

From the Supervisor's Desk

2026 First Quarter Update



We've officially passed the **60-day mark** of this new administration, and I'm excited to share some early progress at Town Hall. Over these first three months, our focus has been simple: **Build a strong foundation for Esopus** — investing in infrastructure, strengthening accountability, advancing park projects, and working collaboratively with Town departments and community partners.



- Roscoe T. Pecora

Early Wins

We're also moving ahead with long-planned park and infrastructure upgrades, such as:

- **New bathroom facilities at Freer Park**
- **New pavilions at Freer and Lighthouse Parks**
- **New equipment for maintaining our Community Room**
- **\$36,789 in ARPA water infrastructure funding from Ulster County**

A special thank-you to the **Bruderhof community** for generously donating the new park pavilions. Over the coming months we'll finalize funding, coordinate shared-services labor, and set a construction schedule with the goal of completing the projects by **Summer 2026**.

Securing Grant Funding

Major infrastructure improvements are expensive, and our annual Town budget alone can't cover them. That's why **grant funding is a top priority**. The funding requests we applied for are highly **competitive**, but if we don't try, we definitely won't win!

Working with Town department heads and guided by our Master Plan, we've identified **Priority Capital Projects** and have **already applied for grant funding** for the following:

- **Replacement of Port Ewen Water Mains** – We applied for Federal USDA Rural Development Water funding to replace thousands of linear feet of water main pipes
- **Critical Repairs to Highway Infrastructure** – We applied for Federal DOT funding for an environmentally-safe salt shed, generator, and garage rehab
- **Transfer Station Upgrades** – We applied for USDA Rural Development Waste Disposal funding for a new replacement above-ground C&D refuse scale
- **Parks Improvements** – We applied for NYS Municipal Parks and Hudson River Greenway grants for accessible playground equipment at Ross and Joe Clark Parks

Grants like these allow us to **protect the local tax base** while making needed improvements.



Financial Oversight & Accountability

Strong oversight is essential to good government. Cash audits have been completed for the **Town Clerk, Justice Court, Tax Collector, Water & Sewer, and Transfer Station**, and our CPA has certified several of these audits. We were also notified that our CPA will not continue services in **2026**, so we have begun seeking proposals from local accounting firms to ensure **continued transparency and accountability**.



Staying Connected with Residents

The Town recently launched **TEXTMYGOV**, a new app that allows residents to receive updates and communicate directly with Town Hall. The service went live during recent blizzards and will continue to be a valuable tool for **keeping residents connected**.



Strengthening Town Hall Operations

I've begun meeting with Town staff and department heads across government — from **Highway and Water & Sewer to the Building Department, Town Clerk's Office, and Justice Court** — to identify priorities and improve coordination. We are also planning **periodic cross-department meetings** to encourage collaboration and problem-solving.



Sleightsburgh Park Access Task Force

With **striper season approaching**, we formed a **Sleightsburgh Park Access Task Force**, led by Councilmen Geuss and Brooks with participation from residents. The group will develop recommendations for managing park access during the busy fishing season. A draft plan is expected at the **March 19 Town Board Meeting**.



Around the Community

Esopus continues to stay active regionally and locally:

- Renewing participation in the **Ulster County Transportation Committee**
 - Hosting **Congressman Pat Ryan's CARES Van** at Town Hall
 - Coordinating with film crews for **Apple TV production B-roll filming** in town
 - Supporting local **economic development and tourism** initiatives
-

Thank you to our **Town Board members, staff, volunteers, and residents** for your continued engagement and support. We've made a strong start, and I look forward to sharing more updates as we continue ***Moving Esopus Forward!***