

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2013**

A regularly scheduled Workshop Meeting of the Town Board was held on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 284 Broadway in Port Ewen, New York with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Donna McAuley
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Administrative Recorder: Diane L. McCord, Town Clerk

Highway Supt. Michael Cafaldo

Supervisor Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

1. Highway Supt. Michael Cafaldo

The Superintendent had an opportunity to get prices on the three trucks and compare the difference of what we are now paying:

Mack Truck \$42,000 difference but only one truck includes a wing and you have to buy Mack parts.

International Truck – there is a \$1,000 difference

Freight Liner Trucks with plows on each truck would cost 23,000 more than we are paying now. Wings would cost \$2,500 each. The cost would be \$66,000 a year which is \$23,000 more than we are paying now. We can get the trucks and save the additional money and the payments are not due until March 2014. There is an application to be sent to Freight by the bookkeeper. The total cost for three trucks is \$422,624.

Gasoline Problem: Heritage delivered gasoline to the Highway Garage. Unfortunately, there was a chemical in the gasoline which turned the gasoline brown. Heritage is blaming the supplier from Albany for bringing a contaminated supply to the garage. The pumps were damaged and three of our trucks were damaged. The cost to repair the trucks is approximately \$2,000. New filters had to be put in. The fuel pumps were ruined. Highway Supt. Michael Cafaldo believes we need a credit card for emergencies. Our bookkeeper purchased gift cards for fuel from Stewarts. With a Fleet Card the tax would be taken off the credit card. The drivers ID number would be put in and one card would be issued for the person or a vehicle. The odometer reading and the pin number, the vehicle number would be necessary. The Supervisor thought this is something we should move on.

Oil Separator: The cost of an oil separator can run from \$3,400 to \$18,000. Jack Spinnenweber quoted us \$3,400 plus \$150 for the freight. Once we have this separator, we can open the drains under the garage and be in compliance with Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

Tree Gone At Certified Marina: The tree on the right of way above Certified has been removed. Sharon Jones has asked for the wood but this was taken out. She does not own the wood.

2. Sojourner Truth Parking Lot

The State of New York created the Sojourner Truth Mini Park with one hour parking. We never passed a law about the time limit locally. People have been using the lot for the entire day. A resident complained and asked the Ulster County Sheriff to remove these cars. What should we do with this parking lot? Councilperson Freer spoke about two spaces being for the handicapped. The other parking is not enforceable. The no overnight parking was passed by the Town Board. We cannot tell how long any particular car is parked in the lot. Councilperson Kyle Barnett said you can pass an ordinance but you will have a problem enforcing it unless we meter it and this was not acceptable. Councilperson Freer believes we should do the soft approach and have our code enforcement officer deal with a particular problem.

Supervisor Coutant said the complaints began when we opened the park. Why not allow people to park overnight when it snows to get them off the road? The problem occurs when Dan Vedder has to plow the parking lot. The parking lot is like the J Road. It comes under the General Fund. We could contract with the Highway to plow the mini park. The Supervisor suggested just being patient.

3. Resolution – Scenic Hudson – Esopus Meadows Preserve

Scenic Hudson would like the Town Board to pass a resolution for approval of a grant under the Water Quality Improvement Project Application: Esopus Meadows Preserve. In 2011 during hurricane Irene the water trail site was disrupted by a road collapse. This grant, if approved, would restore emergency access, enhance riparian habitat and restore stream connectivity in the Town of Esopus. The Town Board was in favor and the resolution will be discussed at the next Town Board Meeting.

4. Ulster County Resource Recovery – Electronic Waste Collection

We were not paying to recycle electronic waste and then we received a call stating we would be charged by the company we now use. Kurt Dankelmann found another company that will not charge except for the shipping which would probably be \$1,000 a year. We will wait until Dankelmann returns from vacation to get more information. Councilperson Freer suggested we get together with other towns to transport the electronic waste.

5. Ulster County Planning Board Member's Term Expired

The Supervisor received a letter from the Ulster County Planning Board regarding the expiration of the terms of the town representatives on their board. This will need to be approved at our next Town Board Meeting with the appointment of Roxanne Pecora as a regular member and Fred Zimmer as an alternate.

6. Employment Agreement – Timothy Keefe

Councilperson Kyle Barnett spoke to Building Inspector Tim Keefe last week about his salary of \$27.47 an hour. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet and Councilperson Wayne Freer said he should not be paid to drive to work. This amount was added to his salary for the purpose of driving to an emergency from his house. The reduced hours were discussed and how residents are having a problem obtaining service.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett said no one wants to pay people to work here full time so we have to cut back on our staff. It was the Supervisor's suggestion to give someone more time and more hours. The hours of the Fire Inspector were discussed and the certification which is needed. It is definitely something that should be looked into. The new contract will be put together by Councilperson Barnett for the next meeting with \$27.47 for a salary and the \$1,500 is off the table.

7. Hourly Wages (Councilperson McAuley)

Councilperson Donna McAuley suggested looking at the wages for entire budget prior to our public hearing. This meeting will take place at 7 PM. The Town Clerk will advertise this meeting for 7 PM and the public hearing on the budget for 8 PM. Councilperson Kyle Barnett will work on the Local Law to override the two percent cap.

8. Solar Actuary Update

All of our actuators have been replaced by the manufacturer and with the help of Randolph Horner.

9. Pitney Bowes Contract – Mail Machine

Our mail machine contract with Pitney Bowes expires in 2014. Councilperson Wayne Freer suggested getting bids from two other companies to compare the costs.

10. Set Date for Budget Public Hearing

The Public Hearing will be held on November 12, 2013 at 8 PM.

11. Set Date For Union Negotiations

No date was set.

12. Essential Fitness Ribbon Cutting

The Ulster County Chamber of Commerce set the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for Essential Training on Broadway in Port Ewen, N. Y. for Friday, November 8th at 3:30 PM.

13. Headless Horseman – Michael Jubie – Time Magazine Article

The Supervisor gave a copy of the Time Magazine article on the Headless Horseman Hayridge to each of the council members.

14. Superior Telephone - Maintenance Contract

Our contract with Superior Telephone expires on Nov. 30th at a cost of \$1,962.49.

15. Central Hudson Returns Check

Councilperson Wayne Freer asked the Supervisor about the \$6,700 check given to us by Steve Aaron to pay for the sewer pump station electric bill. The Supervisor said he did not deposit the check due to a discrepancy in the amount charged by Central Hudson. Steve Aaron asked him to hold the check because the figures were not right. The money should have been deposited the next day according to Councilperson Freer. The Supervisor explained Aaron did an audit and the amount was incorrect so he asked him to hold the check a few days until it could be fixed. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet said even if the amount is wrong it should have been paid because the town will have to be paid. Supervisor Coutant said Central Hudson was paid. We will be back in the same boat as before. Councilperson Freer said we are a group, we should have paid the money and put it in the bank. Supervisor Coutant said we would get all the money back. Councilperson Kyle Barnett was staying out of this. He thought the check was deposited. What is done is done.

16. Ulster County Comprehensive Plan

Councilperson Freer said Ulster County came to us about the County Wide Comprehensive Plan. We are the only town in Ulster County that has not signed into the mitigation plan. We need to sign in to the planning stage of the plan. They hold quarterly meetings. We need to give them input. It will not cost us anything but we will just have input in the plan. We are surrounded on three sides by water.

17. IDA Pilot – Mid Hudson Credit Union

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet questioned the IDA Pilot of \$732.31 and asked if the bank is billed separately for this special service? We will have to check with the Assessor under exempt in our rolls to ask if they are on the exempt portion of the roll or not?

18. Demolition of Sleightsburgh House

This property on Third Avenue was taken over by Ulster County. Who is responsible for the demolition the County or the Town? Port Ewen Fire Dept. has asked for the demolition.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Donna McAuley at 9:45 PM. All Town board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane L. McCord
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**