

January 26, 2017

The Newfield Town Board Meeting was held at the Town Hall Board Room January 26, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Jeffrey Hart and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Mike Allinger. Also present were 6 other attendees.

New Business

Discussion and action regarding Local Law No. 1 -2017- Repealing the override of the tax levy limit

Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve Local Law No. 1- 2017 A Local Law to Repeal Local Law No. 5-2016 and to Repeal the Override of the Tax Levy Limit Established In General Municipal Law 3-c, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Discussion: None

Vote	AYES	5	Hart, James, Laughlin, Powers and Allinger
	NAY	0	

Carried

Old Business

Update and Discussion regarding the Solar System

Supervisor Hart introduced Terry Strednak a Newfield resident that is employed by a local company that installs solar arrays as a union electrician. Mr. Strednak gave his opinion of the pros and cons of solar farms in Newfield.

Gregg Griffith, a Millard Hill Road resident, asked if a consultant had been hired to verify the financial status of Delaware River Solar (DRS), whether the solar power generated would be available to residents through a subscription service, and long term sustainment of the solar industry. Mr. Griffith stated he had emailed a series of questions to DRS regarding the proposed array in Newfield. Supervisor Hart reviewed what has transpired to date with DRS 5 permit applications had been received, no building permits had been issued to date, the Town had notified DRS a PILOT would be required, Tompkins County Area Development(TCAD) is now involved with this because DRS is required if a PILOT for longer than 15 years. The Tompkins Industrial Development Agency will be having a public hearing on February 6th at 6:00 regarding the requested PILOT. Supervisor Hart presented a document for a 6 month moratorium regarding solar development to allow the Town Board time to formulate regulations that would address concerns and a local law regarding site plan review. The proposed moratorium would affect the current proposed projects. Councilperson Allinger asked if DRS agreed to a 15 year PILOT could the agreement come back to the Town. Councilperson James stated that the IDA- PILOT would be binding for every town and school district in Tompkins County. It was asked for further clarification regarding this.

Dan Winch from 310 Burdge Hill Road thanked Supervisor Hart for facilitating a meeting between DRS and Burdge Hill Road residents. Mr. Winch showed photos and maps from his home, the Van Allen's and Downs

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homes where the solar array view shed would be affected. Mr. Winch stated the Van Allen's, Downs and himself are not against solar but rather the appropriateness of this location. Mr. Winch commented the amount of people that come for that particular 40 mile view. Jim VanAllen also of Burdge Hill Road wondered about possible alternative sites. Mr. Winch commented about health concerns associated with solar arrays.

Councilperson James commented that it was sad the Town does not have a mechanism in place in order to address or deny this type of situation in the town. Motion was made by Councilperson Allinger to hold a Public Hearing February 9, 2017 at 6:45 PM for public comment regarding 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, seconded by Councilperson James.

Vote	AYES	5	Hart, Trask, James, Laughlin and Powers
	NAY	0	

Carried

Jim Van Allen asked the Board Members to read the comments by the Public Service Commission regarding the future of solar charges.

Clarification will be sought regarding whether DRS are offering the solar energy as a subscription service and the PILOT questions.

Councilperson James asked that at the February 23 meeting Gas Ban and Food Scrap Collection be discussed.

At 8:37 p.m., a motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson James.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 3, 2017

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk