

**Town Board Workshop Meeting
September 5, 2024**

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 5, 2024, 2024, 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 - absent**

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 with subject line “Public Comment” and meeting date

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Rose Quinn of Kingston rides her bike across the Wurtz St Bridge and throughout the town. She has noticed there are two different speed sides on the bridge; 30 mph as you head into Kingston and 40 mph as you enter Esopus. She said it creates a confusing situation and drivers go faster than they should. Cyclists cannot use the walkway by law, and it is impossible to ride a bike over most of it. She is hoping this is just a DOT oversight and hoped the Board would look into decreasing the speed to 30 mph. She thanked the Board for listening. There have been four hit and runs in Ulster County resulting in death since 2020. Anything we can do to try to save lives is appreciated.

Laura Petit, Esopus Resident, said she worked with Rose Quinn for years and she spearheaded vehicle and pedestrian safety. She was also responsible for the ghost bikes you see through the County. Laura said she supported Rose’s request for the DOT to reduce the speed to 30 MPH on the bridge.

Joanne Meade Esopus Ave. is concerned with the crosswalks on Broadway in Port Ewen. Drivers need to stop when people are in the crosswalks. When the Esopus Community

Foundation had an event, even though she had a flag and vest, people did not stop. She noted Kingston has flashing lights that signal when someone is in the crosswalk and would like to see the same. Something needs to be done.

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

There are a few responses coming out of public comment: Supervisor Freer said she was unaware of the speed discrepancy on the Wurts Street Bridge and will follow-up with DOT for more information.

Supervisor Freer said she has already talked to DOT about the crosswalks in Port Ewen. They've shared they're doing everything they're request to do in this area. Supervisor Freer said she would be happy to bring it back up with them to see if other alternatives could be explored.

MC Edwards added that Wappingers Falls has an intersection where the police sit and if someone does not stop and a person has stepped into the crosswalk they are ticketed.

Supervisor Freer said the town has been participating in County traffic safety initiatives: Safe Start to Summer & Safe Start to School. The Sheriff's department has also been patrolling throughout town, specifically in the Port Ewen area. Most recently, the Sheriff's department has been around Bayard Street and shared some speed calming ideas with Highway Superintendent Cafaldo. As a result, the Highway Department is going to put red reflective strips on all stop signs in town.

Supervisor Freer provided a status update of the CHPE project: Over Labor Day weekend, CHPE came through and only laid the cable on the bed of the river due to a few changes in their schedule (trying to meet requirements in permits, vessel schedules and river conditions). They will have to come back through to reach their required burial depth via jet plowing. Water Superintendent Nick Butler and his team worked over the long weekend to ensure the safety of our public drinking water supply. The plant was shut down in an abundance of caution and water quality monitoring took place throughout the process. The same will be done when CHPE comes back through. Additional calls have been arranged with CHPE to understand the changing schedule and process. The Hudson 7 is involved and Supervisor Freer has been keeping our Environmental Counsel updated on this matter.

Supervisor Freer recognized Water Superintendent Nick Butler and his crew for their diligence on this topic, on top of their day-to-day tasks.

Additionally, Supervisor Freer recently spent time with Kelly Allegra, our new Upper Hudson Valley Regional Representative for Governor Kathy Hochul's office. They toured the Port Ewen

Water Treatment Plant and shared information on what we are doing to ensure the safety of our drinking water, especially given the recent underwater cabling activity. Lights on North Broadway were finally repaired earlier this week. Between parts being backordered and scheduling, this has been an issue for quite a while. Residents in the area are happy that the area is lit once again.

LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND

Supervisor Freer:

Highway Department

Justice Court

Town Clerk – Bid opening for Propane Water Sewer Department 9/17/24 at 11 am – award resolution to follow at Sept TB meeting 9/19/24

Councilman Quick:

Zoning Board of Appeals ZBA

There was a meeting of the ZBA on August 20, 2024. Sickler area variance, public hearing to be scheduled. Closed public hearing for CEO determination on "seasonal". No further action by ZBA for definitions of "seasonal" and "ridgeline". Definitions will stand as written. Next meeting: September 17, 2024, 7 PM.

Waterfront Advisory Board

There was not a meeting on August 25. There will be a meeting on September 25. The WAB will be reviewing comments received back from the state regarding the LWRP. At this time nothing else has been presented to the WAB.

Assessor's Office

Currently there are no lawsuits or Small Claims adjustments pending. There are private meetings with property owners who missed the grievance day meetings.

Esopus Seniors

The Esopus Seniors will meet on Monday, September 9. We will have a speaker, Joan Burroughs, a descendant of John Burroughs. John Burroughs' cabin "Slabsides" is in West Park. John Burroughs wrote over 30 books on nature study and he had many famous visitors. We will be collecting for our last trip, which will be on October 22, to The Riverview Inn for a luncheon and dancing.

Councilman Clarke: Additional conversations with the Ulster County Economic Development Department are taking place.

Environmental Board is hosting the Honeybee Jubilee September 15th, 10am-3pm @ Ross Park

KEY UPCOMING DATES

9.15 Honeybee Jubilee hosted by the Environmental Board | 10am-3pm @ Ross Park

9.19 Next Town Board Meeting 7 pm Budget workshop meeting will begin at 6pm

9.28 Applefest & Townwide Yard-sale

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 7:55 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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