

**Town Board Workshop Meeting  
August 4, 2022**

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 August 4 2022, 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

**SUPERVISOR FREER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CENTRAL HUDSON GAS LEAK PRONE PIPE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTATION**

Sean Farrell Gas Foreman for Central Hudson and Ed Cooper Foreman of J. Mullen & Sons, Inc attended the meeting to discuss the upcoming Natural Gas Leak Prone Pipe Replacement Program. Central Hudson has been replacing leak prone gas mains. They are replacing about 15-20 miles of gas mains annually. They will be replacing the main lines in the street and service lines that connect to individual homes and businesses. They will be replacing approximately 9,400 feet of gas lines in the Town of Esopus to begin in September. The project is estimated to take about 12 weeks to complete. Construction trenching will occur along:

\* Broadway, from Sunset Dr to Doris St

## **TBWS 8-4-22**

- \* Bayard St. from Lampman Ave to W Main St.
- \* Schryver St, from Broadway to Bayard St
- \* Hasbrouck Ave
- \* Hamilton Court
- \* Salem St, From Green St to Bayard St
- \* Green St, from Salem to Doris St.
- \* W Main St, From Broadway to Bayard St
- \* W Stout Ave, From Broadway to Green St.
- \* E stout Ave, from Broadway to Hoyt St
- \* Ross Ct
- \* Sackett St

Central Hudson will be holding an open house informational session at Ross Park Pavilion, located at 208 Bowne St, on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5 pm to 7 pm

Alternate traffic will run on Broadway and J Mullens & Sons will abide by the DOT permit which sets the hours the work can be completed. They will start at the main line on Broadway and move to the secondary streets. They will be running multiple crews. They will replace Broadway with temporary blacktop and then mill and pave final blacktop in the spring. Also, if they dig up a sidewalk, they may temporarily blacktop it for safety but all sidewalks will be fixed with concrete when work is completed.

Supervisor Freer said she wanted to make sure communication was in sync, so the public was aware of what was going on. A letter will be sent to individuals who will be impacted next week. The school district and transportation services will be kept apprised of the location of work. Supervisor Freer will funnel information from Central Hudson onto our web page and update social media. Central Hudson also has a link available to keep everyone in the loop of project status and where they will work the following week.

### **Key dates to include for Central Hudson Gas Leak Prone Pipe Replacement Program**

- 8/4: Central Hudson presentation to the Town Board
- Week of 8/8: Letters notifying customers of planned work are mailed out. Online communication plan begins
- 8/18: Another announcement to residents will be made
- 8/23: Central Hudson Town Hall for residents to ask questions at Ross Park at 5pm
- Early September: Work begins

### **FITZHUGH (139 PARSELL STREET) PROPERTY DISCUSSION**

Nick Fitzhugh is finishing his design for his house; driveway is in and there is a platform for a tent for him to stay in while his home is being built. When they were building the platform, they consulted a survey and looked at the property stakes because it was close to the property boundary. He stated that they embarked on this project in good faith. Building Inspector Mark

Jaffee questioned the location and asked for a new survey. The new survey determines the corner of the platform is over the property line by approximately 12.2 ft at the widest point. Nick said the Building Inspector suggested purchasing the 12-foot section from the town and seek a lot line adjustment through the Planning/Zoning Board. Mr. Fitzhugh said they wouldn't have embarked on the project if they knew it was over the line. The platform encroaches on the Sleightsburgh Spit property. There is a large Central Hudson easement on the other side of the platform. The property slopes down to wetland and the other side is up a hill to First Street.

The Board said they will need to reach out to Scenic Hudson as well as our lawyer to see what can be done. Councilman Geuss suggested reaching out to the town lawyer to see how we handled a similar case near the Ross Park parking lot. He remembers a neighboring fence was built on town property and a lot line adjustment was made. We also need to check the Scenic Hudson Easement to see if that would be impacted at all.

The point of the structure is it's off the grid to honor and parallel nature and wildlife not to be obtrusive and is a non-permanent structure. The platform can be picked up; however this is the only area that is flat. The structure needs to rest on trees, if it is moved to another location, it would need pilons which are not permitted. He has been in touch with the DEC and must submit a permit.

**COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO SET UP THE PROJECT WITH KYLE BARNETT AND DISCUSS WHAT WAY THE TOWN CAN LEGALLY MOVE FORWARD BASED ON THE EASEMENT AND PAST PRACTICES WITH ROSS PARK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**BOCES FEE WAIVER**

**COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE \$100 PARK RENTAL FEE FOR BOCES EVENT ON FRIDAY AUGUST 19 AT FREER PARK. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PORT EWEN FIRE DEPARTMENT PROJECT FEE WAIVER**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE \$200 PUBLIC HEARING FEE FOR PORT EWEN FIRE DEPARTMENT PROJECT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

\*\* Councilman Geuss said he received an email which said the Planning Board supports this waiver as well.

**PLANNING BOARD SIGN APPLICATION FEE**

**COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO ESTABLISH A \$50 PLANNING BOARD SIGN APPLICATION FEE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

\*\*Any time there is a major change or location change of a sign, an application needs to go through the Building Department and Planning Board also needs to approve it.

**2023 BUDGET MEETING DATE DISCUSSION**

The Board discussed possible times for a budget workshop. Councilmen Robinson and Geuss said they could be available at 4:30 pm. The first meeting will be with the department heads and various boards to review their budget requests. They will also be asked to complete ARPA wish list worksheet for discussion.

Bookkeeper Deb Kain sent an email on 8/1, requesting for feedback by 8/21. We need to set a date for the first two weeks in September. Preferably a day or two nights. Dates will be set at our next meeting on 8/18.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION AT 7:56 PM TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE HISTORY OF PARTICULAR PERSONNEL IN THE WATER DEPARTMENT. WATER SUPERINTENDENT NICK BUTLER WAS INVITED INTO THE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION AT 9:25 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO INCLUDE A DISCUSSION RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION FOR THE WATER SUPERINTENDENT, NICK BUTLER, TO BEGIN THE HIRING PROCESS FOR ANOTHER WATER AND SEWER EMPLOYEE AFTER REVIEWING BUDGET OPTIONS WITH DEBBIE KAIN, THE TOWN BOOKKEEPER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPAIR OF TWO SEWER MANHOLES FOR \$11,000 BASED ON POSSIBLE APPROVAL FROM THE WATER AND SEWER BOARD AT THEIR TUESDAY NIGHT (8/9/22) MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:27 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR TOWN VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:37 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO HAVE TOWN BOARD MEMBERS WORK WITH RELEVANT COMMITTEE AND BOARD CHAIRS TO HAVE VOLUNTEERS REVIEW AND SIGN OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE PLAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND**

**Councilman Clarke:**

EDC no meeting in August

Environmental still looking into charging stations

**Councilman Quick:**

Zoning Board of Appeals and Waterfront Advisory Board both cancelled their meetings for July, so there's nothing to report.

Assessor's Office

Our Assessor just completed a course in Agricultural Assessment. She just has two more courses to complete. It looks like she will complete all of her training in two years instead of three!

## **TBWS 8-4-22**

The Office has been working on two SCAR issues (Small Claims Assessment Review) and hearings are coming up. Our Assessor will be very busy preparing for those because it's like going to court. Shannon is reviewing and learning some methods to defend these cases.

### Seniors

We have 50 seniors signed up for the Kenny Rogers Tribute and BBQ Luncheon in Somers, Connecticut on August 9. We also are having a Defensive Driving class that will be held in our Town Hall Community Center on August 15. We are just beginning to sign people up for a trip to a Frankie Valli tribute show and luncheon in Secaucus, New Jersey on September 20. Some members would like to help plan a picnic, but at this point we must watch our funds carefully. If we think we can pull it off, it will be in September. We really may not have enough money to have a large Christmas party.

### **Councilman Robinson:**

#### Freer Park

- Dan Vedder and Crew have been working on shed at beach.

#### Cas Landi Park

- Mike Freer took care of putting wood chips in garden.

#### Ross Park

- We are still awaiting bids on paving for the Pickle Ball and Tennis Courts.
- Basketball hoops and nets have been installed by road.
- Mulching completed around playground area.

#### Sleightsburg Park

- Will check to see if Mary Keiser and her Girl Scout troop have painted benches at Sleightsburg Park.

#### Connelly Park

- Waiting on basketball hoops.

#### Joe Clark Park

- Basketball hoops needed.

#### Parks & Recreation Committee

- Our next meeting is Monday, August 15 at 6 pm.

## **TBWS 8-4-22**

- Our next Movie Night will be Saturday, August 27 at dusk. We will be playing the Karate Kid. Lori Reynolds has reached out to John Cutrone and he is getting in touch with someone from the Bruderhof so that we can have a “dry run” since at the last Movie Night there was some issues with the speakers.

Tech check is needed and Supervisor Freer asked for a reminder to post the event.

### Food Truck Friday

- Our next Food Truck Friday will be August 12 from 4-8pm.
- Live music with Jef Brown.
- We will have Pickle Ball, Corn Hole and much more.
- We are still trying to find someone with a beer truck or wine.

### Fill the Pack

On 8/6/22, we will be giving away backpacks filled with school supplies. This will be held at Mario’s Pizzeria. Sue will be providing pizza and George Davis will be providing haircuts. The Bruderhof will be there at 8:30am to help set up, do face painting and will have fresh vegetables from their gardens to hand out.

### Splash Pad

The Esopus Community Foundation has begun fundraising for a Splash Pad at Ross Park. Laura handed out the Plans for the Pad.

Laura Petit and Laura Robinson are continuing to work on a Grant for this project. Other money will be raised by corporate donations; community donations, Go Fund Me; fundraising, etc. This will be a big venture and our goal is to see this venture come to fruition in approximately 2 years.

The Town of Esopus children will have a place to go in the summer to cool off and have fun at no cost to their parents.

Asked if it would be possible to do a 5K run this year, they would like to end it at the Applefest. This event would be through the Esopus Community Foundation.

### Miscellaneous Updates

**Esopus Response Team** is continuing to work closely with Ulster County Emergency Services Director, Michael Madison on our Emergency Response Plan and Risk Assessments of all town buildings and procedures. We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with Ulster County to host the first ever Preparedness Expo on September 24th at Ross Park. This is the day of the Apple Festival in town and so we are excited to reach as many people as possible and to educate them on the work we’re doing and prepare them for emergency situations. Vendors

will include first responders and relevant emergency organizations. Our Highway Department will also be onsite for a “Touch a Truck” experience and will educate the public on how they handle storm response.

Oma’s Community Market is a farmstand that used to be hosted on Hermance Lane every Saturday on behalf of the Bruderhof. They’re looking for a location for a surprise pop-up event and have requested to use Town Hall on August 13. They are also looking at two other options on the corners of West Main and Broadway to benefit from the foot and street traffic going through town.

**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OMA’S COMMUNITY MARKET USING TOWN HALL AS A BACKUP LOCATION SHOULD THE OTHER TWO OPTIONS FALL THROUGH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Councilman Geuss:**

Planning update:

Red Maple Vineyard is in the process of a Site Plan/Special Use Permit. The Plan is to construct a facility to accommodate winemaking, brewing and cider making with a separate adjoining building to accommodate a tap room with seating for 80 people.

Port Ewen Fire House should be setting a Public Hearing; waiting on the stormwater review from engineers; not sure if the Public Hearing will still be 8/15/22.

Lighthouse Village and Streamside Farms are still moving forward as of now they are not on the August agenda.

**Town Clerk Update**

- **Shed** has been purchased and picked up. Dan & Ed will construct it here on site and transport it to Freer Park when it is ready. Kit says it takes 4 hours, but they are extremely busy.
- **Water Treatment Plant Improvement Bid Contract 1**  
Town Clerk Holly Netter worked on new bid opportunities medallion for website which directs individuals to a reciprocal link to register for bid information. Town Clerk Holly Netter encourage the Board Members to check out the site. We have our own personal branded page at no cost to the town.

**BidNet Direct** – Empire purchasing group **bid posted 8/2**. Allows bidders to register and be notified of bid opportunities. We hit 700+ companies that qualified; 586 were from NY.



**NYS Contract Recorder-** Free of charge for any business looking to work in NYS: vendors search this site. Bid Posted 8/4

8/4 Bid ad was posted in the Daily Freeman and 8/5 in The Record.

**Key dates:**

**PRE-BID CONFERENCE AT WATER PLANT 8/17**

**Questions from contractors due 9/2 by 5pm**

**T B will answer questions by 9/9**

**Sealed Bids due in the Clerk's office 9/21 by 2 pm; Bid opening 2 pm**

Town Clerk Holly Netter said we need improvement on the mobile and tablet view of our website; it is not user friendly. She will talk to Mike Rice to see what can be done.

**Park Issue** – Town Clerk Holly Netter would like to change the “**Trash Deposit**” to include taking trash and following the rental rule agreement. Over the weekend an inflatable slide was used at Ross Park which is an insurance liability issue, thank God no one was hurt. The renter was told because she did not obey the rules, which are in the application packet and listed on the permit itself, she was no longer able to rent from us in the future. This was not an Esopus resident and was handled like incidents with the community center; they leave a mess or do not obey the rules no future rentals.

- **\*\* failure to take your trash or obey the rental and park rules may result in loss of deposit and/loss of future ability to rent our facilities.**

**\*\*\*All Board members were in favor of the change, effective immediately**

**Riverview Cemetery**

Rick Hien said a Cemetery program is needed. He would like a list of how the 50k was spent and the current balance. He suggested program funding could come from the balance of that account if the grant was not available.

**Senator Michele Hinchey** will be holding an Open Town Hall meeting event here on August 31 at 7pm to discuss legislative updates and Q & A. Jessica is sending a copy of the web town hall event held virtual last year. They are looking at holding two meetings at two locations, Cairo is the other but has not been confirmed. She stressed this was a nonpolitical event, just informational. Supervisor Freer said she was looking forward to the Senators first visit to Esopus and is looking forward to sharing some opportunities in which the town could use her support.

Last day of water bills is Friday

**TBWS 8-4-22**

**Hunting Licenses began Monday** – DEC system having issues. The probability to obtain a DMP on day one and last day are the same so there is no need to rush. The Clerk's office is encouraging people to wait a week or so before coming in.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 10:23 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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