

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

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

Dennis Suraci, 177 Lindorf St. Re: Lighthouse Village distributed a letter to the Board following up on his last letter from the prior meeting. Lighthouse Village Project. He had multiple questions relating to appeals he had submitted and how the project was being looked at. One appeal was for the project and one appeal was for a letter written by Z.E.O. Mark Jaffee. He asked the Board to direct the ZEO or ZBA to grant the public hearing that they requested. He is looking for feedback from the Board.

Diane Dintruff 150 Minturn St. Ulster County residents can help gain government funding to expand broadband. There is a Digital Equity Survey which can be found at <https://bit.ly/commeconnectall-survey>.

She attended the Greenway meeting. They have a new mapping system which will make it easier for towns to place their trails into their greenway system. She is hoping the LWRP will get some support.

She is concerned about our relationship with NY and the power structure. The Hudson Valley has been so crucial to the development of the United States and NYC, but we have been a sacrifice area for them. The reservoirs and hydropower dams that exist prevent clean clear water from getting down to the Hudson for drinking and recreation.

She would also like to see the local government getting involved, looking into new innovations that are now available.

Lorine Karabec, 24 Hudson Lane Re: Yan Retreat Read a letter she distributed to the Town Board. She requested a moratorium on the issuance of all special use permits for campgrounds, hospitality and cluster housing until zoning criteria can be revisited and addressed.

Ann Suraci 177 Lindorf St. RE: Lighthouse Village Questioned and read sections of letters written by Mark Jaffee to the ZBA Chair and to her husband, Dennis Suraci. She questioned how the project was being looked at.

Option 1 - 2 existing lots, lot lines to be deleted to create 1 lot at a later date and moving the R- 12 Zone 200 ft up toward 9W or

Option 2 - 2 individual lots as exist today, zoning boundaries CG1 and R12 located on the existing property line in approximately the center of the 13.3-acre site.

She said Mark Jaffee was asked this question 3 times and he has not answered the question. They would like to know which way he is looking at the project.

JESS HICKS, 74 HUDSON LANE. Re: Yan Retreat - He agreed with others and would like more transparency and discussion time with people of the town from the Planning and Zoning Boards. The flow of more information is needed as well so we don't have a room full of people trying to get further information.

Steven Fryling, 79 Hudson Lane Re: Yan Retreat. Hudson Lane is narrow, curvy, has a bus stop at the end of the street and is very busy in the morning and afternoon. The number of units proposed could be detrimental to their community. They currently have a quiet neighborhood on a dead-end road. He is concerned about what impact the noise and traffic would have on their property values and kids' safety in their quiet little neighborhood.

Roger Burgold, 676 Old Post Road. Requests the Board revisit the Noise Ordinance Law previously proposed. He said he had 61 people who have signed a petition requesting the same

and expects that number to increase to 100 before the petition is submitted. People are asking for help. He asked who it will hurt except those who want to be inconsiderate of others.

Mike Mulligan, 205 Bowne St. RE: Yan project Thanked the Board for hearing the public. He said he respects the Board for what they do. He is looking at the cost vs benefit and sees exceptional cost of traffic and safety but does not see a real benefit to the town: limited jobs if it is successful. Businesses are not that close to the campground, that they will benefit. If they go out it will probably be to the south; Highland or New Paltz. The road is curvy and hard to navigate. He foresees more safety and traffic issues.

He asked if there is a tax benefit to this. What money, if any has been provided to the developer to incentivize them to come, to abate taxes once they are here or to decrease the operating cost of their business from the Town of Esopus? He asked if anyone made promises or has given money to anyone's campaign for reelection or for any other purposes for the town or any other exchanges of value?

George Post, 205 Lindorf St. Town of Esopus American Legion acknowledged the elected officials and various department for their participation in the Memorial Day Parade as well as the Flag Day ceremony at Robert Graves.

Anyone who has served active duty between December 1941- present, is eligible to join the American Legion, George expressed they are in dire need of new members. Anyone who is interested can contact him.

Mitchell Donner, 41 Hudson Lane Re: Yan project Opposes the project. The project calls for 50-60 cabins with parking for 120 cars. They live on a quiet dead-end road. The project will impact their quality of life and character of the neighborhood. The entrance is at the bottom of a blind hill making it an even more dangerous condition on the street. The bus stop is located at the top of the street, and he understands the school district will not allow it at the bottom due to the nature of the road. The project needs multiple variances. They expect impacts on the wetlands, its habitat and on the water table, which brings concern because they all have wells.

The top half of the block is more significantly affected. No matter how short the traffic congestion is, the entrance is across the street from his home and will have a direct impact on his property.

Dylan LaCombe, 354 Broadway RE: Lighthouse Village

Thanked the Board for listening to the neighborhood. The various Boards should have a way to communicate among all boards, specifically with their members along with appropriately keeping property owners apprised of decisions etc.

He wanted to make the Board aware of the increasingly incompetent situation involving the Building Department and decisions that have been made, understanding of duties and

interpretation of procedures being disregarded. He said Mark Jafee's interpretation of both applications contradict previous decisions and are in violation of the code. He questioned the appeal process and questions the conduct of the Boards and their ability to work with developers to work through a standard process or be held accountable by legal proceeding.

Betty Stanzione, 47 Hudson Lane Re: Yan project She can't see how this project can add to the aesthetic of the neighborhood; safety will be compromised by extra traffic. Roads are icy on a winter day and even the neighbors who have lived there a while have to remember how to navigate the road. She does not understand what people will be doing for entertainment and dining unless Door Dash comes in; there are not that many businesses in town to benefit.

MC Edwards 703 Second Ave came to support backyard bee keeping in the Town of Esopus. Currently it is not allowed in Esopus, only in the agricultural district. She said she was surprised because it was allowed all over the country including NYC with simple guidelines. Ulster County has a bee keeping association and there is a supply store in Kingston. She claimed the bees are generally gentle and not aggressive by nature. People worry about swarms; however, she shared a story of how she transported a swarm in a box, in her car and drove to Poughkeepsie without a single sting. She hopes that someone will look into expanding the allowable district.

A few neighbors asked her to bring up a concern of trees being trimmed on North Broadway. She said she was relaying the information and maybe there is misinformation. Supposedly boaters complained that limbs were damaging boats. These neighbors questioned why money can be spent to trim trees, yet you won't help the residents clean up the park.

Kristy Nelson, 172 Lindorf St. Has three suggestions for the Town Board. She asked Town Board members to attend other meetings at least once to see what it is like. She is unbelievably saddened by what takes place at these meetings.

She understands the Planning Board needs a new consultant. Streamside Farm has a wonderful consultant, and she suggests they look into hiring her once the Streamside Farms case is finished.

One common denominator between the Boards happens to be the Building Department. Someone needs to take some kind of action against them. She can see 5 article 78's coming from these actions. She hopes the Town Board can work with this info and have something positive come out of it.

Chris Marta, Parsell St. (and Luna) Would love to see bee keeping allowed in backyards.

Linda Laestadius, 374 Broadway Re: Lighthouse Village She agreed with all neighbors' comments. That Lighthouse Village is creating a hardship especially for the direct adjacent property and drastically changing property values. The views are a concern because there is no

vegetation over 4-5 ft. to cover the large buildings. If approved as proposed, she fears it will make it impossible for her to put up a green house and outside kitchen that she had planned. Traffic on 9w is already difficult to get out on the road.

Rob Nelson, 172 Lindorf St. Revisited an issue that was brought up at a previous meeting regarding a plastic pipe from old playground equipment at Ross Park. He does not think it should have taken 2 months to fix it. The pipe is still sticking up. It should be addressed and should be an easy fix with a backhoe.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT. THE MOTION IS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GUESS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR; MOTION CARRIED.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD RELATING TO PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Supervisor Freer thanked everyone for voicing their opinion. They need to hear everything, the good, bad and ugly. She said her door is always open. She reminded everyone that all board members are liaisons to other boards, and they attend all the meetings. If someone is unable to go to their meeting someone else covers them. Sometimes you will even see her double up on a meeting because she is interested and wants to hear things for herself. Please know their eyes and ears are wide open but we also need to respect what the Planning and Zoning Boards are there to do. She encouraged people to continue to engage and to volunteer if they are able.

Councilman Jared Guess:

He does not know how Mark is looking at the project but will follow up and ask the question.

The Building Inspector is one of the best in the area when it comes down to the profession that he does. It is not a "PR" position. He is taking a little heat since these projects are in peoples' backyards, but he does a very good job in his position. Although we may not always understand how he is interpreting things, Mark is one of the best that Jared has seen and works well with the developers. We receive a lot of positive feedback from homeowners. Jared also feels Mark has a good relationship with the Town Board as well. Supervisor Freer reminded everyone that Mark is very accessible if they have questions.

Sleightsburgh North Broadway– Town is responsible by law for trimming trees and keeping them out of the roadway or we can be responsible for the damage. It was undetermined whether the work was subbed out or performed by the Highway Department, but he can check with Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo. Danielle said she was unsure if this was the same

matter but there was a tree in our right of way that was hitting a house that needed to be taken care of.

Councilman Guess said he nor the town have received anything from developers of these projects. At times developers can do a proforma with the Assessor to see what the estimated tax would be to see if the numbers work to move forward with a project, but this is no guarantee. Jared said he is a fan of incentive zoning if there is a need for the town but none of that is happening with current projects.

MUNICIPITY CONNECT PUBLIC PORTAL - PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Supervisor Freer said we hear the need for more communication. Mark Jaffee and his team have been working with Municipity, which is the program the Building Department uses. They have an option of a portal that would be on the town website. This portal would allow the public to see Planning and Zoning Board projects and updates as they go along. Supervisor Freer said she is a huge supporter of this to help bring more transparency. She is very excited to get this portal implemented.

Councilman Kathie Quick said anything to improve transparency is a good thing.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPALITY CONNECT QUOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,700 TO SET UP, CONFIGURE & TRAIN STAFF TO ALLOW DIGITAL ACCESS TO BUILDING, PLANNING AND ZONING FILES; FUNDS TO BE PAID OUT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS LINE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LAURA ROBINSON. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

ROSS PARK DISCUSSION – BRIDGET MCGREW AND DUSTY NASON

Bridget McGrew and Dusty Nason discussed the 3 pickleball courts, rules and designation of the first court to be an instructional court that can be rented for lessons. For the past few years, the group has played exhibition games at the town food truck events, growing public interest in the game. Bridget teaches at 10 different places where she always pays to use the court. She is fully insured and is a certified instructor. When she comes to a court she will pay for use. She proposes the occasional use of court #1 and all other courts are public play. She may be there for 1 hour three times a week. At all other times that court will be available for free play as well. She will give payment and an invoice with detailed use of the court.

An average game is 12-15 minutes, she will show up prior to her lesson time and get in the cue. She expects the growth of pickleball, and the rules will be instrumental. Many places have no rules, and it becomes a “free for all”. Town Clerk Holly Netter and Danielle had a meeting previously with them to work through the issues. If things change, we can re address. All reservations will go through the Town Clerks office. We will try it and if something doesn’t work, we can readjust.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RULES AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PICKLEBALL/TENNIS COURT SIGNAGE AT ROSS PARK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

ANNUAL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) REPORT

SUPERVISOR FREER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4) REPORT COVERING THE PERIOD OF 3/09/22 – 3/9/23. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

This report was submitted to the state, a copy of the report is available on the Town Clerk's bulletin board as well as on the town website www.esopus.com.

INTERNET SURVEY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Internet survey mentioned earlier. Input helps make sure everyone has access available. The survey is located on our website www.esopus.com and our social media page.

ULSTER COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION UPDATE: PUBLIC SURVEY

The Town of Esopus is working with Ulster County on hazard mitigation. Supervisor Freer encouraged everyone to take the survey to help identify hazardous concerns. This survey is also located on the town website www.esopus.com and our social media page.

Town Board Liaison Updates / Miscellaneous

Supervisor Danielle Freer Highway – Road paving work to begin 6/22

Horton Lane will be paved between Bayard St and Prospect St.

Prospect St will be paved between Horton Ln and Gurney St.

Main Street St Remy entire road will be paved from Rt 213 to Rt 213

Contractors will be used for St Remy and Horton

Court - Looking for Bailiffs, information is available on the web.

Councilman Kathie Quick - Waterfront Advisory members will be reviewing the waterfront plan and will be making a decision to see if it is ready to be submitted to the state. We were one of

the first communities to have a LWRP in 1987 and we have been working on it for a while. It is important that we have the LWRP in place and it also puts the Town in a better place to obtain grants.

Zoning Board has some decisions to be made at next Tuesdays meeting.

Seniors are going to have an ice cream social on June 21st at Freer Park, a trip to Lake George on June 28th and a trip to the Erie Canal in August.

Councilman Laura Robinson Parks and Rec's commission is working on a Family night July 22
Movie night with Food trucks at Ross Park

Councilman Evelyn Clarke - Economic Development doing some regrouping and researching grant opportunities.

Environmental Committee Board continues to work on their Climate smart incentives.

Councilman Jared Guess - A lot of people attended the Planning Board meeting the other night. The Planner did resign and the Planning Board will be looking for a new planner. He agreed he liked the planner from Streamside Farms and will pass along the public comment from earlier this evening. Councilman Guess said he hoped the Planning Board would have set the Public Hearing for the Hudson Lane project to get everyone's concerns on the record, however the Planning Board felt it was an incomplete application. There is another meeting and hopefully it will get on that one.

According to John Davidson from Brinier & Larios, the Water Sewer Water Tank Replacement Project is still waiting for approval from Albany. The application should be approved but the State is very behind. Upgrades at the water plant are going well, work is being done by Schultz which was approved a few months ago and they will be moving forward with Tighe and Bond on the control panel portion of the project.

NO BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS- JUNE

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS JUNE 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	231232-231279	\$74,305.75
HIGHWAY FUND	232109 -232132	\$16,933.00
STREETLIGHTS		
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	233085 - 233102	\$ 11,757.54
PORT EWEN WATER	234075-234095	\$21,919.26
Capital Water	235006 -235008	\$13,759.50
ARPA	237005-237006	\$12,353.81
Visa		
		\$151,028.86

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	AYE
SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER	AYE

Resolution duly adopted.

KEY UPCOMING DATES – CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS:

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6.17-6.18 Wurts Street Bridge Time Capsule Event at the Maritime Museum in Kingston

6.19 Town Hall Closed – Juneteenth

6.21 Esopus Seniors Ice Cream Social

6.28 Esopus Seniors Lake George Luncheon Cruise

7.4 Town Hall Closed – July 4th

7.6 Next Town Board Workshop

7.8 Esopus Basketball Inc. Summer Clinics Begin

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR DANIELLE FREER MADE A MOTION TO COME OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:23 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR FREER AT 9:23 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*