

February 9, 2017

The Newfield Town Board a Public Hearing was convened Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 6:45 PM at the Newfield Town Hall, 166 Main Street, Newfield NY, for the purpose of public comment on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2017- A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE PERMITTING OF SOLAR FACILITIES OR SOLAR FARMS FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Michael Allinger. Also present were 25 residents.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:45 by Supervisor Hart

Greggory Griffith of Newfield stated he had concerns regarding the placement of the transmission lines on private properties Millard Hill Road.

Brian Noteboom of Newfield and representing the Local Carpenters Union 277 is concerned that in Delaware River Solar's application with the IDA, it was Mr. Noteboom's belief that DRS did not state it would be using local labor for the project. Mr. Noteboom commented that he felt that the only thing the local area could provide for the project would be labor for the construction and there would not be any long term employment created by the company which could be important for the local economy.

Gene VanZile of Newfield commented that the land for the proposed solar farms is on existing farm land. Mr. VanZile felt there was other property available that could have been chosen but would need clearing. Mr. VanZile also feels that the surrounding environments will be effected by the proposed solar farm.

Joan Downs of Newfield commented that one of the proposed solar arrays would be located by her home. Ms. Downs is worried about the values of her neighbors and her properties.

Brenda Lapp of Newfield stated she supports the moratorium not because she is opposed to green energy, but because of the unanswered questions. Ms.Lapp asked why a PILOT was needed for the length of time when the solar company would be receiving state and federal government funds to build it, and that the proposed site is currently on land that had crops harvested last year. Ms.Lapp referred to portions of the Newfield Comprehensive Plan where it states Newfield resident's value protecting its farm land.

Michelle Henry of Newfield stated she supports the moratorium. Ms. Henry stated she is an environmentalist and supports renewable energies she wants to see the project done right. Ms. Henry stated she had spoken to neighboring municipality planning boards and from these conversations feels it is important to have a decommissioning plan in place, address possible glare at sunrise and sunset concerns, address buffering and visual concerns.

There being no other persons wishing to speak regarding proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2017, Supervisor Hart declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:03 pm.

Minutes recorded by Linda Smith, Deputy Town Clerk, transcribed by Karen Miller Kenerson Town Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Miller Kenerson
Town Clerk

March 6, 2017