

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 21, 2024, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on March 21, 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
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 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

Charles Carini 1769 Main St Rifton came on behalf of himself and his neighbors to keep the Rifton Post Office open. Recently patrons were notified that the post office would be suspending their service on 4/5 for repairs. He expressed concern that many people would not be able to get their mail in Tilson. He asked the Board to please call the postmaster. The Post Office is saying it is a safety issue but there is no ability to ask any questions. The amount of gas that will be utilized by residents to retrieve their mail is also a concern: 8 miles per day, everyday for all box holders.

Derick Karabec 38 Hudson Lane Explained the yard signs “Safety 1st – NO CABINS on Hudson Lane” around town and the meaning behind them.

This has nothing to do with the project, but with Hudson Lane itself.

NYS Fire Safety Code, Fire Safety and Building Code is as follows:

2020 Fire Code of New York State, Section D107 One or Two-Family Residential

Developments reads:

(NY) D107.1 One or Two-Family Residential Developments. Developments of one or two-family dwellings where the number of dwelling units exceeds 30 shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

Exceptions:

1. Construction of dwellings on premises which have had local site plan approval prior to January 1, 2011, with no modification to approved site plan.
2. Where there are more than 30 dwelling units on a single public or private fire apparatus access road and all dwelling units are equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3, access from two directions shall not be required.
3. The number of dwelling units on a single fire apparatus access road shall not be increased unless fire apparatus access roads will connect with future development, as determined by the fire code official.

Hudson Lane is a single access fire apparatus access road, which already has 35 dwelling units, so no more can be built without exceptions. None of which apply to Hudson Lane.

Exception #1: “Construction of dwellings on premises which have had local site plan approval prior to January 1, 2011, with no modification to approved site plan.” There aren’t any open construction plans since January 1st, 2011. This exception does not apply.

Exception #2: “Where there are more than 30 dwelling units on a single public or private fire apparatus access road and all dwelling units are equipped throughout with an approved

automatic sprinkler system.”

There are 35 dwelling units on Hudson Lane, none of which have sprinkler systems. This exception has also not been fulfilled.

The 3rd Exception is the number of dwelling units shall not be increased unless it connects with future development. Which is not planned, to connect with future development. This exception is not fulfilled either.

After seeing the Fire Safety Building Code of NYS, I feel that the safety of the residents on Hudson Lane is being overlooked.

Thank you very much for listening to what I have to say.

Jo Mispel 27 North Broadway is a member of the Esopus Tree Task Force, and they would like to focus on getting some perennials to plant by the Town entrance sign near the Port Ewen bridge. The group will put together an itemized list for purchasing, keeping it simple with a pinch of color. They would like to have it ready in May. The ribbon cutting for the opening of the bridge is expected in July. A proposal will be sent to Supervisor Freer.

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

RIFTON POST OFFICE

The Rifton Post Office will be suspended at the close of business on Friday April 5, 2024. The suspension is due to a safety hazard at the property where the Rifton Post Office is located.

During the period of suspension, customers who currently receive PO BOX service will be provided with PO BOX service at the Tillson Post Office 134 Hardenbergh Ave Tillson, 3.7 miles away from the current location. Post box customers received notification in their boxes from the postmaster. They apologized for the inconvenience and asked for patience as they work to repair the safety hazard at the facility. On-going communication will be provided by the Post Office to communicate relevant information to avoid mail delivery interruptions.

Supervisor Freer thanked those who brought this to their attention, no one had contacted the Town. The Building Department was not aware of any violations of the building. She will draft a letter to the District Manager. Councilman Guess said we will also reach out at the Federal level

to Congressman Ryan. A few years ago, when there was an issue at the Port Ewen Post Office, Congressman Faso and George Christian were liaison to the Post Office. Councilman Guess recalled the period of events when Port Ewen residents, who did not have the option of rural delivery, had to travel to the Ulster Park Post office daily for their mail until a temporary trailer was put in place while waiting for the new location to open.

Councilman Evelyn Clarke advised that on Wednesday, April 3, from 10:00am - 1:00pm at the YMCA of Kingston, Congressman Ryan's office is hosting a Senior Resource Fair. Many vendors will be there, and concerns can be expressed.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATION SUBAWARD AGREEMENT
BETWEEN TOWN OF ESOPUS AND THE COUNTY OF ULSTER**

WHEREAS, the Town of Esopus Town Board has applied for a grant and has been approved with Ulster County for upgrades to the Cas Landi Park and

WHEREAS, the Town has actively sought ways to supplement the cost of projects at Cas Landi Park; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (the "ARPA") 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 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT ("ARPA") OF 2021 CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (THE "SLFRF") allows an AGREEMENT to be entered into by and between the COUNTY OF ULSTER, a municipal corporation and a county of the State of New York with principal offices at 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York 12401 (the "County"), and TOWN OF ESOPUS a municipal corporation with principal offices at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY 12487 (the "Subrecipient"), (each, a "Party;" together, the "Parties").; and

WHEREAS, 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 Subrecipient for the purpose of improving Cas Landi Park for the general public; and

WHEREAS, the County, desires to issue a subaward to the Subrecipient to aid in developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the County has agreed to engage the Subrecipient, and the Subrecipient has agreed to contract with the County, to administer a subaward of the SLFRF for the purpose of providing a new, accessible playground at Cas Landi Park, as well as with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement between the Town of Esopus and Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, the County, desires to issue a subaward to the Town of Esopus to assist the Town with the cost of the project for the purpose of providing a new assessable playground at Cas Landi Park; and

Whereas, the cost of the project is estimated to be \$100,000 of which \$50,000 has been awarded to the Town of Esopus through a grant and will be equally matched from town ARPA funds.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and covenants set forth below, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The “Municipal Parks and Recreation 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 addressing improvements to Cas Landi Park, which is 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”.

Resolution 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	Aye
Supervisor Danielle Freer	Aye

Resolution duly adopted.

UPDATE: YMCA SUMMER CAMP DISCUSSION

Supervisor Freer shared the summer camp options for Monday – Friday Day Camp for 1st – 8th graders. The YMCA and Ulster County, in collaboration with the Town of Esopus, will be offering 2 camp options; Camp Seawackamano in Shokan with bus transportation from the Dollar General parking lot in Port Ewen included in the price and Camp Wiltmeet in New Paltz, parents need to make their own arrangements for transportation. As the Town did last year,

they will offer a monetary discount of at least \$100 per child per 2-week session (\$50 if only attending one week). Interested Esopus Residents are encouraged to quickly connect with the Town and verify residency and to register your camper as soon as possible; first come first served. The registration link can be found on the Town website at www.esopus.com or <https://ymcaulstercountycamps.campbrainregistration.com>. Supervisor Freer will also have a social media post.

MISCELLANEOUS/LIAISON LIGHTENING ROUND:

Supervisor Freer: Annual burn ban is in effect from March 16 through May 14. Please do not burn brush.

Supervisor Freer: The NYS DEC annual statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning is in effect. To prevent wildfires and protect communities during heightened conditions for wildfires there should be no brush burning from March 16 through May 14, 2024. More information can be found on the NYS DEC website.

CHPE – Supervisor Freer provided an update on CHPE (Champlain Hudson Power Express – a planned high-voltage direct current underwater and underground power cable project linking the Quebec area to the New York City neighborhood of Astoria, Queens). Following completion of a review by the New York State Public Service Commission, construction began in 2022 and Esopus has been particularly concerned about the marine portion of the installation given the Hudson River is the Port Ewen Water District’s only source of drinking water. In conjunction with the Hudson 7, Esopus has been working to ensure safety precaution measures are included in the final EM&CP (Emergency Management and Construction Plan) for this segment of the project. CHPE will hold an open house at the Norrie Point Environmental Center in Staatsburg Monday 3/25 at 6 pm. Supervisor Freer will attend to see what information is presented because residents have asked for a similar opportunity on this side of the river.

Town Clerk Park rental non-residents April 1.

Councilman Geuss:

Water & Sewer Department Water Tank Pre-Bid meeting was held 3/20, Bid Opening for the project is April 3 at 10 am. The Hasbrouck loop is in front of the NYSDOH. The loop will keep the water flowing instead of a dead end and circulates the chemicals through the system better.

Transfer Station – Lenny has been dealing with the issue of the solar construction project. The Board is grateful for Lenny; it is good that we have him for quality control. Building Inspector Mark Jaffee and Supervisor Freer will visit the site tomorrow to address concerns.

Councilman Quick

Zoning Board -discussed the definition of ridgeline and seasonal.

Waterfront Advisory Board- continued their discussion on Mooring Rules- they have not reached a conclusion. Chairman Margaret Phalen will be attending a Scenic Hudson forum on May 2 at SUNY Orange in Newburgh. Scenic Hudson will present its Hudson River Access Plan and there will be a panel on how communities are planning to improve shoreline access. Given the Town of Esopus completed its Riverfront Access Study in 2020 and the LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Program) is being currently reviewed by the state, Margaret will share our experience and plans for the waterfront future of Esopus.

Assessor's Office- working on the Tax rolls and exemptions.

Esopus Seniors- The seniors are planning 4 trips for 2024. On 3/18 they will have a program "gardening for Seniors".

April 16th will be their first trip of the year to Brown Stone NJ: tribute to Neil Diamond and Barry Manilow. Three other trips are planned for 2024. Reminder for Seniors on Wednesday, April 3, from 10:00am - 1:00pm, at the YMCA, Pat Ryans office will be hosting a senior resource fair to make it easier for seniors to access their benefits and get assistance with social services. They will also have a team of case workers on hand to assist seniors with federal agencies like the IRS and Social Security. Many organizations will be there as well such as the VA, the Ulster County Office for the Aging, Legal Services of Hudson Valley, and many more.

Councilman Clarke:

EDC – The group reviewed a presentation on the State of NY & Mid-Hudson Economy and Data Insights on strengthening the tax base. The new mission statement for the EDC should be ready soon, along with some proposed activities/events to help support our local businesses.

Environmental Board – Evelyne Clarke, Mark Ellison and Supervisor Freer will schedule a meeting for next week to discuss the EV charging stations and other potential grants.

Councilman Laura Robinson:

Parks & Rec Egg Hunt – New location Ross Park March 30th at 2pm / Rain Date April 6th. There will be fun activities, games, face painting, basket raffle and jellybean guessing game with prizes. Children 12 and under are eligible to participate.

Buildings & Grounds- Since the grant money for the playground at Cas Landi will not be available until later this year, the parks and recreation team will tackle a smaller project of redoing the tennis court and installing new fence around the court. The paving of the court will be done by the Highway department as they did at Ross Park. The fencing around the court will be put out to bid according to our procurement policy.

NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS MARCH 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:

GENERAL FUND	241053-241109	\$133,595.50
HIGHWAY FUND	242025-242059	\$129,618.12
STREETLIGHTS	246000	\$5,795.03
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	243019-243041	\$24,955.21
PORT EWEN WATER	244033-244052	\$35,357.85
Capital Water	245007-245010	\$126,046.72
ARPA	247002-247005	\$6,962.13
Visa		
		\$462,330.56

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

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

Resolution duly adopted.

****REMINDER: WE ARE STILL RECRUITING NEW COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS! MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE**

EXECUTIVE SESSION INTERVIEWS

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:45 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES FOR COMMITTEE & BOARD VACANCIES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR.

Action:

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT STEPHEN BAILER TO THE PLANNING BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2025. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

KEY UPCOMING DATES – VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

3.23 Esopus Repair Café hosted by Environmental Board | Ascension Church | 10am

3.29 Town Hall Closed: Good Friday

3.30 Annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Parks & Rec | Ross Park | 2pm/(Rain date 4.6)

4.1 Park rentals open for non-residents

4.3 Water Tank Bid Opening 10 am

4.4 Next Town Board Workshop

Ongoing Esopus Hometown Hero submissions

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON AT 8:35 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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