

**Town Board Workshop Meeting
May 2, 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 May 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Danielle Freer
Councilman Kathie Quick
Councilman Jared Geuss
Councilman Evelyn Clarke arrived 7:30pm
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 -

Steven Cerini 257 Mountain Ave. Wanted to thank several departments for the work that is being done around town. The Highway department for placing a fence around a hole on Mountainview. The Water department for being on top of things. Parks and Recreation for their cooperation with the nursery and Lori Reynolds for all she does.

Chris Marta 128 Parsell St. Sleightsburgh reported his neighbors are still seeing cars leaving the spit at 10 pm -11 pm. He has encouraged them to FOIL the video footage.

He asked the question of who he would need to talk to about reorganizing the Planning Board and filing complaint. Chris as a Planning Board member expressed his concern with design guidelines.

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

Resolution: Tax Certiorari Settlement – Lake Shore Villa Propco, LLC

**RESOLUTION
TAX CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT
LAKESHORE VILLAS PROPCO, LLC**

WHEREAS, tax certiorari proceedings have been filed against the Town of Esopus by Lakeshore Villas Propco, LLC, in regard to the assessments upon certain property located in the Town of Esopus and designated as Parcel #64.1-1-15 (the "Parcel").

WHEREAS, it is desired to settle the 2022 and 2023 proceedings.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus authorizes Kyle W. Barnett, Esq., of the law firm of Van DeWater & Van DeWater, LLP, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 to negotiate a settlement whereby the 2022 and 2023 assessments will remain unchanged and the 2024, 2025 and 2026 assessments shall be settled as follows:

Tax Year 2024/2025 \$7,400,000

TaxYear2025/2026 \$7,900,000

TaxYear2026/2027 \$8,260,000

and Kyle W. Barnett, Esq is authorized to sign such documents as are necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Dated:
May 2,2024
Town of Esopus

**RESOLUTION OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER
RESOLUTION SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS**

Councilman Laura Robinson	Aye
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	Absent
Councilman Kathie Quick	Aye
Councilman Jared Geuss	Aye
Supervisor Danielle Freer	Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS RESOLUTION
TO AMEND THE 10/6/22 RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRUCKS**

Whereas, the Town of Esopus Highway Department requires new dump trucks for the purpose of maintaining the public roads of the Town of Esopus; and

Whereas, a resolution was approved at the October 6, 2022, Budget meeting authorizing the Town of Esopus Highway Superintendent to execute a Lease Purchase Agreement to acquire three 2024 Western Star vehicles and

Whereas, said equipment has not been available due to supply chain issues and

Whereas, there is one similar vehicle available, Kenworth T880 Tandem Axel Dump Truck at the cost of \$57,570.85 Annual Lease Payment, Amount financed \$242,641.90; and

Whereas, NCL has been competitively bid and awarded through Sourcewell (formerly NJPA) and

Whereas, this falls within the parameters for procurement from a NY State approved bid list under a 5 Year Lease Purchase Agreement with NCL contract #011620-NCL.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Esopus hereby authorizes the Town of Esopus Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk and the Town Supervisor to execute said Lease Purchase Agreement and to sign such other documents as may be necessary to acquire said Highway Vehicle with Lease Service Center, Inc. dba NCL Government Capital (“NCL”).

Resolution offered by: Supervisor Danielle Freer
Resolution seconded by: Councilman Laura Robinson

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

Councilman Laura Robinson	Aye
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	Absent
Councilman Kathie Quick	Aye
Councilman Jared Geuss	Aye
Supervisor Danielle Freer	Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

DATED: Ulster Park, New York
 May2, 2024

HOLLY A. NETTER, TOWN CLERK, RMC

MOTION TO HIRE FOR PARKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS POSITIONS:

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO HIRE DYLAN NOBLE AS THE SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER AT A RATE OF \$17.50 PER HOUR FOR 30 HOURS PER WEEK BEGINNING MAY 6, 2024 THROUGH END OF THE SEASON. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK.

VOTE:

Councilman Laura Robinson	Aye
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	Absent
Councilman Kathie Quick	Aye
Councilman Jared Geuss	Abstained
Supervisor Danielle Freer	Aye

Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO HIRE KAREN DOWNING FOR THE TOWN HALL CUSTODIAN POSITION AT A RATE OF \$17.50 PER HOUR FOR 30 HOURS PER WEEK BEGINNING MAY 6, 2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS.

Councilman Laura Robinson	Aye
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	Absent
Councilman Kathie Quick	Aye
Councilman Jared Geuss	Aye
Supervisor Danielle Freer	Aye

Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS / LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND:

Supervisor Freer:

HIGHWAY

CHIPS numbers came in \$326,817, only \$704 less than last year.

The Millbrook cleanout continues; looking good and hoping it will help with the drainage issues. Supervisor Freer said they are looking to seed the area. Councilman Guess suggested they may find better pricing at a supply house vs. Lowes. Highway will investigate various options.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY TO PURCHASE SEED AND STRAW UP TO \$3,000 FOR THE MILLBROOK PROJECT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

CHPE – A response to the EM&CP is due. Supervisor Freer provided draft letters for the board to reference but no action was needed at this time. She just wanted them to be aware that a final letter would be sent out to them for approval before mailing.

The automatic door has been installed in the lower lever entry of town hall. Supervisor Freer said she would like to launch an awareness campaign to make people aware of the option of the automatic door. RCAL visited to consult on signage. Supervisor Freer said she also thought there should be a few more designated parking spaces on the lower level and the building spaces can be relocated. A few minor electrical items need to be finalized.

The PEFD has asked the Board to consider sending a letter of support for the V-Fire Grant Program.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KATHIE QUICK TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR FREER TO SIGN THE SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE PEFD GRANT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

The Environmental Board has asked to go for the following grants. Research needs to be done and the Board was encouraged to begin researching themselves. The first one may be something that would be considered by the WAB as part of the LWRP. The Board was asked to review the grants and provide feedback.

- Hudson River Estuary Grant for an NRI project <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5091.html>
- The Heat Pump Program (NYS Clean Heat) [Heat Pump Program \(NYS Clean Heat\) - NYSERDA](#)

Supervisor Freer reached out to the Economic Development Committee regarding the interest in farmer's markets in the area and trying to sync all the requests up to look like a united effort in our town. A meeting will need to be set up to find out more information on the vision the requesters have for a weekly farmer's market. Supervisor Freer and Town Clerk Netter will work on setting up a meeting.

The Town Clerk's office will be hosting a meeting next week for the Tax Collectors of Ulster County at the Town Hall to provide a demonstration of the new tax program that will be available for 2025. The legislature will be deciding whether the County is going to fund the initial cost of the program or if it will be absorbed by the town. The program was supposed to be launched for the 2024 tax season but required more tweaking. The cost of the program had been anticipated in the 2024 budget, so we are prepared if the County does not cover the cost. The annual maintenance cost of \$135 will be ongoing for the Town. The tax program that is being used now will not be available in 2025. The intent is to have uniformed reporting throughout the county.

Councilman Geuss:

Water & Sewer – John Davidson from Brinnier and Larios is working with the attorneys to get the paperwork for the Arold Construction Company who was awarded the water tank bid.

Work at the plant continues; the “panel” should be installed Monday. The plant is prepared for a 12-hour shutdown, but the work is only anticipated to take a half day.

Councilman Robinson:

Parks & Rec will meet on 5/8 to discuss movie night. They are thinking of conducting a survey to determine movie choices.

Parks, Buildings & Grounds – will plant flowers in the planters and will get them out on the main corridor.

Councilman Quick:

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The ZBA met on April 16, 2024.

The members present defined a Ridgeline as "A line formed along the highest points of a ridge. The crest of a ridge." 123-22.1 3 (c)

Ridge: a long narrow elevated geomorphologic landform, separated from the surrounding terrain by relatively steep sides which slope downward on either side away from a narrow top. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 21.

WATERFRONT ADVISORY BOARD

Margaret Phelan, Chairman of the WAB presented what the Town of Esopus has accomplished regarding the Waterfront Access Plan to a forum organized by Scenic Hudson at the Orange County Community College in Newburgh, NY. The progress of the Water Chestnut Cutting that the Town has been working on for the last 10+ years was shared and discussed. Five additional town residents were also present. The next meeting of the WAB (if necessary) will be on May 29.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The 2024 Tentative Roll Books are here and are ready to be examined! The public can do this either in the Town Clerk's Office or the Assessor's Office.

The Assessor will be in attendance with the tentative assessment roll on Saturday May 11 from 10 AM to 12 Noon. She will also be available May 7 and May 21 between the hours of 2 PM-4 PM and 5 PM-7 PM if anyone has questions about their assessment.

Property owners can also call the office at 845-331-5546.

Grievance day is Tuesday May 28 from 2 PM-4 PM and 5 PM-7 PM.

TOWN OF ESOPUS SENIORS

The next Town of Esopus Seniors meeting will be on Monday, May 6 at 1 PM. The Black Bears are out of hibernation and have been visiting some of our local neighborhoods. We will host a speaker from the Wildlife Division of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation who will discuss Black Bears and what to do to avoid problems with nuisance bears.

KEY UPCOMING DATES – VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- 5.4 [Riverkeeper Sweep](#) Freer Park, Sleightsburgh Park and Perrine’s Bridge area
- 5.16 Next Town Board Meeting
- 5.18 [Last Frost Festival](#) at 10am-3pm at MHVFCU (Environmental Board)
- 5.25 [Esopus Repair Café](#) at 10am-2pm at PE Reformed Church (Environmental Board)
- 5.27 Town Hall Closed
Memorial Day Parade at 10am in Port Ewen (in partnership with American Legion 1298)

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 7:48 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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