixteen to eighteen inches below the surface, the pipes at the Transfer Station have a tendency to freeze. The freeze always takes place next to the trailer and Brian Clarke tends to turn the heat down and the freezing of the toilet is the result. Dan Vedder will talk to Brian and tell him not to turn off the heat. Supervisor Coutant will call Dankelmann and tell him the same thing. He will also tell him not to do anything further with the roof of the shed.

#### **C. UCCRA Law to Keep Recyclables**

The Ulster County Legislature passed a law to have all recyclables go to the RRA, however, our contract with Dankelmann allows him to keep the profits from the sale of metal. We are not the only town that has this clause in place. Wawarsing makes \$34,000 profit on recycled metals.

#### **6. Highway Dept. Sander**

Highway Supt. Mike Cafaldo wants permission to buy a sander. He would give his present sander to the Recreation Dept. to sand the Town Hall. The sander is not good enough to do the entire town but would be fine for the Town Hall. The new sander would have to be stainless steel. He is waiting for the Town Board to give him permission. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet asked if we had the money for this purchase? Councilperson Kyle Barnett said this was taken into consideration when we reviewed the Highway budget.

The Superintendent requests a meeting with the Town Board to make sure everyone is on the same page with his budget. Councilperson Kyle Barnett will find out how much the sander will cost.

#### **b. Liquid Calcium Tank**

The liquid calcium tank ruptured at the Highway Garage. This tank was placed there by past Highway Superintendent Joe Clark and it was an old septic tank that ruptured. Supt. Cafaldo has gotten prices on a plastic tank from a company in Ellenville and from Spinnenweber. The cost of the tank is \$2,800 but we also need a containment area for the tank and this will cost us a combined amount of \$3,500. This is a necessity.

#### **7. Channel 23**

Channel 23 has been back on the air for over a year. We have done a good job. The channel is considered a Public Access Station and it was established with a series of resolutions with the approval of Time Warner. The Mayor of the City of Kingston and the Supervisors' want the channel to be a Community/Government Channel and documentation needs to be approved to do this. Following the adoption, the control would be with the Mayor and the Supervisors and they would determine what is broadcast on the air. At the same time, Assemblyman Kevin Cahill will be able to appropriate \$10,000 for equipment that is needed.

The Supervisor went to a private meeting with Mayor Shayne Gallo regarding a DVD which we allowed to be broadcast from the previous Public Access Station. We did not realize a precedent was set and this was an honest mistake. Public Access would now obligate us to air other unacceptable DVD's according to the City Council Andy Zweben. Councilperson Kyle Barnett disagreed because it does not meet our quality standards. Supervisor Coutant said the City of Kingston was in trouble like this before with Bob Marnell.

In attendance at this meeting was Maryann Arrien who was an Public Access advisor. She works as a Community Media Coordinator for Putnam Valley Community Television. The meeting was not cordial and the Mayor asked Maryann to leave. Following the meeting Maryann called Bob Rizzo which unfortunately resulted in Bob resigning. Maryann does not have to be involved. The structure is still legally there. The Mayor and the Supervisors' want Bob Rizzo to return. He is a good person and knows the technical side of running the station. He is a professional.

Councilperson Freer believes the Town of Esopus should run Channel 23. He was not in favor of having other municipalities involved. A meeting will be held with the Supervisors' and the Mayor to dissolve Public Access TV and establish a Community/Government television channel. Upon passage that will change everything around. This could be on channel 99 and we can cover all the towns. Supervisor Coutant said we must move one step at a time. Everyone watches Channel 23 and we should look at the communication factor. We can put things on live. There is money in the Supervisors' budget to purchase the items we need now. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet said we need two microphones like the ones Bob Rizzo personally had.

Councilperson Barnett asked what is the remedy? Supervisor Coutant believes after the resolution is passed it will get us out of the problem by switching this from Public Access to Community/Government.

The Supervisor wrote the following proposed letter to Mayor Gallo and the City of Kingston Common Council and Supervisor James Quigley was writing one also:

“ Re: Channel 23

Dear Mayor Gallo & Alderman:

At a recent meeting attended by the Town Supervisors and Mayor Gallo we discussed the future of Channel 23.

As you are aware, Channel 23 is a public access local television station authorized by Time Warner and the appropriate resolutions passed by the City of Kingston Common Council. The Supervisors reviewed the history of channel 23 and the current status. It is the major consensus of the Supervisors to request that the documentation and resolutions be changed to reflect the creation of a community/government channel. We all agree that the past performance of public acces was not acceptable by the general public and the changes that have been recently made over the past year have been viewed very favorably by everyone. Further, we discussed typing in some of the surrounding school district activities that do not get representation on the local Channel 20 Educational Channel.

Supervisor John Coutant advised us that Assemblyman Kevin Cahill has committed a \$10,000 Grant for the purchase of equipment. In addition, each town supervisor committed funds toward payment of expenses, etc. of a person within the City or town to produce quality events and information which would be of public interest.

We all agreed that Channel 23 could be of tremendous aid during local emergencies such as storms, floods, etc, since it is housed in the new Town of Esopus Town Hall which has standby generating capacity.

We would appreciate you taking into consideration and place it on your next agenda in order to expedite it as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

John K. Coutant, Town of Esopus  
Gary S. Bellows, Town of Hurley  
Paul Landi, Town of Kingston  
Michael E. Warren, Town of Marbletown  
Jeanne L. Walsh, Town of Rosendale  
James E. Quigley 3<sup>rd</sup>, Town of Ulster”

The Town of Esopus will supply the place and the other Supervisors’ will partially finance the station. Councilperson VanVliet and McAuley will contact Bob Rizzo.

### **8. NYMIR Renewal**

The Town Insurance has gone down \$4,177.08 this year.

### **9. Miscellaneous Discussion**

The Supervisor in Ulster lost the dog contract and would like a second copy. The Town Clerk will send a second copy.

The Lot Line Adjustment for the Moore property is this settled asked Councilperson VanVliet? Councilperson Barnett has spoken to Moore's attorney and the attorney assured him the deed would be corrected.

Through Councilperson VanVliet the question was asked by Johannah Jankowski, Isn't the Town of Esopus interested in the future health care for the area? Councilperson McAuley believes we have nothing to do with the quality of health care. Councilperson Barnett said we care but that is all we can do. We have no jurisdiction.

The question was raised by Councilperson McAuley as to whether Dan Vedder got the vacuum? Yes. He is not getting the polisher/stripper.

**A Motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and seconded by Councilperson Donna McAuley at 9:50 PM. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Diane L. McCord  
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**