

10/5/2023 WS

Town Board Workshop Meeting

October 5, 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 October 5, 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 - absent**

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 7:12 PM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2024 BUDGET.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Steven Cerini, 257 Mountainview Ave said for the years he has lived in the town, he feels the Town Board has done a good job and is open to public suggestions and involving the public comment in many of the initiatives. Many times he has noticed, the only time people come up to voice their concerns is when something has been done, developed or has been decided that they do not like. However, during the time it was on the table or in a committee or in front of a board being discussed where they could have given their input into the process, they weren't around. He would just like to say. If they don't think their opinions are important enough to be involved in the process, he doesn't feel their opinion is important enough to listen to later.

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2024 Budget Discussion

The Board has been working on the budget over the past month and is in a very good place. Supervisor Freer said we were able to stay within the state mandate of a 2% cap and we were able to give the employees a 3% raise. We have seen an increase in mortgage tax, sales tax and building permits for renovation and new construction which has helped keep the taxes low.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PRELIMINARY 2024 BUDGET AS THE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NARCAN® ACCESS BOX PRESENTATION

Jessica Merk is with **ORACLE** (Opioid Response as County Law Enforcement) and spoke to the Board about NARCAN Boxes that they would like to see placed in the town. Her suggestion was Ross Park but Supervisor Freer did not feel that was an appropriate place but was open to hear other suggestions. The idea originated in the Town of New Paltz. The Sheriffs have developed a program and are looking to partner with municipalities around the county to make these kits available to save lives. They have started this initiative in Ulster County and have specific locations for the first 5 boxes which should be installed soon. The town does not have to maintain the boxes, they are supplied and refilled by the agency. Some of the placements include the rail trail in Kingston and Gardiner, Plattekill Park and Library. There was concern of whether these kits would incentivize drug use. Jessica said no, they have seen no correlation of data of that nature. Jessica will send more information to the Board so they can discuss this matter further.

PEFD- CLARK MAINS

There has been discussion revolving around the Port Ewen Fire Department's request for a section of Town Property to use as an above ground retention pond vs the underground system that was on their plans and approved by the Planning Board. When they came to the Town Board to request the land, they initially thought the above ground retention pond would save them \$100,000. Now that the bids have been returned, the savings of the system is only \$25,000. Since the PEFD was looking for the land to be acquired at no cost, as part of the agreement the Town in return discussed with them having their contractor grade off a section to widen the roadway and move a light pole. The aboveground retention pond would require the PEFD to draw up new plans and go back before the Planning Board. Chief Mains said he felt he did not want to go back through that process, and they feel there is no cost savings. The cost of the project has gone up significantly with post covid pricing. The PEFD will have a Referendum on November 14 to authorize them to spend more money on the building and to allow them to sell the buildings they have. Theoretically they could sell the Headquarters on Legion Court, prior to the build and hold meetings at a different location, though storage is a concern. Chief Mains said he received a call from someone looking to open an Irish pub at that location and a restaurant is an allowable use. The other buildings are in a prime location, and it is anticipated that they will also sell quickly.

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TextMyGov Presentation

TextMyGov was developed to open lines of communication with local government agencies and citizens, the system works 24 hours a day and easily connects with the Town website. This system allows citizens to ask questions and get immediate responses, find links to information on the website, address problems and report issues right from their smartphone or from any texting device. People can sign up to receive notification from the town on various topics. The town can pinpoint geographical areas to notify people in the case of an emergency such as a water main brake or paving of a road. This program comes with a media kit to help advertise the system and get people signed up. There is unlimited training and support. This item has been included in the 2024 budget and can be extremely helpful in opening the lines of communication with the community. They will send references to the town and the Board can review the materials provided.

REVIEW OF WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT ENGINEERING PLANNING GRANT DOCUMENTS

Documentation was given to the board to review; the documents were not ready to act on. The resolution needs to be drafted by Tighe and Bond and will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT JARAD KEPLINGER AS MEMBER OF THE ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW, TERM TO EXPIRE 9/30/2028. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO HIRE DAWN LAMARCA AS CLERK TO JUSTICE AT A RATE OF \$18 PER HOUR WITH A RETRO START DATE OF 9/21/23. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND

Supervisor Freer:

October 19 Congressman Pat Ryan Mobile Office here at Town Hall 10am – 2 pm

October 21 Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha, Energy Democracy Town Hall, 2PM at the Esopus Town Hall

Town Clerk:

Cas Landi Park The heavy rain has made the field soggy. K- Thunder has not used the field because of its condition and are respectfully waiting for it to dry out. However, other groups that are not in contract with the Town have used the field causing some damage. If anyone

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sees a group using it, please let Holly know so we can try to ask them to hold off until the field has time to dry out.

Councilman Clarke:

EDC is working on updating the website and their mission statement.

Environmental Board – Reported damage to the recent plantings at Reiker Park last Saturday: Sheriff's office investigating.

Councilman Quick:

Zoning Board & Waterfront Board no referrals/no meetings this month

Assessor's Department – Assessor at school

Seniors – Oktoberfest trip 10/3 – had a great time

October 16th – meet the Candidates for DA, Legislative Districts and Local candidates

UPCOMING KEY DATES – MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

10.9 Town Hall Closed: Indigenous Peoples' Day

10.16 Meet the Candidates at the Senior meeting 1 pm Community Center

DA, Legislative Districts, and Local Candidates

10.19 Next Town Board Meeting Day

10.19 Congressman Pat Ryan Mobile Office here at Town Hall 10am – 2 pm

10.21 Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha, Town Hall topic Energy Democracy, 2PM at the Esopus Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE AT 8:45 PM. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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