

9/7/2023 WS

Town Board Workshop Meeting

September 7, 2023

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 September 7, 2023, 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 and leave a voicemail

Email – lreynolds@esopus.com with subject line “Public Comment” and meeting date

Mail – Town of Esopus PO BOX 700 Port Ewen, NY 12466

SUPERVISOR FREER OPENED THE WORKSHOP MEETING AT 7:55 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BUDGET WORKSHOP.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Diane Dintruff- Had a supply of Esopus Explorer patches which were given out in the past for multiple outdoor activities. The left-over supply was split between the Town Clerk and Joan Burroughs. Diane said one of the advantages of participating in the Ramble was they provided insurance for the event, gave leader t shirts, and provided signage. Stores like LL Bean gave prizes for raffles. She said after an accident she is not physically able to do this event any longer. She offered to train someone if they could find someone who would want to pick up some outdoor activities. She volunteered to do the computer work to get it on the Isle of NY and Ramble websites. She also offered to teach and lend a boat to anyone who may be interested in any of the events including the Light House to Light House Challenge.

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Steven Cerini Mountainview Ave Acknowledged the town staff especially the Water, Building and Grounds, and Highway teams for working hard in the severe heat and cold weather. Their service is greatly appreciated.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

PORT EWEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Everyone who was interested has had an opportunity to walk the project and/or meet the PEFD engineer to clarify the concerns of the location for the retention pond for the new fire house. There is an ask and a need for the driveway to be expanded which would also include taking out a lamp post. Supervisor Freer has been talking to the Fire Department and their engineers about where they can help us out to accomplish that. Everyone seems to be ok with all of this. Danielle said she wants to make sure we have tight language in the contract to make sure it is clear what we are asking for. She has asked Dan Vedder and Mike Cafaldo to work together. Mike Dauner asked to have them mark the area out and they will have their engineer put our ask on their map.

Councilperson Jared Geuss suggested once we know the setbacks and what we want, have the town attorney add on verbiage to the easement and contract agreement. He didn't think the work had to be done right away but when the Fire Department is doing their groundwork, they take care of ours at the same time. Paul Kellar has already reviewed and gave feedback on the contract. Councilman Geuss said the paragraph stipulating the easement should go back through our attorney.

The Fire Department has a commissioner meeting on September 19, 2023. Since we will not have the correct language by the time of that meeting to approve the resolution, they are looking for a head nod. Supervisor Freer asked if she could tell them we are ok if this language gets into the resolution? We are putting the expansion of the driveway into the agreement.

Councilman Clarke asked if Highway would be doing the work? Councilman Jared Geuss said he would have fire department contractors do it. Supervisor Freer said how the PE Fire Department is saying it is shared. Councilman Geuss said if they are having people over there, they should have their contractors handle it. We won't put a time limit on it. During the phase of their project when they are doing their cut outs, it could be done, but he wouldn't say shared. That is why the language should be added on and reviewed by Paul Kellar. Councilman Geuss explained they are going to have numerous contractors there. That project manager can handle that part, it's not a big deal.

By the Board granting the easement, it will save the PEFD approximately \$100,000 by allowing them to have the necessary space for an above ground retention area.

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CHPE – EMCP August 4

EMCP for pre-mattressing construction work was opened 8/4. Supervisor Freer receives notification when documents are uploaded to the portal and said there was no notification that 120 documents were uploaded to the portal. One document was an EMCP for the pre-mattressing which was open for public comment. It doesn't directly affect us but does affect the pre mattress work where they are going over existing infrastructure. The closest one is in Poughkeepsie. They tried to get H7 to comment on this section of the EMCP because it affects the overall health of the river, but they couldn't turn it around in time. Supervisor Freer submitted the letter on behalf of Esopus so that their concern for this project continues to be documented.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE TO SUBMIT THE LETTER TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING CHPE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Freer said she is trying to get Transmission Development Incorporated (TDI) to come to Esopus in October. She is trying to figure out whether to do it at a town board meeting or a separate session that is an open house style to allow people to talk to different sections.

Supervisor Freer is hopeful that since Rebecca Martin is now the coordinator for H7, we will not have to be the ringleader.

The reality is millions of dollars of work is staged all over for this project, it is happening; and the reality is the project will not get stopped. However, it's a matter of making them aware that if something goes wrong, they should be responsible for replacing the drinking water.

Supervisor Freer said the location of the meeting will be here in Esopus, Town Hall or even at a location like the Hudson House where Dutchess County residents could also attend a session but conducted by H7. Councilman Geuss asked if they would give a preview of what's being presented, or could Rebecca Martin put an outline together that would hit all key points and create the scope of the meeting?

Supervisor Freer wants the session to be productive and create awareness because she is hearing a lot of confusion around this topic. Letting people know what the project is, what the town is doing defensively and getting people to know how we are holding TDI accountable.

UPCOMING KEY DATES – MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

9.17 Honeybee Jubilee at Ross Park hosted by Environmental Board

9.21 Next Town Board Meeting

9.23 Applefest & Townwide Yard-sale

2nd Annual Preparedness Month Expo in partnership with Ulster County

Movie Night at Ross Park at 7:30 pm hosted by Parks & Recreation Committee

9/30 Repair Café hosted by Environmental Board

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ADJOURNMENT

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK AT 8:15 PM. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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