

Town Board Workshop Meeting

March 2, 2023

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 2, 2023, at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Danielle Freer
Councilman Kathie Quick-absent
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

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Cerini – Mountain Rd. Thanked the Town Board for doing a great job. He complemented all departments at Town Hall, Highway and Water Department for also doing a great job.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

2022 ANNUAL AUDIT

Town CPA Brian Pickard performed his annual review and issued a letter dated February 3, 2023, to Supervisor Freer certifying the completion and assurance that all audits of cash accounts, receipts and disbursements were satisfactory and recorded properly for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice Court.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUDIT OF COURT
FINANCES AND RECORDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, in the County of Ulster, State of New York the following;

WHEREAS Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act requires that the Town Justices annually provide their court finances and records to be audited by the Town auditing board;

WHEREAS such records be examined or audited and that fact be entered into the minutes of the Board's proceedings to increase monitoring of Town Board compliance with section 2019-a;

WHEREAS an audit of the Court finances and records for the year ended December 31, 2022 was performed by Brian J. Pickard, CPA, as part of the audit of the cash accounts,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Esopus Town Board acknowledges the required audit was conducted.

**RESOLUTION OFFERED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS
RESOLUTION SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON**

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

RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED.

YMCA SUMMER CAMP DISCUSSION WITH HEIDI KIRSCHNER, CEO & PRESIDENT OF YMCA OF KINGSTON AND ULSTER COUNTY

Heidi Kirschner, CEO/President YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County and Cailin Rooney Youth Development Director Camps, attended the meeting to discuss summer camp. A prior meeting had taken place to recap what worked and didn't work at the Ross Park summer camp last year. They said they have seen a decrease in enrollment over the past few years. The YMCA said they loved using Ross Park but for many reasons there is not enough interest to sustain having the program there this year. With the number of enrollments continuing to decline it does not make sense to continue the program as it has been. Sessions of 1 week, 2 weeks, 4 weeks and the full length of summer is available at other YMCA locations.

The YMCA will continue to pick up children by bus at Dollar General for Camp Seewackamano. Camps in New Paltz and Kingston will also be available but have no transportation. The YMCA will work with the Town to offer a discounted rate which will be offset by the money set aside for camp in the 2023 budget. Additional financial scholarships will be available through the YMCA and Esopus Community Inc. (should that group choose to be involved again) for children who can't afford it. No kids are turned away if they want to go and are not financially able to pay. The YMCA will work through the particulars with the Board so the information can get out to the public. Registration for the YMCA is currently available online.

Councilman Laura Robinson said she thought it will work out well. Many people were unhappy with the inability to bring their children to the playground at Ross Park while the summer camp program was in session due to security reasons. Councilman Clarke said it is important to invest in our youth and set aside money in the budget for kids to be able to go to camp. Discounts will be available to all Esopus residents, and the amount allowed per camper will be determined. The YMCA will work on a breakdown and follow up with the Board. This was not an easy decision but there will be no camp in Esopus this year. Supervisor Freer said that we will continue to watch the trends and can adjust for the following years, if needed.

9W DISCUSSION

Supervisor Freer has been having ongoing conversations with DOT for the past year regarding "problem spots" on 9W. After multiple meetings and conversations, it was agreed upon to change two areas from passing to non-passing zones.

RESOLUTION TO CREATE NO PASSING ZONES ALONG U.S. ROUTE 9W

Supervisor Danielle Freer offered the following resolution, which was seconded **by Councilman Jared Geuss**, who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, U.S. Route 9W ("Route 9W") is a two lane highway as it intersects the Town of Esopus ("Town") in a north-south direction on the westerly side of the Hudson River.

WHEREAS, certain portions of Route 9W permits the passing of vehicles by crossing the center lines and entering into the opposite lane of traffic.

WHEREAS, the path of Route 9W through the Town often includes significant blind spots due to the curvature of Route 9W and sudden changes in grade.

WHEREAS, some of these blind spots exist in areas where passing is permitted and the posted speed limit is 55 MPH.

WHEREAS, the Town recommends a revision to the centerline pavement along Route 9W to create two "No Passing Zones" in the following vicinities:

Old 9W past Academy Drive – around mile markers (9W 8603 1181) to (9W 8603 1177), about 1,669 ft. of passing zone

Barry Drive to Burroughs Drive – around mile markers (9W 8603 1141) to (9W 8603 1136), about 1,185 ft of passing zone

WHEREAS, the creation of the "No Passing Zones" will create safer driving conditions in these areas of Route 9W; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town supports the use of "No Passing Zones" on Route 9W in the areas referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to New York State Department of Transportation.

The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmen voting as follows:

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

Resolution duly adopted.

DATED: Ulster Park, New York
March 2, 2023
HOLLY A. NETTER, TOWN CLERK, RMC

APPOINTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

Carolyn Durgin	12/31/2025
----------------	------------

Rhiana Colvin	12/31/2023
Michelle Boller	12/31/2026

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.MOTION CARRIED.

K-THUNDER DISCUSSION WITH WRIGHT ARCHITECTS PLLC

Sonya and Andrew Wright presented their plan for the property they own on Mountainview Ave. Jose Lemus was also present who runs the K Thunder Soccer program and is currently utilizing Cas Landi Field. The Wrights are working on several projects in town and have made a commitment to invest in their community.

K-Thunder is a not-for-profit competitive soccer league. Currently they use our Cas Landi Park. Their programs allow children to participate in a high-quality league and pay very little compared to leagues of similar caliber. The Wrights would like to develop their land to have soccer fields for the club as well as the community, perhaps someday having a welcome building at the entrance. The use is allowable for the property. The Wrights showed a drawing of the concept they have for the property. Councilman Jared Geuss said he liked the idea and asked about the sequence of events to allow for the smoothest transition, field, welcome building, future industrial building etc. This project would enable youth to work with top notch trainers. Phase one would be just the field. They will be doing some probes to test the soil and they want to make sure the land can be leveled and drained properly. Eventually they would like to fund raise to install turf, but it is approximately \$900,000 and a long way off. The area for the field is approximately 300 feet x 200 feet.

Members of the audience were supportive to the idea. Parents spend a lot of time traveling with their children to participate in competitive sports and it would be wonderful to have a facility here in Esopus.

LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND

SUPERVISOR FREER:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – The Highway department did a great job with the storm and is preparing for the next. Communication with the County has been tightened prior to each storm to understand the need for additional resources, if needed.

JUSTICE COURT – Audit resolution was passed earlier this evening.

TOWN CLERK – Park scheduling began for residents on March 1st, non-residents will be able to make reservations beginning on April 3. Town Clerk Netter has coordinated the field use for Ross and Cas Landi parks. She was happy to report the parks will continue to be used daily by

various returning groups such as Ulster Fillies, Mid-Hudson Tigers, K-Thunder Soccer, Special Olympics, and the Seneschal of Nordenhal (Medieval Jousting). Sleightsburgh Spit will also have a Junior Bass Tournament again this year.

CHPE

Esopus continues to lead the way to ensure our sole water source for the Port Ewen district is protected. Tighe and Bond will help us understand how the pipeline project will affect our intake and assist the legal consultant with necessary documentation to prepare for what is to come. Tighe and Bond has a thorough understanding of our situation due to the projects they have previously and currently have with our water plant and how this project poses potential concerns to our water intake.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM TIGHE & BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,900 AS WRITTEN:

TABLE 1
Summary of Engineering Budget

Task	Budget Amount (\$)
Task 1: Legal Standing Engineering Support	\$1,100
Task 2: Reimbursement Support	\$600
Task 3: Peer Review Letter Report	\$16,000
Task 4: Emergency Plan Preparation	\$6,400
Task 5: Alternate Water Source Analysis	\$3,000
Task 6: Cost of Infrastructure Modifications	\$2,100
Task 7: Performance Bond and Public Contingency Fund	\$200
Task 8: Communication Plan/Public Workshops	\$600
Task 9: Mineral Rights/Easements	\$900
TOTAL PROJECT FEE	\$30,900

TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER CAPITAL FUND. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

COUNCILMAN GEUSS:

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT – Water Superintendent Nick Butler has been working on a report of our sewer line and pump capacity to send to the Planning Board for two possible developments in the district.

PLANNING BOARD – BQ Energy has been granted another extension. Work on phase three of the Solar array at the Transfer Station should begin spring or early summer.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE

EDC – Cancelled due to weather and will regroup in March.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – Councilman Clarke was able to talk to Mark Jaffee regarding the storage containers at Dollar General. The Port Ewen Laundromat has a permit and is doing upgrades for the laundromat. Town Doors need a remote door opener for accessibility.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD – Repair Café March 25. Climate Smart members continue to work on their goals. Earth Day event in the Community Center 4/23.

COUNCILMAN ROBINSON:

PARKS & REC – Willow tree work group comprised of Supervisor Freer, Lori Reynolds, Dan Vedder, Evelyn Clarke and concerned citizens had a productive meeting and everyone was heard. The Town had been advised by the lawyer, insurance company and the Building Department that since we were aware of how bad the trees were, they needed to come down. Supervisor Freer said we will focus on the future and bring the right trees in based on collaboration with key groups such as Environmental Board, Waterfront Board and citizens. Supervisor Freer said the trees are down and we are moving forward. Artists will use some of the wood from the trees to make jewelry and carvings to help commemorate the trees.

PARKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Parks and Recreation Commission has three new members and now has a complete Board. The Egg Hunt will be held on April 8 rain or shine. They will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. After the egg hunt, they will be starting to plan the Movie Nights for this year and consider the possibility of moving them to other parks besides Ross. More signage and a better variety of movies is needed. They are also considering having a food truck night with the movie night.

There was mention of The Ulster County Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant (MPRG) that is now open for applications. The MPRG is a \$2 million matching grant program open to municipalities within Ulster County, with a maximum award of \$100,000. One application per municipality will be accepted and we will work to submit for upgrades to Cas Landi in St. Remy.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD – Held their Open House on the LWRP.

ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT – Ulster County will accept Agricultural District Inclusions Applications March 1 thru March 30, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:42PM. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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