

**Town Board Workshop Meeting
March 3, 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 March 3, 2022, at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Danielle Freer
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Geuss
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 with subject line “Public Comment” and meeting date

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

Public Comment

Stephen Cerini – Mountainview Ave. Noise Ordinance decision -He is totally in agreement with the decision the Board made. “There is never a one size fits all policy for a town like this with different types of areas. Thank you for finally putting it to rest.

Stephen said, “I would like to acknowledge Holly Netter for her efforts continuously in working for the town. I know the hours she puts in particularly with the last report that she gave with the signatures. I have a feeling it was far more work and effort than what she admitted to. Just wanted to acknowledge her for that and all that she does”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION AT 7:05 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING CHRIS MARTA FOR THE VACANCY ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER AT 7:21 PM MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO APPOINT CHRIS MARTA TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WITH TERM EXPIRING 12/31/24. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

INTERVIEWS – TOWN JUSTICE

Four applicants were interviewed for the vacant Town Justice position: Chris Farrell, Wayne Freer, Michael Mulligan and Pierce Gallagher. The Town Board thanked each applicant for their interest in serving our community. The Board will make an appointment at the March 17th Town Board meeting. The applicant that is chosen will be required to take mandatory classes in April to be certified before they are able to take the bench.

LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND

Supervisor Freer:

Supervisor Freer: Suggested Board utilize Laberge Group’s knowledge of our town to help with ARPA guidance and administration. The Board agreed and discussed that this will help us to workshop, prioritize and submit the annual report properly. Proposal forthcoming.

Clerk’s Office began taking reservations for Park Pavilions on March 1st for Residents. Reservations for non-residents will begin on April 1st.

Councilman Geuss: Water & Sewer Department Pump Station in Connelly needs to be replaced. There wasn’t a quorum at the last meeting but to move things along Water Superintendent Nick Butler was asked to get quotes for the work. 3 Quotes were received:

Gartner Equipment Company Inc.	\$68,320.00
HA Schreck Service and Sales	\$ 65,259.00
Rapid Pump & Meter Service Co, Inc.	\$56,647.00

The pumps take approximately 14 weeks to receive.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS TO AUTHORIZE WATER SUPERINTENDENT NICK BUTLER TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM RAPID PUMP & METER SERVICE CO. INC. FOR THE REPLACEMENT PUMP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$56,647.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilman Quick:

Zoning Board of Appeals:

A variance from the setback to the road and 1 side of the lot for a house to be built on Connelly Road was approved. This property is on a steep portion of the road, there were no close neighbors being impacted. The ZBA Board decided that it is in line with the character of the neighborhood.

Waterfront Advisory Board:

LaBerge Group presented the results regarding the Design Guidelines Survey along with what residents would like to see in the local parks and hamlets. There were a small number of participants. Residents will be able to see all the results at a meeting to be scheduled sometime in May.

Assessor's Office

February has been a busy month for the office, many residents have been coming in with questions and are trying to get their applications for exemptions in before March 1.

Our Assessor is requesting to take a class regarding different methods to assess wind and solar installations. Many residents have added these during the pandemic and they need to be reassessed. There also has been a lot of building going on during the pandemic and the Assessor needs to look at some of the updates and keep up with the proper assessment.

The Assessor will be sitting for a major exam given by the State, to be held in Westchester County sometime in May.

Councilman Clarke:

EB / Environmental Board

- 2 new members Nina Nichols, Lee Gough
- UC NRI (Natural Resources Inventory) – County invited Mark Ellison to participate as a reviewer
- Goals for 2022 – Working on list/prioritizing
 - Charging Stations
- Climate Smart resiliency assessment with Cornell Cooperative Extension

- Greenway Grant – L. Petit working with Matt Rodgers to write grant proposal
- River Clean Sweep – May 1 with RiverKeeper; Discussed additional sites (LightHouse Park, Freer Park)
- Sapling Giveaway at the Transfer Station – Also pollinators, milkweed (takes about 3 years to grow) to attract Monarch Butterflies. Mark orders through D. Kain for about 50 giveaways. Will also contact DEC for free giveaways.

EDC / Esopus Development Committee

- New volunteer – Courtney Schwan
- Commercial Property list form for businesses – Mike Rice re-designed the form which links to the T/E website
- Revamping brochure
- Newsletter updated – provide business exposure, outreach
- Kiosks – Perrine’s Bridge – parking lot, attract tour buses
- Preliminary discussion/planning – Farmers Market, Crafts Market to showcase T/ Esopus businesses

Councilman Robinson: Parks & Rec | Parks, Buildings & Grounds | Tax Collector

Easter Egg Hunt April 9th rain date April 10th

Movie in the Park once a month, want to eventually get funds for a permanent screen.

August they will gear up towards the Christmas parade.

Lock needs repair on rec closet. Old camp records need to be archived.

Supervisor Freer inquired about the history of PEAA. Is the group, in fact, “folded” and, given the requests for youth sports coming in, does it make sense for group to resurface?

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE TO APPOINT SEAN MENDAL TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION WITH A TERM EXPIRING 12/31/2027. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 9:38 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

*Respectively Submitted,
Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, R.MC*