

**Town Board Workshop Meeting  
April 4, 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 April 4, 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](mailto: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 - none**

**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, 2023 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: SUPERVISOR FREER  
RESOLUTION SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN GEUSS**

<b>Councilman Laura Robinson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Evelyn Clarke</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Kathie Quick</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Jared Geuss</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Supervisor Danielle Freer</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**Rifton Post Office Update** - We haven't received any other complaints since the public comment last month regarding the post office. Mark met with the postmaster. A complaint was made about the tiles on the floor, they were not asbestos but is concerned with the safety of the building. There are no plans for property owner to fix it. Pat Ryans office will reach out to their postal contact. Any residents with complaints are encouraged to contact your congressman.

**Hometown Heroes Update**

We are near our goal of 50 banners for phase one. There is an ask for approval of 7 banners representing the 7 branches of service to be placed in the Town Hall Way. Which will each honor the branches of services.

**EVELYN CLARKE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SPENDING OF ARPA MONEY UP TO \$1,000 TO PROVIDE 7 BANNERS OF ALL OF THE BRANCHES OF SERVICES TO LINE TOWN HALL WAY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS.**

**INTERVIEW**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT JENNA ICE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2025. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYNE CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT KATHY KIERNAN TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2028. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED**

**Water Tank Project Bid Update**

On April 3, 2024, Town Clerk Holly Netter, Water Superintendent Nick Butler and John Davison from Brinier and Larios held the bid opening at 10am for the construction of a new 2 million gallon water storage tank.

Brinnier and Larios, P.C., the Engineers for their project, will review the submitted bid packets and prepare their recommendation for the Board.

A Regroup meeting with Debbie, Nick, Danielle, Holly and Christine Chale was held to discuss the bid for the water tank, discuss the finances for the water tank that were previously put in place, and to discussion next steps.

**CHPE UPDATE**

Supervisor Freer attended the CHPE presentation at Norry Point with Margaret Phalen from our Waterfront Advisory Board and Maxine Kamine. The intent of the program was set up so people could go around and ask questions individually about the project. There was a group who started to shout questions and CHPE did not always have an answer. There were some good, educated questions asked relating to drinking water. There were also mariners who asked questions that couldn't be answered. Some individuals that attended were from our town. She said she did not feel the Town Hall would be the best place for a meeting. Residents should learn about the project and CHPE is looking for a venue on the Ulster County side of the river. Norry Point is getting flack for allowing it at their location. Esopus is doing what we can from an emergency preparedness standpoint.

CHPE is looking for a neutral site where residents from the various municipalities can attend to gain information about the project.

**Highway** – gearing up for sweeping.

Millbrook cleanup has begun and should take 2 weeks.

**Town Clerk** -pre bid meeting today for Fence around the tennis court at Cas Landi Park. Bid Opening 4/17 at 10 am

Bottle money came in; 2250 bottles \$112.50.

Update on grants – Chair of Legislature to sign for Cas Landi Park and Control Panel; more to follow.

**Transfer Station** continues to have problems with Solar construction. They installed a fence that will make removing two of the recycling bins difficult and the RA truck will absolutely hit it. Solar company offered to provide wood to rebuild the walkway and bins need to be switched in a different direction. Dan would build, the Solar company will not pay for construction.

Good news the transfer station scale has been fixed.

The culvert on Esopus Ave has been cleared and working well.

Kiosk at the Perrine Bridge needs to be moved and restocked. The board was ok with the relocation. Supervisor Freer will talk to Dan Vedder to see if Parks & Rec will move it or the Business/Environmental group will.

### **LIBERTA CONTRACT EXTENSION**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH THE SAME TERMS FOR 1 YEAR FOR LENNY LIBERTA, LIBERTA BROTHERS INC TO CONTINUE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSFER STATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

\*\* there have been a lot of projects going on and continuity in management is necessary until they are complete.

**Parks & Recreation Department & Committee** – Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday 3/30 big success at Ross Park. Thank you to all the businesses who donated 350+ kids

Pre bid for the fence took place 4/3 at 10am for the tennis court at Cas Landi

Planters – Dan Vedder has offered to plant flowers in the planters and put them out on Broadway. The question was asked of where did money come from for flowers in the past; Beautification line?

Will plan summer movie night and a possible family day.

**Zoning Board – next meeting a variance for a porch**

**Assessor's Office** – tentative roll together goal by 4/15 must be complete by 5/1

Waterfront – no meeting Margaret Phalen presenting Waterfront access plan in Newburgh.

**Seniors** –April 16<sup>th</sup> will be their first trip of the year to Brown Stone NJ: tribute to Neil Diamond and Barry Manilow. Three other trips are planned for 2024. An ice cream social and picnic at Freer are also being planned. On 3/18 they had a program “gardening for Seniors”. On April 3, Pat Ryan’s office hosted a senior resource fair.

**Planning Board** – Brennier and Larios putting recommendation together from Bid opening.

**Environmental Board** – Evelyn Clarke, Supervisor Freer and Mark Ellison will firm up date for meeting next week.

**KEY UPCOMING DATES – VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

4.18 Next Town Board Meeting

5.4 Riverkeeper Sweep

5.18 Last Frost Festival (Earth Day hosted by Environmental Board)

A conversation regarding Esopus Community Foundation having a Farmers Market in the center of town at the MHVFCU the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month with Ulster County farmers; local food pantry was closed. She asked questions trying to sync other conversations that have been happening on the subject since there are other businesses and organizations that have similar ideas. Supervisor Freer asked Laura Petit to keep her up to speed with details as they became available.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:10 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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