

**TOWN OF ESOPUS  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
January 18, 2024, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on January 18, 2024 in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson  
Councilman Evelyn Clarke  
Councilman Kathie Quick  
Councilman Jared Guess - Absent  
Supervisor Danielle Freer**

**Administrative Recorder: Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk, RMC**

**4 WAYS TO GIVE PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- 1.) **In-Person – Attend the Workshop**
- 2.) **Phone in: Leave voicemail on 845 331 0676 prior to the meeting**
- 3.) **EMAIL – [lreynolds@esopus.com](mailto:lreynolds@esopus.com) with the subject line “Public Comment”**
- 4.) **MAIL – mail written comments to:  
*Town of Esopus, P.O. Box 700  
Port Ewen, NY 12466***

Supervisor Danielle Freer called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Diane Dintruff Minturn St.** Read the following; I recently checked the EngageKingston website hoping to find news of the Army Corps of Engineers’ plan for the Rondout Jetty. It’s been several years since Julie Noble mentioned the Army Corp was coming to the Rondout. **Any news on the Rondout Jetty?**

Although I didn’t find any information on plans for the jetty on the EngageKingston site, I came across a couple of other CFA grant awards that I’d like to mention: the "Kingston Point Wetland Restoration and Public Access Improvements" and the "John Burroughs/Black Creek Trail" projects (summaries attached). I tend to analogize Sleightsburgh as comparable to Kingston’s wetland project and Freer as comparable to Kingston Point. **Does the CFA site give info on most projects funded in NYS?**

**2) Sleightsburgh Park will be the first of Esopus' land lost to sea level rise.** Given how big an asset Sleightsburgh is to the community in terms of recreation, wildlife habitat, history of our town as a maritime village, and as a buffer to the Rondout area of Kingston, **I hope that saving Sleightsburgh will be given priority when implementing the new LWRP** before it is too late to save. Esopus has seen success on restoration at Esopus Meadows, Kingston has recently been awarded a CFA grant to restore the wetland in the lagoon area northwest of the trolley track that is currently accessed from the Hudson under the Rotary Park Bridge (attached), and several other wetland restoration projects have been implemented along the Hudson and surrounding NYC.

I wasn't able to get a photo of the Sleightsburgh launch from the Kingston side during the last snow melt & rain since the road to Kingston Point and the road beginning at the HRMM was flooded, but I assume much of Sleightsburgh park, the access road, and the associated wetland area across the creek were also flooded.

**3) Is the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail Project still in plan?** I was surprised to see on the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development site that none of the \$600,000 CFA funds have been disbursed, and that the contract has not been executed since anticipated completion date is at the end of this year. The connection between parks and trail systems within town is the best part of the LWRP, given the amount of time spent planning the JB/BC trail project, I hope it will be implemented. (Grant is Scenic Hudson's not Town of Esopus.)

**4) Hudson River Valley Greenway ARPA Sponsorships** Hope Esopus makes use of it ...Laura Petit was interested.

**Jack Swortfinger Clark St.** His property is located where Green and Clark meet but the side of his property borders Broadway and therefore, he is responsible for clearing the sidewalks on Broadway. He said he cannot reach that property without trespassing on his neighbors' property. In order to shovel, he would have to walk down Green St., then onto Doris and back up Broadway. He said he noticed community service shoveling the cemetery sidewalk and wondered if the Town could have them clear the sidewalks. There are retired people who cannot shovel and do not have the money to pay people. He also suggested the town use a machine to clear the walkway or community service. After the state plows Broadway, the ice buildup makes it very difficult for people to remove the snow.

**Oscar Carlson 125 Broadway,** traffic comes into town too fast, can't cross the street. Also agreed something should be done to clear the sidewalks.

**Derek Karabec Hudson Lane** attended the Environmental meeting last night. Commended the professionalism that the Environmental Board had. It was far more than what he expected. He wanted to let them know their work is appreciated and that they did the task they were asked to do.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**Discussion: Review of BRIDGE NY Consulting Engineering Firm EOIs (Expression of Interests)**

The Town solicited EOIs (Expressions of Interest) from all Region 8 LDSA (Local Design Services Agreement) Consultants to see if they had any interest in a bridge project in town (Vallie Road); two firms replied. Writing the grant is at no cost to the Town, the company is compensated by obtaining the grant and they are awarded the job.

The two interested firms were:

- McLaren Engineering Group 530 Chestnut Ridge Road, Woodcliff Lake, NJ
- Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) 80 Wolf Road, Suite 600, Albany, NY

Supervisor Freer said she has discussed the choices with Highway Superintendent Michael Cafaldo. Based on the qualification guidelines the Town set, Superintendent Cafaldo likes GPI. This company has work in our area and is in Albany. The Councilmen present were also in favor of GPI. The bridge issue has existed for quite some time and needs to be addressed. The Town had reached out to Senators Schumer & Gillibrand for funding assistance however we were not awarded any funding. Paul Kellar reviewed the documents.

**RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ESOPUS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRM FOR THE BRIDGE NY APPLICATION PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, the NYSDOT is soliciting candidate projects for funding under the BRIDGE NY program; and

**WHEREAS**, The BRIDGE NY program provides enhanced assistance for local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus wishes to submit a bridge and culvert project for consideration under the Bridge NY program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus solicited Expressions of Interest (EOI) from consulting engineering firms to prepare a Bridge NY application from the current Region 8 LDSA list, and if funding is received for the project, the selected firm shall be utilized to perform the preliminary design, detailed design, right of way, construction support and inspection services after a detailed scope and negotiated fee is submitted and approved by the Town of Esopus and NYSDOT, and

**WHEREAS**, Expression of Interest (EOI's) were submitted and the preferred consultant selected based on our review of the EOI's;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT: RESOLVED**, that the Town of Esopus approves the selection of GPI Engineering Group as the consultant to assist the Town with the BRIDGE NY application and eventual work (if awarded); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to enter into a contractual agreement with GPI Engineering Group for Bridge NY application assistance services.

**OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON**

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>  | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>   | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>    | <b>ABSENT</b> |
| <b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**Ulster County ARPA SLFRF Projects**

This subaward will be used to help fund the water control panel at the Water Treatment Plant. Water Superintendent Nick Butler will manage the contract and will tap Tighe and Bond as needed. Documents were reviewed by Paul Keller.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SEWER & WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SUBAWARD AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF ESOPUS AND THE COUNTY OF ULSTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Esopus Town Board, as commissioners of the Port Ewen Water & Sewer District, have previously authorized upgrades to the Roger Mabie Water Treatment Plant (WTP); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has actively sought ways to supplement the cost of additional projects at the WTP not covered by previous grant opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021 and established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the "SLFRF"), with the goal of providing vital federal support to local governments as they address the negative health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Ulster (the "County"), as a SLFRF recipient, is authorized to issue subawards for the purpose of carrying out a portion of the administration of the SLFRF; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, as a SLFRF recipient, desires to utilize a portion of these funds, to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its

negative economic impacts, including by awarding funds to the Town of Esopus for the purpose of replacing the control panel at the WTP; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, desires to issue a subaward to the Town of Esopus to assist the Town with the cost of the project known as the "Roger Mabie WTP Main Control Panel Improvement" as the Town's water system has a significant impact to the public at large; and

**WHEREAS**, the overall cost of said "Roger Mabie WTP Main Control Panel Improvement" has been identified as \$115,000 of which the Port Ewen Water and Sewer District shall pay \$77,000 in capital funds and the County has agreed to engage the Town of Esopus, and the Town of Esopus has agreed to contract with the County, to administer the sub-award of the SLFRF in the amount of \$38,000.00 (Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of assisting in funding the replacing critical components within the main control panel, pursuant to said project, in the Town of Esopus in accordance with the terms of a certain "Sewer & Water Infrastructure Subaward Agreement: Town of Esopus American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)" Corona virus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the "SLFRF"), a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The "Sewer & Water Infrastructure Subaward Agreement: Town of Esopus American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)" Coronavirus State and local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the "SLFRF") between the County of Ulster and the Town of Esopus annexed hereto as Exhibit "A", and the same is hereby approved;
2. Danielle Freer as Supervisor is authorized to execute the Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

**EXHIBIT A**

**ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS & FUNDING BREAKDOWN**

Subrecipient: Town of Esopus County: Ulster

Date Cost Estimate Developed: February 10, 2023

Date Funding Breakdown Developed: February 10, 2023

**A: ESTIMATED PROJECT COST**

| <b>Category</b> | <b>Subcategory</b> | <b>Estimated Cost</b> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Engineering     |                    | \$10,000              |
|                 |                    |                       |
| Construction    |                    |                       |
|                 | Labor              | \$16,000              |
|                 |                    |                       |
| Equipment       |                    |                       |

|                    |                                |           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
|                    | PLC and Panel View Replacement | \$63,000  |
|                    | Computer Replacement           | \$16,000  |
|                    |                                |           |
| Contingency        |                                |           |
|                    | 10%                            | \$10,000  |
|                    |                                |           |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST |                                | \$115,000 |

**B: FUNDING BREAKDOWN**

| Type                 | Amount    | Details                   |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Town of Esopus       | \$77,000  | Water System Reserve Fund |
| Ulster County        | \$38,000  | Sewer & Water Grant       |
| TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT | \$115,000 |                           |

**OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE**

**COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON                    AYE**  
**COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE                    AYE**  
**COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK                    AYE**  
**COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS                    ABSENT**  
**SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER                    AYE**

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**Review: Municipal Parks & Recreation Subaward Agreement**

A copy of the Municipal Parks & Recreation Subaward Agreement in the amount of \$50,000 for Cas Landi Park improvements was given to the Board members for review. Questions relating to additional funding were asked. Town Clerk Netter said Anthony Mignone from RCAL has expressed interest in helping with funding for the ADA park improvements. Supervisor Freer will also work on providing the budget details.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE HUDSON RIVER DRINKING WATER INTER-MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (HUDSON 7)**

**WHEREAS,** The Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7) is a coalition of seven municipalities that rely on drinking water from the Hudson River. The communities

include the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, the Village and Town of Rhinebeck, and the Towns of Esopus, Hyde Park, and Lloyd. Our five public water supplies serve 106,000 residents and major regional employers, providing safe water for human consumption, firefighting, industry, and more in Ulster and Dutchess County and three hospitals and three colleges in Dutchess County; and

**WHEREAS**, In accordance with the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), dated 5/31/18, and the Memorandum of Amendment #1, dated 2/7/23, the Council shall include the following voting members: Town of Esopus, Town of Hyde Park, Town of Lloyd, Town of Poughkeepsie, Town of Rhinebeck, Village of Rhinebeck, City of Poughkeepsie, Ulster County and Dutchess County; and

**WHEREAS**, Each voting member shall designate one primary representative and one alternate representative, for a term of two years. The primary representative shall be an elected official. The alternate representative may be an elected official, an employee or contractor of the municipality, a resident of the municipality, or another appropriate representative. Each voting member may, at its discretion from time to time, change its primary or alternate representative.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Esopus does hereby acknowledge the “Primary Representative” to be Supervisor Danielle Freer, the “Alternate Representative” to be Port Ewen Water and Sewer Superintendent Nicholas Butler, and the second “Alternate Representative” should Mr. Butler be absent to be Shannon Harris, for the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council for the Town of Esopus.

**OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE**

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>  | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>   | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>    | <b>ABSENT</b> |
| <b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**Miscellaneous / Key Liaison Updates**

Join a committee or Board! info available at [www.esopus.com](http://www.esopus.com) .

**COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK-**

Waterfront Board will meet 1/24/2024

ZBA postponed their meeting due to the inclement weather

**Councilman Laura Robinson** - Recreation Board did not meet in January but will meet in February to plan Egg Hunt.

**Councilman Evelyn Clarke** – Environmental Board reviewed the project on Hudson Lane and will work on a detailed response to the Planning Board sharing their point of view. Some information was not up to date.

An Earth Day event will be held 5/18 due to so many conflicts of trying to hold it on the actual earth day. The comm are calling it the “Last Frost Fest”. They are looking to change the location from the Town Hall and move it somewhere in town. Town Clerk Holly Netter reminded them if they intend to use one of the parks, they need to notify her prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Honeybee Jubilee will be held at Ross Park on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Clarke asked about the status of the charging stations. Supervisor Freer said Europa McGovern from Ulster County left a message this week and she will follow up with her. Supervisor Freer also said she would like the Environmental Board to manage the project once all information is obtained and the plan is solidified. There is also a Resolution that needs to be discussed and passed to earn the Town more Climate Smart points.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS DECEMBER 2023- FINAL**

**Be It Resolved, by** the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

**Whereas,** the Town of Esopus has been presented with budget adjustments and the adjustments have been examined and approved by the Town Board.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that the following budget adjustments be approved for payment:

|                     |                   |           |                            |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>AO.0599.000</b>  | <b>\$4,214.10</b> | <b>to</b> | <b>AO.3620.400</b>         | <b>\$4,214.10</b> |
| <b>Fund Balance</b> |                   |           | <b>Municipity Software</b> |                   |

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>OFFERED BY:</b>  | <b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b> |
| <b>SECONDED BY:</b> | <b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b> |

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>  | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>   | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>    | <b>ABSENT</b> |
| <b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS DECEMBER 2023- FINAL**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

**WHEREAS** the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

|                             |                        |                     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>         | <b>231583-231622</b>   | <b>\$54,580.45</b>  |
| <b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>         | <b>232299 - 232317</b> | <b>\$31,495.57</b>  |
| <b>STREETLIGHTS</b>         | <b>236004 - 236004</b> | <b>\$6,909.99</b>   |
| <b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b> | <b>233177 - 233184</b> | <b>\$3,122.72</b>   |
| <b>PORT EWEN WATER</b>      | <b>234249 - 234268</b> | <b>\$35,697.64</b>  |
| <b>Capital Water</b>        |                        |                     |
| <b>ARPA</b>                 |                        |                     |
| <b>Visa</b>                 |                        |                     |
|                             |                        | <b>\$131,806.37</b> |

**OFFERED BY: SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER**  
**SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK**

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE</b>  | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK</b>   | <b>AYE</b>    |
| <b>COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS</b>    | <b>ABSENT</b> |
| <b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JANUARY 2024**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Esopus, County of Ulster as follows:

**WHEREAS** the Town of Esopus has been presented with vouchers for payment and these vouchers have been examined and approved by the Town Board,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following vouchers be approved for payment:

|                             |                        |                     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>         | <b>241000 - 241010</b> | <b>\$17,813.48</b>  |
| <b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>         | <b>242000 - 242003</b> | <b>\$17,239.27</b>  |
| <b>STREETLIGHTS</b>         |                        |                     |
| <b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b> | <b>243000</b>          | <b>\$225.00</b>     |
| <b>PORT EWEN WATER</b>      | <b>244000</b>          | <b>\$208.00</b>     |
| <b>Capital Water</b>        | <b>245000 - 245003</b> | <b>238,219.34</b>   |
| <b>ARPA</b>                 |                        |                     |
| <b>Visa</b>                 |                        |                     |
|                             |                        | <b>\$273,705.09</b> |

**OFFERED BY:** SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER  
**SECONDED BY:** COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON | AYE    |
| COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE  | AYE    |
| COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK   | AYE    |
| COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS    | ABSENT |
| SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER | AYE    |

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**UPCOMING KEY DATES – MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:**

1.27 Repair Café hosted by the Environmental Board | 10am-2pm at the Ascension Church

2.1 Next Town Board Workshop

2.17 5th Annual Sojourner Truth Life Walk

2.15 Next Town Board Meeting

2.19 Town Hall Closed: President’s Day

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:50 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:23 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION: NONE TAKEN**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:25 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

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