

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
December 19, 2017**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor Diane McCord
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Jared Guess
Councilperson Kathie Quick**

Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor Diane McCord called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Joel Santisteban, Program Director for Sun & Energy, stopped by to briefly discuss a Community Choice Aggregation Program where municipalities partner up and bid on power. This is a new energy vision and has only been allowed since mid 2016. They currently work with the Village of Wappinger Falls and the Town of Marlboro. Packets of information were distributed to all of the Board members and Joel offered his assistance if there were any questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION JOSEPH LEICHING – PLANNING BOARD INTERVIEW

A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING JOSEPH LEICHING FOR A VACANCY ON THE PLANNING BOARD AT 7:35 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE AT 7:43 PM BY COUNCILPERSON FREER. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

NO DECISION MADE.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- SEAN BRANDT – RECREATION BOARD

A MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING SEAN BRANDT FOR A VACANCY ON THE RECREATION BOARD AT 7:45 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE AT 7:59 PM BY COUNCILPERSON VAN VLIET. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

NO DECISION MADE.

BUILDING INSPECTOR SALVATORE MORRELLO – VACATION TIME

The Building department has undergone major personnel changes this year. For the first 4 months of the year we did not have a Fire Inspector. Richard Valentine was hired and became certified to perform all Building Code Inspections at the end of August. Sal Morrello, Building Inspector, said he always wanted a code Certified Inspector available to the public. As such, he was unable to use the majority of his vacation time. Since this was a unique situation, the Board unanimously agreed to allow Sal to carry his unused vacation time over into 2018.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT VEHICLE – SAFETY LIGHTS

Councilperson Freer said there is a need to install safety lights on the Town Vehicle. The car is often pulled on the side of the road while inspections are being performed and night time fire calls are made. These lights were discussed during the budget meetings and funds were set aside for 2018. Councilperson Freer suggested Sal start looking into purchasing them and having them installed.

DOG CONTROL/UCSPCA CONTRACT 2018

Communication is needed from our Dog Control Officer Jill Shufeldt, regarding the boarding of dogs at the UCSPCA. The SPCA has not followed through on an agreement to have the DL – 18 notifications faxed to the Town Clerk by the SPCA upon the boarding of a dog. Town Clerk, Holly Netter, said she has not received a bill from the SPCA for any dogs in 2017 and has received no return email or call regarding the matter. The SPCA has had a change in Directors. The Board determined there is a need for a monthly report to be submitted by Jill to the Town Clerk so the activity can be shared with the Board. A motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract will be presented at the next Town Board meeting.

CENTRAL HUDSON VS. CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL FOR LED STREET LIGHTS

The Board continued their discussion regarding the replacing of the street lights to LED. They reviewed the proposal made by Central Hudson and the Consortium proposal. Councilperson Van Vliet made a suggestion to table the matter and allow the new Town Board to make the decision. Supervisor McCord asked if she presented a Resolution at the next Town Board meeting, were the Board members ready to vote. Councilperson Van Vliet said she was not ready to make a decision. However, many Board members felt they had already dealt with all the presentations and the new Board would have to start from scratch. Councilperson Freer

said Central Hudson’s proposal financially made more sense and they did not want to bond for the lights, which if they went with the consortium, would need to be done. Councilperson Geuss said Central Hudson is reliable and the maintenance would continue to be their responsibility. Councilperson Quick said she was also leaning toward the Central Hudson proposal. Councilperson Van Vliet asked where the \$40,000 was coming from to have the lights replaced. Supervisor McCord said she had discussed it with the bookkeeper and funds were available. The cost is approximately \$40,000 and is expected to save the Town \$19,000 a year with the energy efficient bulbs. The project is expected to pay for itself in 2 years.

WALLKILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD TO APPROVE JOINING THE WALLKILL WATERSHED ALLIANCE FOR \$1,000 TO ALLOW THEM TO USE THE FUNDS TO TEST THE WATER AND ANALYZE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Freer said they should look into having the DEC do testing to find out why there is so much debris coming here from New Jersey. State or Federal intervention may be needed to figure out why we receive the out of state debris after a heavy rain storm.

SOLAR LAW DRAFT- SAL MORRELLO, BUILDING INSPECTOR

Supervisor McCord had asked Sal Morrello to review Laws from other Towns regarding Solar Energy and put together his ideas for what he feels would be best for the Town of Esopus. He gave each Board member a draft copy and asked them to review it. A local law is a 3 month long process and the Board felt it would be best for the incoming Board to revisit this topic and start the process. A copy of the Draft will be given to Councilperson Elect Chris Farrell and Supervisor Elect Shannon Harris to follow up on in 2018. After everyone has time to review Sal’s recommendations, changes can be made if needed and sent to our Attorney Paul Keller for further review.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY

Supervisor McCord said she had completed the paperwork to become a Climate Smart Community. She has completed 8 out of 10 items and a Resolution will need to be made. She is not sure if she will have the opportunity to complete the items by the end of her term and it may need to carry over to the new Board.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SUMMARY – JARED GEUSS

Councilperson Jared Geuss is chairing the Comprehensive Plan Committee and supplied the Board with a summary of the progress made in 2017 and reviewed goals for 2018. Now that the information has been gathered, an outside planner with “new eyes” needs to be brought on

Board to work with Myles Putman and the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Once a scope of work has been determined, we can go out to bid for consultants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor McCord said there were 2 juveniles that did **damage at Ross Park**. These individuals were too young for Court and will be doing Community Service at the Park for their actions. The families have repaired and paid for all damages.

Pleasantville Cemetery is being turned over to the Town. Supervisor McCord has a meeting scheduled to start the paperwork.

Councilperson Freer said the Kingston Water treatment Plant is trying to do a lot of renovations and repairs to their plant, which we are responsible for paying a percentage of. He said they are applying for grants but wants to make sure, prior to them bonding for the remainder, they are deducting those grant funds from the overall cost instead of just applying the grant to their portion of the repairs. The Town should be paying the percentage of the net cost after the grants have been applied not the original cost. Supervisor McCord said Water Superintendent Don Kiernan has recently been invited to a meeting so we should have a better idea of what is going on.

The Mount Academy had 2 sport teams that made it to the state finals. Councilperson Freer suggested they be recognized for their success at the Town Board Meeting. Arrangements will be made to create awards and make a presentation.

Supervisor McCord showed the Board the recognition plaque she received from the Supervisor's Association.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:55 PM WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

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