

**TOWN OF ESOPUS  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
April 16, 2026, 7:00 PM**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Meeting was held in person on April 16, 2026, at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park. The following persons were in attendance:

**Present:**  
**Supervisor Roscoe Pecora**  
**Councilman Evelyn Clarke**  
**Councilman Jared Geuss**  
**Councilman Paul Brooks**  
**Councilman Stephanie Yeh**

**Recording Administrator: Holly Netter, Town Clerk, RMC**

**Supervisor Pecora called the Town Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

**SUPERVISOR ROSCOE PECORA MADE A MOTION AT 7:01 PM TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES TO FILL THE CPA VACANCY. COUNCILMAN STEPHANIE YEH SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED. DEPUTY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS AND BOOKKEEPER DEBRA KAIN WERE INVITED INTO THE SESSION.**

**SUPERVISOR PECORA MOVED TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE SESSION AND DELAY REENTRY DUE TO THE APPLICANT BEING DELAYED BY AN URGENT CALL AT 7:13 PM. COUNCILMAN STEPHANIE YEH SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

**SUPERVISOR ROSCOE PECORA MADE A MOTION AT 7:15 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED. DEPUTY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS, BOOKKEEPER DEBRA KAIN AND DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND GROUND DAN VEDDER WERE INVITED INTO THE SESSION.**

**SUPERVISOR PECORA MOTIONED TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:50 PM. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION: NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**(RE-ENTER FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION #1)**

**SUPERVISOR ROSCOE PECORA MOVED TO RE-ENTER THE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED SESSION FOR THE CPA INTERVIEW AT 7:50 PM. COUNCILMAN GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED. DEPUTY SUPERVISOR SHANNON HARRIS AND BOOKKEEPER DEBRA KAIN WERE INVITED INTO THE SESSION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED 4 AYE 1 – NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE. (COUNCILMAN YEH WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TABLE WHEN THE VOTE WAS TAKEN; SHE WAS RECONNECTING WITH THE CPA TO EXPEDITE THE SESSION).**

**COUNCILMAN CLARKE MOVED TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:05 PM. COUNCILMAN PAUL BROOKS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:** The applicant needed to tend to an urgent issue again. A follow-up meeting with Councilman Yeh and Bookkeeper Debra Kain will be scheduled to finish the interview, and they will update the board.

**PRESENTATION ULSTER COUNTY D. A.- EMMANUEL NNEJI**

**D. A.- EMMANUEL(MANNY) NNEJI** said he has been trying to provide transparency and is open to answering questions the community may have. He reviewed the programs he has been implementing. The One Life Only program promotes positive choices and community connections and provides youth with state-funded resources and anti-violence initiatives. Manny is also partnering with the school districts to address issues of abuse. The D.A.'s office is implementing countywide programs that require schools to immediately notify law enforcement. focusing on quick reporting of abuse to authorities, ensuring safe school environments, and conducting thorough investigations. He has 35 years of prosecution experience. If a case can be made, it will be prosecuted.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #3- SUPERVISOR ROSCOE PECORA MADE A MOTION AT 8:15 PM TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR A VACANCY IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FOR A CLERK’S POSITION. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUPERVISOR PECORA MOTIONED TO EXIT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:55 PM. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION;**

**SUPERVISOR PECORA MADE A MOTION TO PROVISIONALLY HIRE LAURA MCNAMARA AS A FULL-TIME BUILDING CLERK AT A RATE OF \$20/HOUR, 35 HOURS PER WEEK, CONTINGENT UPON PASSING THE CIVIL SERVICE TEST. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBER**

After a brief public interview with Thomas Fitzpatrick, the following motion was made. Thomas was proactive and took the mandatory training required by the County on April 14, 2026.

**SUPERVISOR PECORA MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT THOMAS FITZPATRICK TO THE ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW, WITH A TERM EXPIRING ON 09/30/2029. COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT | IN-PERSON | (845) 331-0676 | ASSISTANT@ESOPUS.GOV**

1. State your first and last name, 2) What hamlet/town you live in, 3) Keep comments to 3 mins maximum, and 4) Be sure to include your “request” or “ask” of the Town Board

**Sharron Jones, Sleightsburgh**, said there has not been a meeting for the Sleightsburgh Spit Task Force, and one needs to be set. Residents were unhappy that a newspaper article reported that the gate would open to let someone out after nine. Councilman Geuss said the way the question was posed to him was, " Would a person be trapped in the park after 9 pm, and his response was no, the gate would let them out". Residents feel the park should have been cleaned up before it was opened. She went for a walk-through with Dan Vedder and discussed signage for the park to address no-swimming and no fires.

Intermediate patrols were previously conducted by the Sheriff's office; if it is a specialty request, Councilman Geuss said a fee would be required to have the Sheriff schedule periodic drive-throughs and report their findings.

**Bill Brovold, 48 Union Center Rd., Ulster Park,** wanted to raise concern about excessive noise and share a sample of the sound of his neighbor excavating the property, drilling through stone, from 7 am to 7 pm. He said the sound was unacceptable and could cause damage; his ears are ringing. The sound is registering at 100 decibels; 65 inside his house. The neighbor is digging into a granite ridge. Many towns around have noise ordinances. Mr. Brovold mentioned that an individual's health can be damaged by consistent noise. The property is located on Union Center Rd. He said there was a difference between building and excavating and questioned whether the work was permitted. He asked the Board to revisit the noise ordinance.

Supervisor Pecora noted that Mark Jaffee visited the property earlier today and spoke with the homeowner; the work is complete.

**Roxanne Pecora, Port Ewen,** submitted 3 FOILs at the Workshop 4/2 and inquired why she hadn't received a response to them.

**Chris Marta, Sleightsburgh.** Over the past 6-8 years, the topic of the Sleightsburgh Spit has been discussed, and promises have been made. The issue remains that the park needs maintenance and supervision. He witnessed people jumping off the dock to swim in the creek, and someone gutting fish on the picnic table. Signs do not work without someone enforcing the rules. A truck was suspected of attempting to dump garbage in the area. A neighbor advised the individual that they had taken a picture of the license plate and would report it if the garbage was dumped. A citizen intervened. Someone should be there to enforce the rules.

### **Supervisor's Office Accomplishments**

The 2026 Literary Awards Luncheon and 100th Anniversary of the John Burroughs Medal, was held on April 13, 2026, at The Yale Club of NYC. Supervisor Pecora and Deputy Supervisor Shannon Harris attended. The event honors excellence in nature writing and celebrates the legacy of the John Burroughs Association.

The 2025 Annual Financial Report "AUD" was filed and certified by the CPA

Lakeshore Villa Connection Fee of \$100,000 has been received.

A meeting with Matthew Dysard, City of Kingston Water Department, and Water Superintendent Nick Butler was held to discuss potential funding for emergency hook-up to the City of Kingston in the event of a catastrophic failure of the Roger Mabie Water

Treatment Plant. Years ago, we had a hookup across the bridge, and it was disconnected during the rehab of the bridge. The discussion was to look ahead to see what funding might be available to provide a connection between the Port Ewen water district and Kingston in the event of an emergency. Further investigation is needed to find funding to have an emergency plan other than the tanker option that is currently in place.

Councilman Jared Geuss recalled that the Town of Esopus met with DOT during the rehab of the Wurtz St. bridge and proposed that the piping be installed during construction for future hookup, but it was denied.

Sleightsburgh Park Task Force Updates and Maintenance Plan – Dan Vedder did a walk-through with Shannon Jones, discussed reinstalling signage that was a deterrent in the past. and new handicap parking signage. Supervisor Pecora shared a handout with Councilmen Geuss and Brooks, which his administration put together.

Councilman Jared Geuss gave an update. He likes the live feed idea at the entrance, felt it was a good initial start and we could probably get it fairly cheap. Scenic Hudson weighed in on the winter park closure. They said the easement allows closure in inclement weather with dangerous conditions. However, once conditions are safe and there is no danger, it should be open. Scenic Hudson checked on March 20, 2026, and observed no hazards however, the gate was closed. They questioned that. Scenic Hudson is also on board with live feeds if they prevent illegal dumping, etc. Supervisor Pecora said he spoke with Liberty Security, who installed the current cameras at the spit, and wanted a review of the cameras at Sleightsburgh park. The technology available today, is incredible. We can't afford to run the lines out to the trails. Councilman Brooks said there are other options, such as live-feed cameras powered by solar, priced between \$600-\$900. Supervisor Pecora encouraged him to research it with task force and see what information he can find. The 2021 trail maintenance program was mapped out with suggestions and was shared via email. Supervisor Pecora asked to get dates settled for the next task force meeting, and his assistant will get it on the Esopus website.

Supervisor Pecora submitted an application for the Armed Forces Military Band to play at Ross Park in August, to be co-sponsored by American Legion Post 1298. They received the application, and we are waiting for a response.

Contacted Ulster County Sheriff's department regarding complaints re: vehicle violations of pedestrian right of way in designated crosswalks.

Hudson 7- Supervisor Pecora has attended the monthly meeting. The Hudson 7 - 501(c)(3) will be a body to support the Hudson 7 and will be a fundraising arm for the Hudson 7 and will be directed by the council.

**NYS ASSOCIATION OF MAGISTRATES COURT CLERK ANNUAL TRAINING**

**SUPERVISOR ROSCOE PECORA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ATTENDANCE OF MARIANNE WELLS AND DAWN LAMARCA, COURT CLERKS, FOR ANNUAL TRAINING SEPTEMBER 27, 2026-SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, AT THE CROWNE PLAZA IN ALBANY. COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.**

**EAST STOUT STREET WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS**

**SUPERVISOR ROSCOE PECORA MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF ESOPUS TO GO OUT FOR BID FOR THE WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS ON EAST STOUT ST. COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR**

**TOWN BOARD LIAISON UPDATES**

**Councilman Paul Brooks:**

Planning Board and Zoning meet next week

Building 33 permits this month; projects total over 3 million dollars

250<sup>th</sup> Celebration - The Town was not awarded the first round of funding. He will resubmit the revised application with the added events and try for the second round.

**Councilman Evelyne Clarke:**

Environmental Board- Last Frost Fest 5/17 MHVFCU New dates for repair café for 2026 May 30<sup>th</sup> at the Accession Church.

**Councilman Jared Geuss:**

The Highway Superintendent is looking at replacing a 2006 Truck. They were able to save \$4,000 on the previously approved excavator. They are continuing street sweeping. Also, the one sweeper that was purchased to help speed up street sweeping in 2022 has been a kind of maintenance nightmare. Mike is looking at options to possibly keep the payment the same and extend the term.

**Councilman Stephanie Yeh:**

Assessor – working to complete a review of the top 300-600 properties for changes this month, and finalizing telecom, railroad, and utility assessments. Got an update on the CHPE status and will work with Shannon to ensure we protect the town’s interest in terms of total assessed value for that utility.

Bookkeeper Annual Financial Report is complete. I am very pleased to see that the Fund Balance is only down by \$18,000.

Tax Collector – continue to collect 3 days a week; the Town has received its full payment.

Town Clerk – Conference Monday 4/20, Wed 4/22. Deputy Erin McNierney will attend on Monday. Busy with water payments, park rentals, and coordinating field usage for the parks.

**Supervisor Roscoe Pecora:**

Buildings & Grounds / Parks & Rec – Dan and team are busy getting the parks ready, and Johnny on the spots and are being placed. They will begin to work on the bathrooms at Ross and work on the new bathroom at Freer Park. There will be a meeting to discuss the Installation of the pavilions and what type of foundation will be used.

Spoke to the Developer of the new hotel/resort; looking forward to taking a tour soon at Esopus Barnes.

Two lights still have wiring issues. Laura Petit is working on a grant for the 2 poles that have been missing for a while.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS APRIL 2026**

**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, which the town board has examined and approved.

**Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the following budget adjustments be approved for payment

**LI.0599.0000 Fund Balance    to    LI.5182.400                    \$10,325.38**  
**Fix Port Ewen Lights**

**AO.1990.400 Contingent        to        AO.1010.401                    \$3,233.42**  
**Town Board Contingency**

**Offered by:                            Supervisor Roscoe Pecora**  
**Seconded by:                        Councilman Evelyne Clarke**

**Supervisor Roscoe Pecora            AYE**  
**Councilman Evelyn Clarke            AYE**  
**Councilman Jared Geuss              AYE**  
**Councilman Paul Brooks              AYE**  
**Councilman Stephanie Yeh            AYE**

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS APRIL 2026**

**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	261115-261156	\$78,759.01
HIGHWAY FUND	262061-262085	\$70,473.70
STREETLIGHTS	266003-266005	\$15,719.11
PORT EWEN SEWER FUND	263045-263061	\$33,463.85
PORT EWEN WATER	264048-264068	\$48,449.89
Capital Water		
ESCROW		
Total		\$246,865.56

**Offered by:** Supervisor Roscoe Pecora  
**Seconded by:** Councilman Stephanie Yeh

Supervisor Roscoe Pecora	<b>AYE</b>
Councilman Evelyn Clarke	<b>AYE</b>
Councilman Jared Geuss	<b>AYE</b>
Councilman Paul Brooks	<b>AYE</b>
Councilman Stephanie Yeh	<b>AYE</b>

**Resolution duly adopted.**

**OLD BUSINESS - NOVEMBER 20, 2025, BOARD ACTION FOR EV CHARGING STATIONS AGREEMENT WITH DVM LLC**

At the November 20, 2025 Town Board meeting, the Town Board approved a motion to authorize an agreement for the installation of 3 EV double charging stations at the Town Hall, subject to attorney review. Our attorney has reviewed the agreement and has raised several significant legal issues, including an up to 20-year exclusivity agreement that would

require the Town to use DVM for any charging station on Town property anywhere in the Town. It also does not appear that the correct process was followed to approve the Agreement. At this time, the Agreement, as drafted, is not in the best interests of the Town, and I will not be signing it. I, however, thank the Environmental Board for their due diligence in bringing this before the Town. We will continue working towards the goal of installing EV charging stations in the Town. A third extension for 2 EV stations has been made, 1 for the Town Hall, and 1 for Ross Park. Councilman Clarke said the Environmental Board agreed that this contract was not what they originally discussed.

The County Planning Board reviewed the LWRP, which they felt was well written, and a written response with two recommendations will be forthcoming.

4.20.26	Planning Board	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:30pm
4.21.26	Zoning Board	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
4.22.26	Waterfront Advisory Board	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
4.27.26	Senior Meeting	Town Hall Community Center, Ulster Park, NY	1:00pm
5.2.26	Riverkeeper	Annual RiverSweep Sleightsburgh	8:30am
5.7.26	Town Board Workshop	TBD	
5.11.26	Seniors Meeting	Town Hall Community Center, Ulster Park, NY	1:00pm
5.12.26	Water/Sewer	Town Hall Community Center, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
5.13.26	Recreation Commission	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
5.18.26	Planning Board	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:30pm
5.19.26	ZBA Community Center	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
5.20.26	Environmental Board	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
5.21.26	Public Hearing on LWRP	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm
5.21.26	Town Board Meeting	Town Hall, One Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY	7:00pm

**AJOURNMENT**

**COUNCILMAN CLARKE MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING AT 9:55\_ P.M.  
 COUNCILMAN JARED GEUSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL THE MEMBERS PRESENT  
 WERE IN FAVOR, AND THE MOTION CARRIED.**

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