

**Town Board Workshop Meeting
March 7, 2024**

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 7, 2024, 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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristy Nelson, 172 Lindorf, Ulster Park was here on behalf of Frank Blaha who expressed concern about bottles being returned at the Bottle Depot. Frank saw a Town vehicle at the Bottle Depot and believed \$4,200 was received by a town employee. The question of where the money goes and who receives the money was asked.

Town Clerk Holly Netter explained there was no way the amount could have been \$4,200 in cash because that would have been 84,000 bottles that would have been returned. She calculated that 4,200 bottles at \$.05 would have been \$210. Off the top of her head, she knew the amount that had been turned in was around \$200 but she explained the process to Kristy and assured her she would confirm the exact amount received with her the next day. Bottles are bagged at the Transfer Station 300/bag, it is noted how many bags are being transported by the Parks and Recreation department to the Bottle Depot and they are aware how much money should be given to them. The Parks & Rec personnel then brings the cash to the Clerk’s office where it is processed in the computer and a receipt is given to the Transfer Station to confirm the amount is accurate.

***It has been determined that there was a misunderstanding of information, and it was 4,200 bottles not cash. 84,000 bottles would not fit in a truck that size, nor do we collect that many in a year.*

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

UPDATES: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT MICHAEL CAFALDO

Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo had provided the Board with a list of work that is in process as well as projects projected for the upcoming year. They are getting equipment ready for street sweeping; a new brush has been ordered. Once the storms are finished the spring cleanup work will begin. A list of proposed roads to be paved was also shared.

Work on the Millbrook stream (in the area of Mountainview Ave.,) will continue in an effort to alleviate some of the ongoing stormwater drainage concerns in the area. The Highway Department will continue to clear the section that runs along Mountainview from Clay Road to the culvert. Permission has been granted by the property owner at 352 Mountain View for the Highway Department to access the Millbrook through there. To quickly move this project along before the rainy spring season, a request to hire Vieira Landworks & Trucking for emergency drainage improvements beyond the Highway Department's capabilities was made. An estimate of \$30,000 was received for: stream and swale cleanup between Mountainview culvert and the Salem Street culvert. They will remove heavy debris out of the stream, side swales will be cleared and regraded to ensure proper flow. Areas that need to be widened will be widened. This work goes hand in hand with the continued infrastructure upgrades in the area, including the ongoing work along our wastewater collection system line. It was proposed that the \$30,000 cost be split with \$15,000 coming from the drainage budget and \$15,000 from the highway budget.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO APPROVE THE VIEIRA LANDWORKS AND TRUCKING LLC EXCAVATING WORK TO BEGIN CLEARING THE MILLBROOK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000. THE FUNDS WILL BE SPLIT; \$15,000 TO COME FROM THE DRAINAGE BUDGET AND \$15,000 FROM THE HIGHWAY BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

Beavers have caused drainage issues on Esopus Ave near the railroad tracks. DEC issued permits and beavers have been removed. The issue is now occurring on the other side of the road.

Flooding and rainfall caused the bank to slide on Tilden Street near Hidden Harbor. Mike anticipates erecting a wall approximately 6 ft. of gabion stone. The wall should help to spread out the heavy rainfall; the cost is expected to be \$7,000.

Trucks that were ordered almost two years ago may be ready this year. Superintendent Cafaldo said he may need new resolutions for the purchase of the trucks.

Superintendent Cafaldo and the Board discussed trimming trees around town in partnership with the Tree Committee. It was requested that Superintendent Cafaldo, Marc Weinberg (Highway employee) and Steve Cerini (Tree Committee) have a meeting to discuss next steps. Of particular concern are the branches along Broadway – branches and limbs must be kept at a safe and manageable length. Additionally, there is concern about the tree on the corner of W. Stout and Broadway. The Highway Department has recommended the tree be trimmed or taken down, but the property owner does not want to do that. Superintendent Cafaldo to follow-up on next steps.

Supervisor Freer updated the Board on the light poles on North Broadway. There has been a series of lights that have been out, and the replacement pole was on backorder. Dan Vedder received notice that the pole has been shipped and over the next few weeks it will be received and fixed. Dan Vedder also received a commitment from the City of Kingston to assist with replacing the light heads on the bridge. NYS DOT will assist in road closure.

Litter continues to be an issue around town. Supervisor Freer acknowledged NYS DOT and UCDPW will not focus on litter removal and that the Adopt-a-Highway program only does so much. It is the responsibility of the town employees to help keep our town beautiful. She's requested Superintendent Cafaldo talk to his crew about helping with this matter. The Parks, Buildings and Ground crew will continue to focus on their areas. Community Service will also be directed to troubled areas throughout the spring. The board discussed cleanup options and the possibility of doing a town-wide push around the time of Riverkeeper Sweep (5/4/2024).

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT BID ADVERTISEMENT

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD

Town of Esopus

Ulster County, New York

March 7, 2024

Whereas, The Town Board desires to construct a new 2 Million Gallon finished water storage tank (adjacent to the existing 2 Million Gallon finished water storage tank), with related improvements, for the Port Ewen Water District, and;

Whereas, the project has received a partial funding commitment from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC), via the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA);

Whereas, Brinnier and Larios, P.C., Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Kingston, New York, has prepared engineering plans, specifications, and contract documents for the project, and;

Whereas, the engineering plans, specifications, and contract documents have been submitted to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) for technical review, and the project was approved by the NYSDOH on January 22, 2024.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to Advertise for Bids in accordance with the General Municipal Law, for Contract TE-231, Proposed 2 million Gallon Potable Water Storage Tank and Related Improvements for the Port Ewen Water District, Town of Esopus, Ulster County, New York. The bid opening date will be determined by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Town Supervisor and Brinnier and Larios, P.C.

By Order of the Town Board, Town of Esopus, this March 7, 2024

OFFERED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK

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

Resolution duly adopted.

MOTION: INCREASE TO REST ASSURED ALARM SYSTEMS FOR SPENDING ON AN ADA COMPLIANT DOOR

2/1/24 MOTION FOR ADA COMPLIANT DOOR AT TOWN HALL - AMENDMENT

On 2/1/24 the following Motion was made by Councilman Evelyn Clarke to authorize the deposit of \$10,000 be issued to Rest Assured Alarm Systems Inc. for the accessible electronic doors for the LOWER-LEVEL entrance of the Esopus Town Hall to be paid from the ARPA fund. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Kathie Quick. All members present were in favor: Motion carried.

The cost of the doors and installation was anticipated to be \$21,995.00 with approximately \$5,000 for the electric work. The change in door style and opener is \$2,000 higher than what was originally expected. There was an error in the pricing of the opener. Upon ordering the equipment it was discovered that the part number we originally were quoted on was not the correct part for the installation. The manufacturer offers two different types of double door openers. The manufacturers tech support line said it is a common mistake and they are working on changing the part numbers to make it less confusing. The correct part number is \$1,500.00 more than the original quoted price. The price difference is due to the design of the openers, one has a mechanical companion door as opposed to the other one needed for our job which has both doors being electrically powered. The wave door open option which allows the person not to physically have to push the button will be a \$500.00 increase.

ORIGINAL MOTION FROM 2/1/24.

COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPOSIT OF \$10,000 BE ISSUED TO REST ASSURED ALARM SYSTEMS INC. FOR THE ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONIC DOORS FOR THE LOWER-LEVEL ENTRANCE OF THE ESOPUS TOWN HALL TO BE PAID FROM THE ARPA FUND. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

REVISED MOTION

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION OF 2/1/24 TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$2,000 FOR THE CORRECT DOOR AND OPENER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: SUMMER CAMP

The Town Board discussed the option to continue to put the budget spend toward Esopus children who chose to go to existing YMCA camps (Seewackamano and Wiltmeet) again this year. In continuing with the trend of decreased sign-ups in a town camp, only ten children had gone to camp in 2023. It does not seem there is a need for the camp in our town specifically. The Town Board budgeted \$5,000 to assist families again in 2024. Last year, \$100 per child per session was given to help with the cost of the YMCA camps. Supervisor Freer will speak with Heidi Kirschner, YMCA President/CEO to see if this can be done again this year.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO PARTNER WITH THE YMCA AND HAVE THE TOWN SUPPLEMENT THE COST OF THE SESSION PER CHILD UP TO THE BUDGETED AMOUNT OF \$5,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN GUESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

Liaison Lightening Round:

Town Clerk – MacRae Maloney and Vis Stockade Tavern Inc. has applied for an alcohol permit and has asked for a letter stating there is no objections and waive the 30-day notice period. Town Clerk Netter discussed the request with Code Enforcer Jaffee and brought it before the Board for discussion, no one understood the urgency in waiving the 30-day period since the details of the business had not been determined yet. A 30-day waiver is usually requested for a renewal or an existing business opening a new location. Town Clerk Netter will continue to follow-up with Code Enforcer Jaffee to see if any further information about the request was determined from his meeting that he had with the applicant in the late afternoon.

Councilman Robinson:

Parks & Recreation Department & Committee – Councilman Robinson said she hoped to have a resolution for the grant for Cas Landi Park. Although the money will not be here in time for

the equipment to be installed this year, she hoped that some of the other work could get started. They would like to redo the fence around the tennis court. She also said she was looking at contacting the Association of Towns to inquire if and how donations or fundraising may be able to legally be made. For example, someone donating a piece of equipment in a particular person's name, etc. The park will have an outdoors theme with playground equipment like logs and rocks for the children to play on. People may be willing to sponsor a rock or a log in a loved one's name.

She also asked if someone could find out from the bookkeeper how much funding is available through the Rec Fees and possibly use some ARPA funds.

Tax Collector – Changed hours for March-May 2024; now Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Councilman Quick:

Zoning Board – Castlemore Project (Hudson Lane) – no resolution/decision was made at the meeting. There seemed to be disagreements on definitions. Questions were also asked regarding when the camp could be opened. These are all questions that should have been asked to the Planning Board. The Town needs to establish an escrow for ZBA. It was discussed in the fee structure and must be in there; we can't pay every time someone has something before the Zoning Board. The appellant would need to provide escrow and pay for legal review. This is becoming costly to the town.

The Waterfront Advisory Board discussed the possibility of a mooring law. There is a larger Harbor Management plan as part of the Waterfront plan. It would be ideal to work in conjunction with the City of Kingston since the boundaries meet.

Assessor's Office – busy with exemptions trying to put the tax roll together.

Seniors – have 4 trips planned, an ice cream social and picnic at Freer Park.

Councilman Geuss:

Planning Board – Esopus Barns has been approved looking for next steps.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Freer has been working with Lenny Liberta with issues that have come up with the installation of the solar project. Invovateus/BQ is almost finished with the solar installation but there have been some issues with the mess and the safety the trucks are causing.

Supervisor Freer said she wanted to let the Board know the scale is going to need some work and the request and quote will be coming for cement that is needed to secure the scale.

Councilman Clarke:

Environmental Board – They are starting to work on a tree protection ordinance to submit to the Board. A meeting with Evelyn, Chairperson Mark Ellison and Supervisor Freer should be

arranged to discuss grant application process and the management of the EV charging station grant. As part of the preparedness safety section of the Climate Smart Program, the Board needs to pass a resolution which was brought up in the past. Supervisor Freer asked Councilman Clarke to help move this along.

KEY UPCOMING DATES – VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- 3.21** **Next Town Board Meeting**
- 3.29** **Town Hall Closed: Good Friday**
- 3.30** **Annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Parks & Rec at Ross Park from 2pm-4pm**
- 4.1** **Park rentals open for non-residents**
- Ongoing** **Esopus Hometown Hero Submissions**

DISCUSSION: HOMETOWN HERO LAUNCH UPDATE

Supervisor Freer announced that phase one of the Hometown Hero program which will include fifty banners displayed on the decorative light poles throughout the Port Ewen Business District is now underway. The cost of the banner will be \$100 and will remain in place for one year. The goal is to have the banners in place for the 2024 Memorial Day parade. Information is available on the town website at esopus.com/hometownheroes. All applications must be returned by mail. The program has been promoted at local businesses, social media, and Town Hall. Brackets that were purchased have been received and will be installed.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:14 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

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