

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING**

**December 1, 2014**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Monday December 1, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant**  
**Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet**  
**Councilperson Wayne Freer**  
**Councilperson Kyle Barnett**  
**Councilperson Diane L. McCord**

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

Bill Kemble, Daily Freeman  
Curt Dankelman  
Brian Clarke  
Laurie Lawrence

**Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.**

**Public Comment:**

None

**Dog Kennel Employees**

A certificate of appreciation was given to Laurie Lawrence in recognition of her many years of excellent service and dedication to the Town of Esopus Dogs. The Esopus kennel will be closing December 31, 2014. The kennel was in dire repair and was cost prohibitive to keep. The Board felt the employees have done a great job over the years caring for the dogs and they were sorry to have to make the decision to close the facility.

**Transfer Station – Curt Dankelman/Brian Clark**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:40PM TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF KURT DANKELMAN AND BRIAN CLARKE.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:00 PM BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AND SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COUTANT. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN**

Councilperson Kyle Barnett explained we need to put this operation out to bid, soliciting 3 bids or more. The process will take approximately 60 – 90 days by the time it goes out and we receive the RMP and make a determination. In the meantime the Town is also going to explore the option of taking the operation in house and comparing that cost to the bids. The Board will then make a determination as to which is the most cost effective option. The final possible option of last resort would be to close the transfer station. We need to see how much it would cost to operate the transfer station 3 days a week. The fees that are currently being charged at the transfer station will also be reviewed and compared to the other municipalities in Ulster County. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet commented on a recent article from the Daily Freeman which stated the Town of Ulster was raising the cost of their permits to \$50.00. Councilperson Van Vliet has the concern that only 400 permits are issued out of approximately 9000 residents who live in the Town. Many people have private garbage pickup and they are subsidizing the few who utilize the transfer station. The Town needs to explore the efficiency and cost while keeping the budgetary constraints in mind.

Councilperson Van Vliet asked why we have not gotten rid of all the tires. Curt Dankelman said he got rid of a load last year and you need 1200 tires to fill a trailer. Curt said they are approaching that number now. He was not going to pay to have a trailer load pulled and not have it filled to it's capacity. He will be getting rid of them soon.

#### **NYS Division Homeland Security & Emergency Services – Regarding OMB**

Supervisor John Coutant received a letter from NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. The Supervisor explained if a Town receives more than \$500,000 or more of federal funds during a fiscal year it must have an independent audit. The estimate of the cost of this type of audit is \$20,000.00. Councilperson Van Vliet asked, since the money was for the water treatment plant does the Town have to do a town wide audit or can it be a special district audit. Supervisor Coutant said it is called a Single Audit which involves the funds that came in from the federal and state FEMA money. The auditor will look at everything relative to where the money went and the vendors who got paid. It is so expensive because the government requires you to use a CPA that has been trained and certified in handling the single audit in such a way to appease the government. Councilperson Freer remembers the original transaction had a 3 % administrative cost built in for billing and audit purposes. Don Kiernan will be consulted to see if the final payment included any funds to pay for the audit.

#### **NYS Assessor's Association Course – January 12-16, 2015**

Jo Anna Mignon, T.O.E. Assessor, has requested permission to attend a course being held by NYS Assessor's Association on January 12 – 16, 2015 in Syracuse. This training was included in her 2015 budget. Therefore, the Town Board approved her for attending the class.

#### **Holiday Parade – 12/13/14**

Jack Spinneweber has confirmed he will have a float for the Town officials to ride on in the Winter Wonderland Parade on December 13, 2014. All participants should be there by 5:00 pm.

Supervisor Coutant said Judy Aaron called to extend an invitation for the Town Board to come to the annual Birchez Christmas party at the Hillside Manor, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The Town Board needs to respond to her for a head count.

**Union Negotiation Date**

Councilperson Kyle Barnett said he called union representative several weeks ago and he has not heard back from him. Messages have been left on the representative's cell and work phone numbers. If needed, a meeting will be set up for 7:15 pm on December 16, 2014.

**Miscellaneous**

Town Clerk, Holly Netter gave hand outs relative to Randolph Horner's Solar Project Manager contract and the recommendation of a resolution against the closure of the Newburgh Postal facility. These topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer and seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk