

**TOWN OF ESOPUS
TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2024, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held on February 15, 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 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

Lorine Karabec 24 (and 34) Hudson Lane Ulster Park, Read the following letter:

RE: Stolen Yard Signs 2/12/24

Thank you, Danielle Freer and respective Board members, for providing me with the opportunity to speak tonight.

On Monday, 2/12/24, we had the unfortunate situation of an intruder who stole yard signs that conveyed a community awareness message regarding the safety of not only Hudson Lane and River Road residents, but the entire Town of Esopus community. The thieves blatantly stole yard signs from front yards and private properties of residents!

This is just one example surrounding our concerns for the safety of our town and its residents with a Special Use Permit application that is currently under review with our Town Planning

Board. I won't go into all the details, but the proposed project has several issues regarding zoning compliance, environmental issues, but most of all the safety of residents.

According to Town Code, the SUP application is a permitted use in an R-40 zone. This means you have the right to consider it, but it does not mean that you need to approve it. Zoning may indicate in black and white, and on paper, that a specific use is permitted in a region, but it does not necessarily mean the use is appropriate for the land or location. Not all properties in the R-40 zone are identical, or suited for all uses currently indicated in the Town statutes. Projects should conform with the land, rather than trying to make the land conform to the project. This is where our Boards come into play to ensure that all zoning is in compliance, and not just for the specific Special Use statutes, but for all statutes that come into play with a project.

At this time, we don't know who the thieves are, but I can honestly say I have not heard of any Town resident who is in favor of the proposed project for a Summer Cottage Colony aka Tourist Cabins, on Hudson Lane and who would commit such a brazen act. We may not know at this time who the thieves are, but we will. The truth always comes out in the end. The question is will it be too late. Approval of projects currently before the Town will set a precedence for the future of our Town that many of us call home.

As our elected officials, we put our faith and trust in you. We ask you as our leaders to do what is best for the residents and not put our safety at risk. Thank you,

Mercedes Karabec 259 Union Center Road Asked if any progress was made on a comment, she had previously made at a Town Board meeting regarding Hudson Lane not being in compliance with the state fire code. Should the new development be approved on Hudson Lane, the road will still not comply according to NYS and International Fire Safety Code. She has written letters to the Building Inspector but has not received a response. Supervisor Freer said she will follow-up with Building Inspector Mark Jaffee.

Steven Cerini Mountain View Ave. Shared some thoughts of Spring; Trees and bushes can be clipped now and rooted so they can be planted in the spring.

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.

2024 PARK & RENTAL FEE DISCUSSION

Rates have been reviewed and are on par with neighboring municipalities. However, the trash/rules deposit is proposed to increase from \$100 to \$150 to encourage people to abide by all rules and to cover the cost when town personnel must remove the trash and haul it to the Transfer Station.

PARK	RESIDENT FEES	NON RES FEES
FREER	150	225
KITCHEN @ FREER	50	50
ROSS	125	200
CAS LANDI, ST REMY	40	50
RIEKER, CONNELLY	75	125
ALCOHOL PERMITS	50	100
DEPOSIT RULES & TRASH	150	150

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO APPROVE THE 2024 FEE SCHEDULE FOR PARK RENTALS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNITY CENTER STOVE QUOTE

The Community Center stove needs to be replaced. Several service calls have been needed to fix the issues, parts are no longer available for the unit and there are safety concerns. Gas leaks have recently occurred and have been fixed; the griddle pilot will not stay lit. The cost of a similar unit that is on wheels for easy access and has individual pilot lights is \$4,157.00 and is being recommended by Dan Vedder.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF AN IRON RANGE SIX BURNER GRIDDLE COMMERCIAL GAS RANGE WITH DOUBLE OVEN BASE AND STAINLESS STEEL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,157.00 FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER KITCHEN. THE FUNDING WILL BE SPENT FROM ARPA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

TRANSFER STATION UPDATES & DISCUSSION

PROPOSED 2024 FEES

Lenny Liberta has made a request for a minimal increase in the fee schedule. Permit fees for Town residents remain unchanged. New legislation has gone into effect as of 2/11/24 in New York which mandates businesses to clearly list the credit card fee for the public. It is no longer acceptable to have a sign indicating the percentage charged, ex 3.5% + \$.50, minimum \$2.50. Town Clerk Netter has been in touch with the State to get clarification on several items. After the call being escalated three levels. Management was still unable to clarify and said they realize the new rules need to be clarified for municipalities. Currently our system tells the customer what the fee will be as we run the card, and the customer must agree to the charge, or we can cancel the transaction.

Often people are paying for multiple items, and it is impossible to know what the total will be, it would be like trying to calculate the total of your grocery cart before reaching the checkout. Until the answers can be obtained from the State, a column of the credit card pricing has been added to the fee schedule and is based on an "a la carte" transaction. Credit card fees have not changed, just the way they are displayed. A customer bundling multiple products in one transaction will actually pay less than adding all of the itemized "a la carte" pricing together.

**TOWN OF ESOPUS TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING CENTER
FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE 3/1/2024**

ITEM	CASH/CHECK	CREDIT CARD
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS	\$50	\$52.50
SENIOR & VETERAN PERMITS	\$25	\$27.50
LOST PERMIT OR 2ND VEHICLE SAME HOUSEHOLD	\$10	\$12.50
1 DAY PASS	\$30	\$32.50
NON RESIDENTIAL	\$65	\$67.78
BULK HOUSEHOLD WASTE \$.20 PER lb.	\$20 MINIMUM	*Per Scale weight
TRASH BAGS		
COUPON BOOKS 10 BAGS (1 x 30 GALLON BAG OR CAN)	\$46	\$48.50
45 GALLON BAG	\$8	\$10.50
30 GALLON BAG	\$6	\$8.50
10-13 GALLON BAG	\$4	\$6.50
PROPANE SMALL CAMP SIZE	\$2	\$4.50
20 LBS. PROPANE TANK	\$6	\$8.50
30 LBS. PROPANE TANK	\$12	\$14.50
<u>APPLIANCES</u>		
APPLIANCE WITH COOLANT-SMALL/LARGE	\$16/\$26	\$18.50/\$28.50
STOVES, WASHERS, DRYERS	\$16	\$18.50
FLUORESCENT BULBS	\$5	\$7.50
BALLAST	\$13	\$15.50
<u>YARD WASTE</u>		
BRUSH PICKUP TRUCK	\$12	\$14.50
BRUSH DUMP TRUCK	\$22	\$24.50
GRASS AND LEAVES PICKUP LOAD	\$8	\$10.50
GRASS AND LEAVES DUMP LOAD	\$12	\$14.50
TIRES UNDER 20"/OVER 20" (24.5 MAX.)	\$14	\$16.50
<u>MATTRESS/BOX SPRING</u>		
SINGLE	\$20	\$22.50
FULL/DOUBLE/QUEEN	\$24	\$26.50

KING	\$32	\$34.50
SLEEPER SOFA	\$34	\$36.50
CAR BATTERIES	\$6	\$8.50
<u>FREE ITEMS</u>		
GRASS AND LEAVES IN BROWN BAGS OR ONE GARBAGE CAN		
CRT TV'S AND COMPUTER SCREENS (UNDER 19 & 19"24")		
CRT TV'S AND COMPUTER SCREENS (25" AND ABOVE)		
COMPUTER TOWERS AND PERIPHERALS		
RECYCLABLE PAPER PRODUCTS, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, BOOKS, CARDBOARD AND JUNK MAIL		
CONTAINER PRODUCTS - CONTAINER GLASS, FOOD & BEVERAGE CANS, PLASTIC CONTAINERS		
MOTOR OIL		
STEEL		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO APPROVE THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE TRANSFER STATION EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

Transfer Station -UCRRA Letter

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency sent a letter notifying us that, according to their records, the contamination rate of the material collected from the Esopus Transfer Station Municipal Recycling Drop Off Center was 0.00 % in 2023. They thanked Esopus for demonstrating such an excellent commitment to "keeping the recycling stream clean". How does this compare to other local recycling programs? The average among all the local Town Transfer Stations was 1.55 % with the highest rate being 7.61 %. Supervisor Freer commended Lenny Liberta, Brian Clarke and Ernie Lowell for their dedication ensuring we are doing our part to keep the stream clean and taking pride in the work that they do.

MISCELLANEOUS/LIAISON LIGHTNING ROUND

SUPERVISOR FREER:

Supervisor Freer provided an update on a topic that was brought up at the last workshop regarding an isolated clerical error impacting some residents who receive a " disabled veteran's exemption." She has been working closely with the Assessor's Office and UC Real Property Tax Service Agency Directory, Travey Williams, to quickly remedy this. An individualized letter has been sent to each person who could have been impacted, along with a follow-up call from our

Assessor, Shannon Harris. Additionally, a fact sheet has been posted to the town website with the following details.

Fact Sheet - February 13, 2024

Attention Disabled Veterans:

We want to make you aware of an isolated clerical error impacting some residents who receive a "disabled veteran's exemption." Since learning of the error, the town has been dedicated to fixing the issue and ensuring that all disabled veterans, whether they were impacted or not by the error, are made aware through phone calls, a direct mailing, and the town's website.

What happened?

Following an internal review, all those who were impacted by the error were identified and contacted. In many cases, the error did not change what was owed on prior tax bills for certain taxing jurisdictions (town -or- county -or- school). Also, the error did not affect other types of veteran's exemptions (such as the combat, cold war, or alternative veteran's exemptions). Nor did it impact on any other group(s) eligible for an exemption, and the situation is believed to be isolated.

How is it being fixed?

Those whose taxes were affected by the error will be reimbursed to the maximum extent possible by law. Those whose taxes were not affected by the error will still receive a letter notifying them that their disability rating may have been corrected. NYS RPTL §550(2)(c) states that if an "error in essential fact" is discovered, the party impacted may be reimbursed by the relevant taxing jurisdiction (town -or- county -or- school) for up to "three (3) years following the annexation of the warrant to collect the taxes containing the error."

What do I need to do?

No action is necessary. The town has already submitted a correction on your behalf so taxing jurisdictions (town -or- county -or- school) can process reimbursements. If you think your taxes may have been impacted and have not been in communication with the Assessor's office, please contact the Assessor, Shannon Harris, directly at (845) 331-5546.

COUNCILMAN ROBINSON:

PARKS & REC

Egg Hunt – New location Ross Park March 30th / Rain Date April 6th-Eggs will not be stuffed this year; prizes will be included in the candy bags such as Wooden Wheel and Texas Roadhouse certificates. There will be fun activities with face painting; more information to follow.

Summer Camp – Town did not have Summer Camp in 2023 due to low participation. Scholarships were provided to assist with families paying for children attending Camp Seewackamano, Camp Starfish and Camp Wiltmeet. The budget was lowered in 2024, due to the lack of participants. Supervisor Freer will reach out to YMCA to see if they are interested in offering the same type of arrangements this year and promoting their camp at the egg hunt. They will work on getting the word out to residents so more kids can go to camp.

Grant for Cas Landi – The Board will review Attorney Kellar’s comments regarding the contract. A topic of who would manage the reporting was discussed. Members of the Board are heading to NYC for the Association of Towns Conference, and they are expecting to see Nicole from LeBerge Group who is familiar with the project. Supervisor Freer will see if she can get an estimate of what it may cost to manage the grant. Further discussion will occur at the March workshop meeting and the Board will take action on the grant contract.

COUNCILMAN QUICK:

ZONING BOARD – Next meeting February 20th. There is a Public Hearing. Councilman Kathie Quick said she was unable to attend because of the conference, however, Councilman Evelyn Clarke will take her place.

WATERFRONT BOARD – They have reviewed items regarding the proposed camp on Hudson Lane but has not seen anything.

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.

Tai Chi classes for seniors will begin March 19th on Tuesday and Fridays. The program is offered through the Office of the Aging and will run for 8 weeks.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD – Supervisor Freer heard from Europa McGovern from Ulster County regarding the charging stations. She was informed that the Sheriff’s fleet of vehicles has been pushed out for a couple of years. The Town had originally planned to coordinate with the installation of charging stations at the Esopus substation to save money on our EV Grant Project. The County no longer plans on installing them at the Esopus location; they need to be installed on property owned by the County. Supervisor Freer would like the Environmental

Board to lead the EV Charging project and come up with a plan. A question was raised whether Eupora would still have the capacity to help Esopus with our project.

TOWN CLERK – Yadi’s Empanadas was approved for a peddler’s permit. She has received permission from the Van Loan Family to sell the Empanadas from a food truck on the side of their property on Dick Williams Lane. She will be open Thursday & Fridays and expand once business demands it.

COUNCILMAN GEUSS:

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT – Supervisor Freer and Water Superintendent Nick Butler have a project priority meeting scheduled for 2/16. The Tank project has been approved by NYS Department of Health. A combined meeting will be put together with a timeline of the scope of work that needs to be completed with Tighe & Bond, Nick Bulter, Town personnel and John Davidson.

PLANNING BOARD – Next meeting will be held on Thursday February 22nd due to the holiday.

NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS FEBRUARY 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	241011 -241052	\$169,000.88
	VOID 241021	
HIGHWAY FUND	242004-242024	\$34,927.97
STREETLIGHTS		
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	243001-243018	\$45,230.45
PORT EWEN WATER	244001-244032	\$64,594.21
Capital Water	245004-245006	\$126,387.37
ARPA	247000-247001	\$11,500.00

Visa		
		\$451,640.88

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.

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

UPCOMING KEY DATES – MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

- 2.17 5TH ANNUAL SOJOURNER TRUTH LIFE WALK**
- 2.19 TOWN HALL CLOSED: PRESIDENT’S DAY**
- 3.1 PARK RENTALS OPEN FOR RESIDENTS**
- 3.7 NEXT TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING**

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 8:16 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*