

**TOWN OF ESOPUS  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
August 17, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on August 17, 2023, in person at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. Meeting was also available on TV 23, and Live Streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page. The following persons in attendance:

**Councilman Laura Robinson  
Councilman Evelyn Clarke  
Councilman Kathie Quick  
Councilman Jared Guess  
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 7 pm.**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

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

**DISCUSSION REGARDING ULSTER COUNTY ARPA & SLFRF SEWER & WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SUB AWARD AGREEMENT**

Supervisor Freer said they had hoped to move ahead with the Sewer & Water Infrastructure Sub Award Agreement. However, the document was 36 pages long and the Town Attorney had some concerns with certain items. Supervisor Freer contacted the County and the County indicated the Town was asking all the right questions. They need to check with their attorney

to see if amendments could be made to the agreement. It seems there are items that are not applicable to the Town of Esopus since this was a smaller grant of \$38,000, opposed to others who have larger scale projects. Water Superintendent Nick Butler is eager to get this project out for bid. Supervisor Freer will share feedback from the County once it is received.

**PORT EWEN WATER & SEWER DEPT. UPDATES (PEWD); NICK BUTLER, SUPERINTENDENT**

Water Superintendent Nick Butler updated everyone on the work that is being done at the water plant. The Port Ewen Water Department has three major projects; the Water Treatment Plant Improvements for water quality, the New Water Tank and the third project is Distribution Upgrades to replace pipes which are at different stages of progress. The Water Treatment Plant improvements were put out for bid and awarded earlier this year. The project is progressing well, but the completion of the job may be pushed back a bit because there are some supply chain issues. Supervisor Freer acknowledged the work the water department has been doing and commended all the water department staff for working with contractors as well as doing their daily work. There are monthly team meetings with the engineer, contractors, and water department staff to provide updates. Schedules are given to Nick 2 weeks in advance so there is a coordination of what contractors will be on site and what work can be expected.

Nick is also eager to get the Control Panel Project started and put out to bid.

The new 2-million-gallon Water Tank Project, which started under the prior Water Superintendent Don Kiernan, is still waiting for approval from the Department of Health in Albany. There is not an expectation that there will be any issues, however the State has a backlog.

Distribution – The PEWD will be ripping out the main pipes and replacing them with new pipes. The PEWD and Water Board are looking at what the best way to spend the money and which areas will be addressed first. Nick said the plan is approximately 60-90% done and once it goes on paper and they figure out the best option, the plans will then get sent to Albany to the Health Department for approval.

Nick said there were many breaks the first winter he was here. They have been replacing street valves which have improved the number of breaks. The team replaced three in July. The pump that had been ordered a year ago has finally come in.

Nick puts a lot of emphasis on schooling. The men need 30 credits within 3 years to maintain their licenses. Mike Dauner completed his RPD inspection. All workers have completed all the civil service testing and necessary water licenses. The newest member of the team, Mike Miller, qualifies to start his grade 2A course on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Nick has a fleet of trucks that are older, and he wants to initiate a fleet management program to get the trucks preplaced. The two service body trucks are 2016's, he has a 2005 Jeep Liberty, a 2004 dump body which he spent \$2,000 last year to repair and his 2023 Dodge Ram which was leased in 2023. He asked the Board for permission to order a new 2023 dump body truck with a payment of \$1,979.33; after 3 years would have a buy out of \$25,598.60. At that time they can decide to sell or hold onto the 2004 vehicle for plowing. Councilman Laura Robinson said it was a good idea instead of putting more money into it.

Councilman Jared Guess said he would like to wait and talk with the bookkeeper. He would like to see if they can work something out with the fleet replacement plan during the budget meeting on Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Nick said it is a necessity for the department and the safety of his employees is a priority.

Councilman Evelyn Clarke asked what the safety concern was for the employees. Nick explained the vehicle has structural rot and when the truck is carrying a load does not react the same as when it is empty. Nick said it was ok to use it right now but he won't jeopardize the guy's safety.

Councilman Clarke asked what the advantage of waiting for 2024 would be. Councilman Guess said lines can be set up in the budget for a fleet management program. He wants to make sure we are setting up a long-term plan.

Nick would like to order the truck this year and if it comes in he is confident there is enough money in his budget to cover it.

Councilman Clarke said if he doesn't get it until 2024 and we get major rain or snow we may have issues. Highway may have to be asked for assistance in that case.

Supervisor Freer suggested tabling the conversation for three weeks until the Budget Workshop.

Councilman Clarke commended Nick for his focus on education. Supervisor Freer said the Board was grateful and proud of the department and the work they are doing.

No decisions were made and further discussion about the equipment will continue at the Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop.

**MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION**  
**TOWN OF ESOPUS IN OPPOSITION TO THE DISCHARGE**  
**OF RADIOACTIVE WASTEWATER INTO THE HUDSON RIVER AND**  
**URGING GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO SIGN “SAVE THE HUDSON” LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, Holtec International, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, has announced its intention to release water from onsite radioactive fuel waste pools into the Hudson River in mid-September or early October; and,

**WHEREAS**, to date there has been no specific reporting of the radionuclide contents of this water which is heavily contaminated from the storage of the nuclear fuel waste; and,

**WHEREAS**, pre-release filtration to remove these isotopes has been presented as a solution to reduce the content of these carcinogenic contaminants to a level “as low as reasonably achievable”; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Academy of Sciences has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of these isotopes when they are ingested or inhaled; and,

**WHEREAS**, such pre-release treatment would not remove tritium, also carcinogenic, from the water; and,

**WHEREAS**, any contaminants in the Hudson present the risk of entering the food chain; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are community members who depend on fish from the river as a food source; and,

**WHEREAS**, the river also serves as a source of recreational activities and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this reckless action; and,

**WHEREAS**, as an active member of the Hudson 7 we are concerned about any pollution into the river; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hudson 7 represents seven municipalities that draw drinking water from the Hudson River to serve over 100,000 people in Ulster and Dutchess Counties. We support efforts to reduce pollution to the Hudson River that can negatively impact drinking water supplies; and,

**WHEREAS**, the nearest Hudson 7 drinking water intake is about 35 miles upstream from Indian Point, and data indicates that the releases won't impact our intakes. However, as stewards of the Hudson River as a drinking water supply, we are opposed to anything being dumped into the river that could possibly contaminate drinking water supplies; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Esopus strongly opposes the plan to release approximately one-million gallons of contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River; and,

**RESOLVED**, both chambers of the New York Legislature passed the “Save the Hudson” legislation that would protect the Hudson River from any discharges of radioactive materials from Indian Point; and,

**RESOLVED**, in order for the legislation to take effect, we urge Governor Kathy Hochul to sign this important legislation to keep any discharges of radioactive materials from going into the Hudson River from Indian Point.

**RESOLVED**, That the Clerk to the Town of Esopus is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; Pete Harckham, New York State Senator; Dana Levenberg, New York State Assembly, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly; the New York State Public Service Commission, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board; and to such other persons as the Clerk in their discretion may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

**Resolution offered by :**        **Supervisor Danielle Freer**

**Resolution 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>AYE</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Resolution duly adopted.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Supervisor Freer, Councilman Guess and Shannon Harris have been working with Matt Rogers on the Comp Plan Overview presentation which is tentatively scheduled for 9/21/2023.

### **LIAISON UPDATES**

**Councilman Laura Robinson** – Family Fun Day went extremely well. Kids enjoyed free facepainting and free fried dough was given out to all. Many games were played; people could learn how to play pickleball. The Bruderhof made bird houses and crafts with children. There were 2 basketball tournaments with 2 winners. Julie’s Dawgs, Cub Scouts Pack 11, Esopus Library as well as other local businesses participated in the event.

The date for the Christmas parade is set for Dec 2, 2023, with a rain/snow date of December 3, 2023.

Kevin and Michelle Boller are moving to another community and have resigned from the Parks and Recreation Commission. They were thanked for their service and wished well on their new assignment.

**MOTION TO APPOINT NEW PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION:**

<b>TIM KEIDERLING</b>	<b>12/31/2027</b>
<b>ANNMARIE KEIDERLING</b>	<b>12/31/2026</b>

**THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**Town Clerk**

Town Clerk Holly Netter hosted the Ulster County Clerks August meeting at Freer Park with close to 40 attendees from the County. The NYS Department of Health was the guest speaker. Holly is working with Building Inspector Mark Jaffee on merging information with Municipality and setting up the online application so the revenue that comes in gets recorded to the appropriate code line. Research surrounding an alternative credit card company is continuing. Hunting licenses became available August 1<sup>st</sup> and DMP’s are available for purchase until October 1<sup>st</sup>. She gave an update on the park scheduling for fall sports; Tiger Youth football will be utilizing Ross Park this year for practice. There are still dates available to rent the pavilions at the parks but Town Clerk Netter encouraged people to get their paperwork in as soon as possible.

**Highway**

Supervisor Freer said the Highway Department has been hearing the concerns of the stormwater issues and continues to address the issues. Basins have been installed one on Clay Road and they repaired 1 basin by Connelly Post Office. The Highway Department has begun to address drainage issues on Lindorf Street that are affecting multiple residents. They replaced the catch basin on Clay Rd. and rerouted other drainage. They will be back to address the pipes and other basins, then they will be starting with the issue behind Van Vliet’s property. They have cleaned / paved ditches on Mountainview Ave and North Broadway.

They have paved/ ditches/ driveway aprons for the following roads:  
Main St – St. Remy (complete road)

Pine Tree Dr. (complete road)  
Horton Lane (Bayard – Prospect)  
Lily Lane (complete road)  
Hellbrook Lane (complete road)

**Councilman Kathie Quick**

ZBA granted a variance on Legion Court; Waterfront Board didn't meet this month. The Esopus Seniors will have a picnic at Freer Park on Monday August 21, 2023.

**Councilman Evelyn Clarke** –Tree and Plant Task Force Committee is addressing a few topics with the environmental board,

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS- AUGUST 2023**

**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 Fund Balance</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>AO.1110.400 \$1,550.68</b>
		<b>Justice Contractual</b>
		<b>AO.3310.400 \$330.00</b>
		<b>Traffic Control</b>

**OFFERED BY:** SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER  
**SECONDED BY:** COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS

<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>AYE</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AUG 2023**

**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>231331- 231375</b>	<b>\$61,594.74</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND</b>	<b>232155- 232183</b>	<b>\$358,321.45</b>
<b>STREETLIGHTS</b>		
<b>PORT EWEN SEWER FUND</b>	<b>233125 – 233136</b>	<b>\$2,922.10</b>
<b>PORT EWEN WATER</b>	<b>234115 – 234141</b>	<b>\$30,707.91</b>
<b>Capital Water</b>	<b>235014 - 235016</b>	<b>\$350,906.88</b>
<b>ARPA</b>	<b>237007 - 237008</b>	<b>\$8,502.77</b>
<b>Visa</b>		
		<b>\$812,955.85</b>

**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>AYE</b>
<b>SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

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

- 9.3 Town of Esopus Tugboat Festival at The Hudson House Distillery
- 9.4 Town Hall Closed – Labor Day
- 9.7 2024 Budget Workshop at 5pm
- Next Town Board Workshop at 7pm

TB 8-17-2023

9.17 Honeybee Jubilee at Ross Park hosted by Environmental Board

9.21 Next Town Board Meeting

9.23 Applefest & Townwide Yard-sale

2nd Annual Preparedness Month Expo in partnership with Ulster County

Movie Night at Ross Park at 7:30pm hosted by Parks & Recreation Commission

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:03 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

*Respectively Submitted,*

*Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk, RMC*