

## **TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**October 28, 2021**

A Town Board Meeting was held on Thursday, October 28, 2021, in the Town Hall 1 Town Hallway, Ulster Park, New York at 7:05 PM in addition to being available via zoom and live streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page and TV 23. The following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Jared Geuss**  
**Councilperson Evelyn Clarke**  
**Councilperson Kathie Quick**  
**Councilperson Laura Robinson**  
**Councilperson Chris Farrell**

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

**Brian Pickard, CPA**  
**Debbie Kain, Bookkeeper**

Supervisor Geuss called this meeting to order immediately following the Public Hearing of the 2022 Budget at 7:10 pm.

### **Public Comment:**

**Stephen Bailer, Poptown Rd.**- There have been unsubstantiated claims made by neighbors eluding to recreational use of ATVs and racing on the property. He provided a map of his property and explained a UTV (side by side) is how he reaches areas on his 32-acre parcel. He said it is a half mile to the back of his property. He and his wife are building their home and they uses the UTV to haul tools. There is no racing going on the property. He said he is not promoting ATV racing on his property. He has created trails to access a future fruit tree grove, garden, and rear access to his property. Due to the topography, he is challenged and there is one section that is 238 ft from the edge of the Burgold property. He asked the Board to consider amending the Local Law on Noise Ordinance set back to be measured from the residence vs property line. He said given the topography he tries to ride as slow as possible as he approaches the neighboring property. He estimates that the property line is 100 – 200 feet from the Burgold residence. Mr. Bailer would like to see work hours be consistent with most construction; 7 am – 10 pm which is normal for the Hudson valley area. He said the side by side was also used to ride his 82-year-old mother up to the area of the property where the terrain would prohibit her walking. He feels his rights are threatened. He is not within 200 ft of the neighbor's residence. Mr. Bailer said prior to them purchasing the property the land had been

untouched for 100 years and the neighbors do not like the fact that someone is building and using the property. He asked if there was a timeline on the scope of work for the noise ordinance. He asked to be kept posted about the noise update.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GUESS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR.**

### **2022 BUDGET**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON TO APPROVE THE 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS THE FINAL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT**

Confidential Assistant Alex Dean has submitted his resignation. Supervisor Geuss suggested hiring a temporary assistant through Norman staffing through the end of the year.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO HIRE JENNIFER FAWNER AS CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR EFFECTIVE 10/29/21 AT A RATE OF \$18/ HR. TOTAL COST IS \$27/ HR THROUGH NORMAN STAFFING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **VIDEO TOWN MEETINGS**

Alex Dean has handled the broadcasting for the Town Board meetings. A videography proposal was given to the Board for continued service of covering future Board meetings. There was also a list of items proposed that the town should purchase to be able to broadcast. These items being used in the past were Alex's personal equipment. The estimated cost of the equipment is approximately \$73 via amazon. The rate discussed was \$50/hour for the first hour of recording \$20/additional hour billed by the quarter hour, rounded down with a 1 hour minimum. Options of editing and uploading to YouTube were also presented. Confidential secretary will have access to Zoom. Councilman Evelyn Clarke asked if Alex's services were only for the Town Board meetings. Alex said he could make himself available for public hearings, the LWRP or weekend events as needed. Supervisor Geuss said it is necessary for the Board

meetings and hearings. If other boards want Alex's services they would have to fund it from their budget. Currently there are two existing zoom accounts one for the confidential secretary and the other is Lisa Mance who is secretary of most of the other boards.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO CONTRACT WITH ALEX DEAN FOR VIDEOING THE REMAINING 4 TOWN BOARD MEETINGS OF 2021. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

**STORMWATER**

Councilman Chris Farrell said he would like to get stormwater on the next agenda and have Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo present at the meeting. Councilman Farrell said he went to a property off Horton Lane where there was 7 inches of standing water in the backyard and there is a storm drain across the road from the property. He said there is a problem there and something is blocking the drainage grate. The homeowner said the problem has been going on for years with no rectification from the Highway Department.

Also there seems to be some confusion on Superintendent Cafaldo's part relating to the location of new signs in Connelly and Sleightsburgh even though a follow up email was sent to him from Supervisor Geuss.

Speed sign training is in the process of being scheduled. Once training is complete, the machines can be deployed.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TOWN OF ESOPUS METHODIST CHURCH**

October 30, 2021, Roast beef dinner take out dinners available 4pm – 6:30 pm  
\$14 adults /\$7 children under 12

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:42 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

*Respectively submitted,  
Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, R.M.C.*