

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

February 17, 2015

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday February 17, 2015 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:00 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Diane L. McCord
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPLACEMENT COMPUTER SERVER

Kevin Rentfrow, IT Consultant for the Town, has reported our existing Server used by the Town Hall is reaching the end of its life and recommends a replacement. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet agreed it needed to be brought up to date. Councilperson Freer asked if it had the capacity for future Town needs. Holly Netter, Town Clerk will research and obtain 3 price quotes for the server from Staples, Dell Direct and State bid.

PARKING LOT RESOLUTION

Paul Kellar, Town Attorney, provided a copy of the proposed resolution approving the purchase of real property from the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the creation of a parking lot which will be presented for vote at the February Town Board meeting.

ROCHESTER DOG CONTRACT

Rochester has agreed to temporarily house Esopus dogs if needed until they can be transferred to the UCSPCA at the cost of \$12 per day. A resolution authorizing Supervisor Coutant to sign the contract will be presented at the February Town Board meeting. The Town Board would like to have a monthly report from Esopus Dog Control Officer, Jill Shufeldt. Councilperson

Diane McCord, Dog Kennel Liaison, will contact Jill and ask her to begin submitting a monthly report to the Town Clerk.

STREET LIGHT – RT. 9W

Gary Van Velson has requested a Street light on pole # K17835 3132 in Ulster Park. The Town Board does not have a problem with Mr. Van Velson contacting Central Hudson to have a light erected. However, it will be at a cost to him, not the Town. This location is not in the Town's lighting district, nor at a bad intersection. As such, it is not the Town's responsibility.

Community Choice – Diane

Councilperson Diane McCord has attended a few sessions on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA allows Towns, Cities, Counties and individual businesses to set their own energy priorities and goals to create an energy democracy. The democracy can choose what type of electricity to purchase and where it originates. At this time the Public Service Commission is looking for communities interested in joining a pilot program. The idea is great but Esopus has been the forerunner with Solar Energy in Ulster County and way ahead of the other municipalities in the area. To join the pilot program at this time could slow down our abilities to accomplish energy alternatives.

Attorney Fees – Melamud

A bill for Attorney Ronald Porody was submitted for payment in the amount of \$5,642.50 for review of the Eli Melamud case. The Town Board had approved \$800 to be used by the ZBA to seek legal council to have their questions answered. The Town Board is not confident the budget guidelines were properly conveyed by the ZBA to Mr. Porody. Extensive research, review and attendance at public hearings were necessary to render a final interpretation and decision.

Channel 23 - \$5,000 Grant

The State of New York has awarded \$5,000 for the purpose of purchasing equipment for Channel 23. Brian Barnes will be consulted on equipment needs. Supervisor Coutant will review the package and return to the state within 30 days.

Mid-Hudson Postal Facility Plant RESOLUTION

A copy of the resolution, requesting the US Congress to prohibit the US Postal Service from closing or consolidating its mail processing center the (Newburgh – Mid-Hudson Processing and Distribution Center) was reviewed and will be voted on at the February Town Board Meeting.

UC RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY – ROLL- OFF BOXES

UCRRA Executive Director sent each Town a letter regarding the use of heavy equipment to compact the contents within the roll-off boxes. It was determined the Town of Esopus was not in violation of compacting. The Roll-Off containers located at the transfer station are split at the seams which occurred years ago. The Board had a discussion about the increased fees which will be assessed to the Town and will take effect this summer. It was pointed out, although diesel fuel has gone down, the UCRRA has not lowered or adjusted the costs accordingly.

ESOPUS HISTORY DAY

Saturday March 21st, the Hudson Valley Maritime Museum, in conjunction with the Town of Esopus, Klyne Esopus Museum and Town Historian will hold an Esopus History Day at the Esopus Town Hall from 1 pm – 5 pm. They are looking for residents or one time residents of Esopus to bring any memories, photos or objects related to the history of the Hudson River, Rondout Creek and any river – related industries to history day. There will be staff on hand to accept donations of any items and a scanner will be available to make copies of the images so originals do not have to be surrendered. Light refreshments will be provided.

ALCOHOL PERMITS

The subject of whether to omit the additional requirement of the \$1,000,000 insurance binder when issuing alcohol permits at our parks was discussed. Marshall and Sterling will be contacted, our policy will be reviewed and the Town Board will be notified of the information. If deemed necessary, changes to the policy and fees will be made via a resolution at the February Town Board Meeting. Scheduling for the Parks will begin March 2nd for Town residents and April 1st for non residents.

PCB CLEAN-UP OF HUDSON RIVER

A resolution to support the Hudson River cleanup was given to the Town Board for review; no action taken.

DON KIERNAN – TEMPORARY HELP

Don Kiernan, Water Superintendent expressed his concern for the need of extra help for a few months. He has one man out on compensation and with the frigid temperatures there have been many water main breaks and the men are exhausted. The Town Board advised Don to review the contract and see if there were any provisions made. Don will call the Union Rep, Michael Kutzski to find out what his options are. If there are no provisions, amendments should be considered for the next negotiation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - MARK ANDERSON & ROBERT BRAKMAN PLANNING BOARD

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AT 8:15PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING MARK ANDERSON AND ROBERT BRAKMAN FOR THE VACANT PLANNING BOARD MEMBER POSITION. COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT SECONDED THE MOTION.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER AT 9 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT SECONDED THE MOTION.

TRANSFER STATION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET TO NO LONGER ACCEPT ELECTRONICS AT THE ESOPUS TRANSFER STATION, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 18, 2015 AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR.

Patrons will be advised UCRRA accepts these items at no charge. Temporary signage will be made by Holly Netter, Town Clerk and permanent signage will be ordered from Mike LaManna.

Councilperson Diane McCord and Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet visited the Rosendale transfer station to view their operation. Handouts were given to the Board Members with ideas on how to make the transfer station run more efficiently and be cost effective. They reviewed many contract issues they have with Dankelman and Associates. The Board knows there needs to be changes made in order for the Esopus transfer station to remain open. Concerns of DEC violations were discussed. Paul Keller, Town Attorney, has been working on the RFP and has given his recommendations for the Board to review. There will be two RFP's, one for 3 days and one for 5 days of operation. The Town will reserve the right to refuse all or any proposals if it is the best interest of the Town to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:50 PM WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**