

## **TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING**

**August 18, 2015**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday August 18, 2015 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

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

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk**

**Heather Blaikie, Scenic Hudson**  
**Audrey Friedrichsen, Esq., LLM**

Supervisor Kyle Barnett called the meeting to order at 7:30

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

### **SCENIC HUDSON REZONING PETITION**

Representatives from Scenic Hudson were in attendance and requested the Town Board amend the Town of Esopus Zoning Map by changing lands owned by Scenic Hudson and currently zoned as Planned Unit Development (PUD) to (R-40). Supervisor Kyle Barnett reviewed the process and suggested the Planning Board be named as lead agency. A Public Hearing will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

Supervisor Coutant and Dan Vedder had been discussing the possibility of relocating the Building and Ground's "Hutt" to the Town Hall Property. There is enough money built up in the escrow account to move the operation or it could also be done as a capital project for Town Hall. There may also be an opportunity to sell the current property which would bring in revenue to help offset the cost. Supervisor Barnett asked the Board for their thoughts. Councilperson Diane McCord said the building is in grave condition and there is no place for Dan to put his equipment. The question was asked how long of a process would this be. The answer was it could happen by the end of the year. Alan Larkin is interested in the property. A preliminary appraisal or a broker's letter offering a value needs to be obtained. Supervisor

Barnett will have Dan Vedder obtain proposals for the cost of the new building. Dan will be asked to attend the next workshop meeting to discuss the plans and location of the building. Councilperson Freer would like to see a footprint of where the building will be located and how it may affect the future use of the property. Councilperson Van Vliet thinks it would be a good idea. All Board Members are interested in hearing the proposal. The Board needs to receive the information prior to the meeting so they are prepared to ask questions and make a decision.

### **RECREATION – PARK FENCING**

There are funds available in escrow for replacing the fence at Ross Park. Dan Vedder is currently obtaining estimates for the work. Dan will be at the September 8<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting to discuss the fencing and the proposed new building. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said if we have the money we should get it done. Town Clerk Holly Netter said Dan Vedder requested a discussion regarding the opening of the gates at Ross Park. That subject will also be discussed with Dan Vedder at the workshop meeting.

### **TOWN BANK**

Currently the Town does their daily banking with Citizens bank. We have recently been made aware that Citizens Bank will be implementing new fees and the accounts will no longer be free. Supervisor Barnett met with the Bank of Greene County, a municipal bank who is receptive to doing business with the Town without service charges. They offer an array of services and are doing a cost analysis to see if they are able to save us money by possibly refinancing the bond for the building. All Board Members agreed that moving the accounts to Green County would be more cost effective.

### **CABLEVISION FRANCHISE**

Our franchise contract with Cablevision that covers the southern end of town expires on May 27, 2018. Federal Law requires notification of 30 – 36 months prior to the expiration of the current franchise. The Town Board will need to schedule a Public Hearing and draft a resolution to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement.

### **ZBA ISSUES**

Diane McCord, liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, discussed a few issues which have been going on between the Planning, Waterfront and Zoning Boards. She reported that the Planning Board was upset and felt the ZBA was not functioning properly. A letter has been sent to those Boards as well as to Tim Keefe, our building Inspector, to get everyone together to discuss changes that can be made to make communication better between the Boards and the Building Department. In defense of the ZBA, Diane felt they do not always have all of the necessary information needed to make a decision. Miles Putman will review the applications that are

before the ZBA and will be ask to attend the ZBA meetings until the end of the year. The Board Members need to receive the information in a timely fashion so they have time to review the case that is before them. The ZBA Chairperson, Kathy Kiernan will be invited to the Town Board Workshop meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilperson Diane McCord has scheduled the meeting for the Planning, ZBA, Waterfront and Tim Keefe to meet on October 27, 2015 at 7:30 at the Town Hall Community Center located on the lower level.

### **TEXT AMENDMENT**

All Board Members received a draft copy of the Local Law 1 which will be adopted at the August Town Board meeting. The law to amend Chapter 123 Article IV of the Town Code was introduced at last month's meeting. Referrals from The Esopus and Ulster County Planning Board were received and they both had no comment.

### **UCRRA**

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet reported the UCRRA was scheduled to be at the Supervisor's Meeting held earlier that morning however, they backed out at the last minute. The Supervisors are trying to get in touch with the 8 towns that have declined or not responded to sign the contract. A suggestion of looking into shared services with neighboring towns was discussed. Laura Petit, Town of New Paltz Recycling Coordinator, joined the discussion regarding the shared services. Many of the transfer stations only operate 3 days a week. Supervisor Barnett said we may have to look at cutting back to 3 days next year as well. Rochester has cut back to 3 days without losing revenue. Supervisor Barnett said we are at the mercy of the RRA. The Town Board will continue to explore other options. The Board was in agreement to have Supervisor Barnett sign the revised contract. The motion was made in a prior meeting authorizing the signing of the contract.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POSSIBLE LITIGATION WITH NYMIR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET AT 8:45PM.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET AT 8:55PM.**

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON MCCORD TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL ISSUE AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON VAN VLIET AT 8:55.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET AT 9:05 PM.**

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:10 PM WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk**