

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 16, 2023
7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on November 16, 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 - 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 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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MC Edwards, 730 Second Ave Sleightsburgh. She was concerned with the sound quality of the video. People can barely hear what people are saying when they try to listen to the meeting. She said she was surprised the workshops were not televised as well. Workshops have a lot of information, and she feels they should be live streamed as well. She also said following the recent turnout to the PEFD vote maybe the town should consider redistricting the Fire Departments. She could not find information about when the districts were originally set.

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

SOJOURNER TRUTH DAY IN ESOPUS: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

**Town of Esopus
Town Board
PROCLAMATION of 2023**

WHEREAS, Sojourner Truth is “a daughter of Esopus,” and lived the first 28 years of her life as an enslaved person in what is now known as the Town of Esopus. She was born circa 1797 as property of Col. Johannes Hardenbergh in Swartekill, now Rifton, in Ulster County, New York, to enslaved parents, Bett and James Baumfree. She was given the name Isabella, and would later take the name Sojourner Truth in acknowledgment of her role as an emissary of justice and truth, **and**

WHEREAS, this daughter of Esopus, whose exact birth date is unknown because enslaved Africans were not regarded as human beings, lived an extraordinary life of struggle, determination and achievement – a distinctly American tale of perseverance against difficult odds, **and**

WHEREAS, Isabella was forced to stand on the auction block upon the death of her owner, Col. Hardenbergh in 1806, and sold for \$100 along with a herd of sheep. She was cruelly separated from her brother and her aged parents, and sold to John Neeley, an English shopkeeper on the Rondout Creek, where Isabella endured brutal beatings because she spoke Dutch and could not understand the Neeley’s commands, **and**

WHEREAS, Isabella was subsequently purchased for \$105 by Martinus Schryver, owner of the Jug Tavern located on the corner of Broadway and River Road, in what is now known as Port Ewen. As an enslaved young child, she had to walk without shoes in all seasons to the Rondout Creek and take the ferry from Sleightsburgh to Kingston to perform various errands, along with carrying packages of liquor and supplies back to the tavern, **and**

WHEREAS, in 1810, at the age of thirteen, Isabella was sold for \$175 to John Dumont who owned a farm overlooking the Hudson River in what is known as West Park. She remained enslaved until 1826 when Dumont rescinded his promise to free Isabella a year earlier than New York’s decreed emancipation date, **and**

WHEREAS, Isabella walked away to freedom across Shaupeneak Ridge in the pre-dawn hours carrying her infant daughter, Sophia, and a few meager belongings. She was forced to leave her other children enslaved. Fortunately, she encountered the Van Wagenens in Rifton, who were anti-slavery, and who purchased Isabella and Sophia’s freedom for \$25, **and**

WHEREAS, a few months after celebrating New York’s emancipation of slavery on July 4, 1827, Isabella learned that her 5-year old son, Peter, had illegally been sold out of state. In response, she walked barefoot 5 miles each way from the Van Wageningen’s in Rifton to the courthouse in Kingston and brought a successful lawsuit for her child’s return, **and**

WHEREAS, following these events, Isabella would adopt the name Sojourner Truth, take her story and journey the East Coast of the United States preaching peace, justice, persistence and rights for women and men of all colors. To this day we are inspired by Isabella’s remarkable contributions and encouraged to use our voices to support social justice in our time, **and**

WHEREAS, in recognition of her efforts and significance to the history of the advancement of women’s suffrage, equal rights in regards to race, and the moral character of her nation, the Town of Esopus has erected a statue in Port Ewen, depicting Sojourner as a child, a reminder of the existence of slavery in New York and the global atrocity of the enslavement of children that continues today, **and**

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that, in the spirit of celebrating the lasting contributions and continued relevance of Sojourner Truth’s life story, Supervisor Danielle Freer, Supervisor of the Town of Esopus, hereby proclaims Sunday, November 26th, 2023, as ‘Sojourner Truth Day’ in the Town of Esopus and urge all residents to recognize that this is a day for people of all races, creeds, and backgrounds to join together in celebration of the legacy of Sojourner Truth.

OFFERED BY: COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON

The Board was polled.

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

LIGHTENING LIAISON ROUND

SUPERVISOR FREER:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway crews are collecting leaves placed in brown bags on the curb. Reminder Winter Seasonal Parking Ordinance in effect Nov 1 - Apr 1. The Highway Department will issue warning tickets to cars on the road, after that they will call the Sheriff’s department to have the vehicle towed at the owner’s expense.

TB 11/16/2023

Supervisor Freer said she was working with Matt Rogers on a few potential local laws for 2024; one that deals with street parking. The other is a Mourning Law; the Waterfront Advisory Board is also a part of that.

Councilman Quick added that there is a neighbor on River Road toward the top of the hill who has complained about people flying on the road. It is a dangerous situation; perhaps signage can be placed. They recalled there used to be a speed limit sign in that area that is no longer there.

COUNCILMAN QUICK:

ZONING BOARD having a meeting 11/21

WATERFRONT BOARD waiting to hear on revisions of LRWP

ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT – Shannon Harris has finished her schooling and is now the Sole Assessor.

ESOPUS SENIORS- Penny social for seniors 12/4; money collected is donated to Klyne Museum & Esopus Lighthouse. They will also be having a Christmas party at Stonehedge Restaurant on Dec 15th.

COUNCILMAN CLARKE:

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD- looking into grants. There is a program that the Board is researching that NYSERDA would give the town money if someone installs heat pumps by a certified technician.

COUNCILMAN ROBINSON:

PARKS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Complaint received about the trees near the storefronts by Marios. Councilman Robinson will talk to Dan to see what can be done and to have the trees trimmed.

The Parks and Rec. Commission is looking to put together a committee to work on Cas Landi Field. Please reach out if you are interested.

Winter Wonderland Parade 12/2 at 5:30; rain date 12/3 – Floats are still needed; contact Councilman Robinson or Hannah Palen in the Building department if you are interested in participating. Food trucks will also be available.

SET MEETINGS SCHEDULE

The Board discussed the upcoming meeting schedules and determined the workshop would be cancelled. The December meeting will be held as scheduled but will consist of public comment, paying of vouchers and any items that need to be addressed prior to the Organizational Meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO CANCEL THE DECEMBER 7TH WKSHOP MTG. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO SET THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR JANUARY 4, 2024 AT 7 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 7:30 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERVIEWING A CANDIDATE FOR A VACANCY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:50 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO APPOINT JULIE BRINKMAN TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/23. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS NOVEMBER 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:

AO.0599.000 Fund Balance	to	AO.1110.400 \$30.40
		Justice Contractual

SW.0599.000 Fund Balance

SW8310.100 \$739.16

Water labor

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

The Board was polled.

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

Resolution duly adopted.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS NOVEMBER 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:

GENERAL FUND	231480 -231529	\$59,833.22
HIGHWAY FUND	232240-232270	\$174,657.37
STREETLIGHTS		
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	233158-233165	\$113,812.74
PORT EWEN WATER	234193-234220	\$28,513.32
Capital Water	235020	\$30,162.50
ARPA	237011	\$4,200.00
Visa		
		\$411,179.15

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

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

Resolution duly adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS

UPCOMING KEY DATES – MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

11.23 TOWN HALL CLOSED: THANKSGIVING DAY

11.24 TOWN HALL CLOSED: DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

12.2 WINTER HOLIDAY CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER 9 AM – 4 PM

12.2 MOUNT ACADEMY 10 AM – 3 CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE

12.2 WONDERLAND PARADE AT 5:30PM IN PORT EWEN

12.3 WINTER WONDERLAND PARADE RAIN DATE (DECISION MADE AT 3PM SATURDAY)

12.4 TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP CANCELLED

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 7:55 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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