

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

JULY 15, 2014

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday July 15, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Diane L. McCord
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Water Superintendent – Don Kiernan

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Deputy Supervisor Kyle Barnett called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Public Comment: none

Donald Kiernan – Water/Sewer Superintendent

A. Water Meters

Previously discussed at last month's workshop meeting, Water Superintendent Donald Kiernan would like to start replacing the meters within the water/sewer district. All towns are switching over to radio read meters. Paul Keller, Attorney for the Town of Esopus has issued a memo dated July 10, 2014, that the purchase of Computer Software and meters is exempt from the requirements of General Municipal Law 103 for competitive bidding. Meter reading equipment, meters and software are needed to begin this program. The Water/Sewer District has compared and reviewed the software and meters available from several companies and has also received written quotes for the necessary devices to begin this meter replacement program. The district has received the lowest quote from Schmidts Wholesale Inc. and has received a sole source letter from them, as the authorized distributor of Badger Meters. This replacement program will be phased in over a period of 3 to 4 years as funding is available. The first phase will include the purchase of the software, reader and 100 meters. A resolution will be introduced at the Town Board meeting July 17, 2014.

B. Water Tank/District Improvements

Future Improvements will need to be made in the Water Sewer District. One of the items that will need to be addressed in the future is the replacement of the Water Tank. The best type of tank will be determined by the engineers.

On March 16, 2000, by resolution of the Esopus Town Board, the Town Board authorized the creation of a Capital Reserve Account for the expansion of the Port Ewen Water Treatment Plant and also authorized the transfer of \$50,000 from the Port Ewen Water District fund balance to the Capital Reserve Account. In 2004 an additional \$50,000 was transferred to this account from the Port Ewen Water District Fund Balance. At this time it is in the best interest of the Port Ewen Water District that the Esopus Town Board change the purpose of this Capital Reserve Account to better address the future needs of the Port Ewen Water District. This account will be referred to as the Port Ewen Water District Capital Improvement Account. These funds will only be able to be used to pay for Town Board approved capital improvements to the infrastructure of the Port Ewen Water District and any related expenses to projects related to district improvements. A resolution will be introduced at the Town Board meeting July 17, 2014.

C. City of Kingston Waste Water Treatment Plant

In June, Superintendent Don Kiernan had written a letter to the Mayor of the City of Kingston informing them that the Port Ewen Water/Sewer Board of Commissioners would like to have a liaison appointed to the City of Kingston. The Mayor contacted Superintendent Kiernan and told him John Tuey, City of Kingston Comptroller will be keeping him more apprised of what is happening in the City of Kingston. The city is borrowing 1,904,452 of which 10.42% is our shared responsibility. Mr. Tuey said 90% would be FEMA money however, we know from past history the funding does not always come through. The City is switching their supplier of a chemical (BIOXIDE) and Superintendent Kiernan was informed we need to purchase a new holding tank because the tank we are using now is provided by the current supplier. Supervisor Coutant suggested Superintendent Kiernan contact the existing supplier to see if we could purchase the current tank from them. The cost is expected to be around \$1500, however it seems to take a while for the tanks to be delivered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Interview George Williamson- Environmental Board

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing George Williamson for the Environmental Board at 7:55 pm by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 8:12 pm by Councilperson Wayne Freer and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett .

A resolution to appoint George Williamson to the environmental Board will be offered at the Town Board Meeting July 17, 2014.

Planning Board Problem

Over the years there has not been continuity between the Zoning Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Department. There has been a problem with the enforcement of the Zoning issues as well as contingencies that have been placed on projects by the Planning Board. Paul Keller, Attorney to the Town of Esopus, has determined that the Town Code authorizes the Town Board to be able to appoint an individual to be a Deputy Building/Zoning Enforcement Officer. The Current Building Inspector/Zoning Code Enforcement Officer is part time, working 21 hours a week. Supervisor Coutant said Tim Keefe, Building Inspector, does not have the time to deal with these issues. His top priority is inspecting the new construction in the town to keep the projects moving forward. The purpose of having a Deputy Zoning Enforcement Officer would be to make sure the Planning Board issues were addressed. Supervisor Coutant feels the best candidate for this Deputy position would be a Planning Board member. Planning Board members have a term of 7 years which provides them with the continuity of what needed to be done, opposed to having a stranger try to familiarize themselves with all of the outstanding cases. The Planning Board members are already in the loop on what needs to be completed. Several of the Town Board members disagreed and feel it would be a conflict of interest having a Planning Board member enforcing their stipulations on an application.

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet, liaison to the Planning Board, feels the real problem is there is no communication between the Building Inspector and the Planning Board. She said many of the Planning Board members said Tim should be keeping a "tickler file" on paper or computer to track outstanding issues and follow up accordingly.

Fred Zimmer said there have been mistakes made but we need to move on. He feels Tim does a good job. Fred also believes if there is a Deputy Zoning person appointed it should not be a Planning Board member, maybe a Zoning Board member. Fred does not feel there is anyone on the Planning Board that is qualified for the position. There are still things missing on Tucker Pond.

We need to strengthen the enforcement side behind zoning and stipulations placed by the Planning Board. Whoever was appointed would need to have good judgment, making sure they are consistent and not discriminating against anyone. How this will be done is the question. The Town Board will continue to look into the options and discuss it at a future time.

Town Approved Electrical Inspection Agencies

Tri-State Inspection Agency, Inc., of Warwick, New York, has failed to provide us with their insurance certificates. Tim Keefe, Building Inspector, recommends the Board to remove Tri -State from our list of approved electrical inspection agencies.

Spitzenberg Apple Tree

The Town of Esopus and the Esopus Library each have lost one of their Spitzenberg Apple Trees. In order for the tree to pollinate you need to have two. The Town has decided to donate the tree located at Town Hall to the Library so it can cross pollinate.

Budget Format

Councilperson Diane McCord has put together budget worksheets for each of the department heads in an attempt to unify a format for the submission of the 2015 Budget. A meeting will be held with all department heads to discuss the expectations of the budget for 2015. Councilperson Freer and Councilperson McCord will conduct the meeting.

Demolition Bids

A bid opening was held June 17th for the demolition of two properties. There are not enough funds in the budget to award both bids. The lowest bid for the property located at 193 Union Center Road was \$8,250. The town will need to transfer approximately \$300 to award that bid. The town had no idea of the cost of removal at the time we put these properties out for bid. The lowest bid for the property located at 113 East Main Street was \$21,000. Tim Keefe, Building Inspector, has been in touch with the Bank who takes care of the property and has given them the cost for removal. The bank will be in touch with Tim to advise them how they would like to proceed.

Miscellaneous:

PA system in Town Hall

There is a PA system in Town Hall. A few years back Councilperson Barnett and Councilperson Freer met with Charlie Wesley who was the General Contractor when the Town Hall was built to review how the PA system worked. There has been an increase in difficulty hearing the Planning Board and members of the audience at public meetings. Councilperson Freer and Councilperson Barnett were asked to research the options and put together a cost proposal so we can utilize the system that is already in place. The microphones which are to be utilized should have a switch or mute button.

Dormitory Authority – added survey information

The Town Board is disgusted with the lack of progress that we have made through the NYS Dormitory Authority regarding the grant for the parking lot on Bowne Street. Supervisor Coutant has contact Assemblyman Kevin Cahill office again to see if he can get some answers to why there has been such a delay. Tom Hoffey will be contacting Albany and getting back to the Supervisor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation Riverview Condominiums

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of litigation regarding Riverview Condominiums at 9:10 pm by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 9:16 pm by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM was made by Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**