

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

August 4, 2014

A Public Hearing was held on Monday August 4, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance, the regularly scheduled workshop meeting immediately followed:

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

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor John Coutant called the Public Hearing to order at 7:34 PM.

Public Comment

Don Van Etten, Treasurer for the Esopus Seniors, thanked the Town Board for budgeting for the senior trips. He reported that the seniors have been to an Irish Country Inn in East Durham in June, a Solute to America celebration in Milford, Pennsylvania in July, a Trip to Lake George in August for a 2 hour luncheon Cruise and in September they will be heading to the Mac-Hayden Theatre in Chatham, NY. All trips have been well attended with 50+ members taking advantage of this opportunity. The Town Board thought it was wonderful to see how the program has grown and are glad so many are taking advantage of the trips.

Cathy Quick member of the Waterfront Advisory Board attended the workshop meeting and invited the Town Board members to attend a meeting regarding the Tidal Rondout Creek Watershed Plan on August 26th at 7pm in the Town of Esopus Community Center. The project scope involves the City of Kingston, Town of Esopus and the Town of Ulster. The meeting is being held to help create an Action Plan to improve the Tidal Rondout Creek Watershed and review the work that has been conducted to date.

Cathy Gallagher of 52 The Hills, Port Ewen was looking for the regulations on outside burning. She has been having problems on and off for the past few years. Someone had told her to call 911 to report the smell, although she felt that is was not an emergency, she did call in March. The fire department came and smelt it as well, although the source was not determined. It seemed to get better for a while. The burning happens at various times of the night and wee hours of the morning. Mrs. Gallagher was advised by the Town Board to contact Tim Keefe our Building Inspector so he could follow up on this matter. She felt that the burning may be coming from the sunset drive area. Councilperson Kyle Barnett suggested she call the Building linspector to make him aware of the situation first thing in the morning.

Central Hudson Final Solar Documents Signed

The final application for the Central Hudson Remote Net Metering program was signed August 1, 2014. Randolph Horner had signed off months ago as Project Manager, however, Central Hudson decided they needed the Supervisor's signature as well. This information will be used to put the calculations together with the last round of communications with Sun Energy in California. The contract regarding the installation of the project will follow for review and will be forwarded to our attorney.

Work Boat Donation

The Esopus Light House has a work boat that is no longer being used and has offered it to the Town of Esopus. Supervisor John Coutant will ask Carol Tomesstti from the Waterfront Advisory Board to look at it to see if it can be utilized. The conditions around Light House Park have been improving and the site is seeing more activity.

Planning Board Tape Recorder

The Planning Board is in need of a new tape recorder. The new tape recorder will need to be able to rewind in small sections to allow the transcription of minutes. The minutes need to be retained for a period of four months according to the freedom of information act. Councilperson Kyle Barnett said a digital recorder will save on a mp3 file and can house plenty of information. It was asked if the Planning Board had money in their budget. Councilperson Kyle Barnett said the **Marantz** recorder the town already has is very high quality. If the software and footswitch was purchased it would be able to play back the information and the minutes could be scribed. In a prior meeting Councilpersons Freer and Barnett were going to look into microphones which could be utilized with the court PA system. Supervisor John Coutant asked if there was any progress with the PA research. Councilperson Freer and Barnett did not have a chance to follow up since that meeting and said they will do so in the near future.

Budget Process- Diane

A meeting was held with all of the Department heads to discuss the 2015 budget so everyone was aware of what information needed to be submitted and a budget worksheet was provided so everyone could use the same format. Councilpersons Diane McCord and Wayne Freer held the meeting and everyone felt it was informative and beneficial. When all of the budgets are submitted by the Department Heads the preliminary budget hearing meeting dates will be set. Councilperson Kyle Barnett and Supervisor Coutant thanked Councilpersons Freer and McCord for conducting the meeting.

Workplace Violence – Wayne Freer

Supervisor John Coutant asked Councilperson Wayne Freer if he would be willing to hold another training session on Workplace Violence. Supervisor Coutant also asked Councilperson Freer if he had records of the course curriculum and a list of attendees. Councilperson Freer said the information was submitted to April Oneto upon completion of the training class. Councilperson Wayne Freer is willing to hold another training class and said the County uses a video tape so they are able to reuse it for people who are unable to attend the meeting.

Highway Employee Health Insurance Request

A highway employee made a request for the town to provide health coverage for their significant other. According to the Highway contract we are not required to provide it. The employee told Councilperson Diane McCord it was State Law. After having a discussion the Board determined our insurance company, Marshall and Sterling will be contacted to see if it is a State Law. Supervisor Coutant will contact Marshall and Sterling. If it is a State Law, then the Board will continue to discuss the situation.

Halstead Complaint

Allen & Darlene Halstead sent a faxed copy of a letter, dated August 1, 2014, to the Town Clerk's office and asked for the letter to be distributed to all Town Board members. The letter addressed the complaints they have with their neighbor, Jesus Romero located at 112 Second Street, Connelly, New York. They feel several improvements have been made to the home without obtaining a permit. The Halsteads indicated the building Inspector, Tim Keefe, showed up for some of the incidents but did not issue any violations. Supervisor Coutant said he had a conversation with Tim and many issues addressed in the letter do not require a building permit. Councilperson Wayne Freer said this was a matter for the Building Department to follow up on and is not a Town Board issue. Supervisor John Coutant wrote a letter to the Halsteads to address their concerns.

Waste Management

The Town has received a request for the annual renewal from Waste Management for the removal of the containers located in the rear of Town Hall. Dan Vedder, T.O.E. Parks and Recreation, said he did not feel this was necessary, he could pick up the trash and recyclables weekly to take down to the transfer station. This would save the Town \$100+ per month. Councilperson Wayne Freer asked if the dumpster belonged to Waste Management. Supervisor Coutant will discuss it further with Dan Vedder to ensure there is a place to store the trash and recyclables until they can be removed.

Heater- Dog Kennel

Supervisor Coutant said there is not enough traffic at the Kennel to warrant the building of a new kennel; however a heater for the kennel is needed. Dan Vedder obtained estimates for a replacement heater; the cost is approximately \$1,200.00. The kennel issue will be discussed further at budget time. Councilperson Wayne Freer said over the weekend he had a complaint from a resident regarding having to drive to accord to redeem his dog. Wayne said the town resident should not have to go to Accord to pick up their dog. Supervisor Coutant said this subject was brought to Jill's attention a year ago however he would call Jill Shufeldt, Town of Esopus Dog Control Officer to have a discussion regarding this.

Miscellaneous

Don Van Buren wanted to meet with Councilperson Diane McCord to discuss an issue with a neighbor that has a vending truck in his driveway. Mr. Van Buren said it has been there over a year; he does not vend but does store food in there. Councilperson Freer asked if there was a license on the truck. It is undetermined whether the person is exchanging food from this trailer. Supervisor Coutant discussed the matter with the Building Inspector. Tim said the individual was not in any violation if he was just storing the food in the truck. However, if he is bartering or selling goods from the truck then it would

be. Building Inspector Tim Keefe said Mr. Van Buren would need to find someone who would put in writing they have purchased or bartered items from the truck on a regular basis in order for him to be able to issue an order of violation.

Councilperson Wayne Freer said they talked to Dan Vedder during the department head meeting and said the title Parks and Recreation may be changing to Buildings and Grounds. This would not include repairs to the Water and Sewer Department or the Highway Garage facilities. The scope of Dan Vedder's work has been evolving over the years and the new title may make more sense.

Notice of Petitions were served to the Town of Esopus, the Assessor and the Board of Assessment Review from the following; Riverview Condominium Association, Iron Mountain, Dyno Nobel, Bellaire Ridge, LLC. and Lighthouse Bluff, LLC.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 8:31 PM was made by Councilperson Diane McCord and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**