

February 23, 2017

A regular meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room February 23, 2017. Supervisor Hart called to order at 7:00 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Michael Allinger. Also present were 12 residents.

Privilege of the Floor

Dan Winch asked what could be expected during the 6 month Solar Moratorium.

Bob Seeley thanked the Board for considering the Gas Drilling Ban and reminded them it is a proactive tool.

Marie Terlizzie asked why Newfield is becoming such an attraction to solar companies.

Brenda Lapp commented that the IDA had been scheduled to make a presentation to TCOOG regarding the proposed solar PILOT, but had been cancelled and a date had not presently been rescheduled. Ms. Lapp also questioned why one solar company continually showed interest in active farm land and another in less desirable agriculture land.

Bharath Sirinivasan from Sun Distribution gave a brief explanation of why certain solar arrays are placed where they are.

New Business

Resolution No. 5 of 2017 2017 Water Rates

WHEREAS the Town Board adopted Resolution No. 23-2016 water rate increases for residential water customers, rate increases for accounts with larger than 5/8 or 3/4 inch meter valves were omitted.

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, the water rate for 2017 will be as follows:

Meter Size	Base Rate Fee	Usage Allowance (Gallons)
5/8"	\$58.00	10,000
3/4"	\$58.00	10,000
1"	\$174.00	30,000
1-1/2"	\$261.00	45,000
2"	\$522.00	90,000
3"	\$812.00	140,000
4"	\$1,160.00	200,000
6"	\$2,030.00	350,000

February 23, 2017

The above 2017 water rates will be in effect April 1, 2017

Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the 2017 water rate increase seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Waiver for Distributed Sun LLC from Moratorium

Supervisor Hart reported Distributed Sun LLC (SUN8) is requesting a waiver from the recently passed Solar Moratorium. Mr. Bharath Srinivasan explained that partial waiver would be needed in order to apply for applications from NYSEG and NYSERTA. Mr. Srinivasan also requested that Distributed Sun LLC be allowed to submit applications, schedule public hearings, conduct forums and prepare environmental assessments. Supervisor Hart asked how SUN8 would know if the project was going to work if a PILOT agreement had not been agreed upon yet, Mr. Srinivasan responded that the project needed to be registered with NYSEG and NYSERTA before a PILOT agreement could be negotiated. Supervisor Hart stated that DS LLC is looking for a 35 year PILOT. Mr. Srinivasan explained that their solar panels only lose ½ of a percent of efficiency because they are encased in ACC. Mr. Srinivasan added that the proposed 2 MWac project would create 2 jobs a year, construction would employ 150 people for 6 months and in the past SUN8 has used local union labor. Councilperson Allinger asked how many projects SUN8 has in the area besides the Cornell project and asked about view shed for the proposed project on Benjamin Hill Road. Mr. Srinivasan stated there were 6 projects in the region and the proposed projects on Benjamin Hill Road do not propose view shed issues. Mr. Srinivasan offered to take the Board and neighbors for a tour of the property of the proposed sites. Councilperson James asked if the IDA sets a policy terms for a 20 year PILOT what would that mean for SUN8. Mr. Srinivasan responded that SUN8 would need to apply for a deviation for a 35 year PILOT. Councilperson Laughlin stated she was not comfortable with a 35 year PILOT. Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the requested partial waiver seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

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

Carried

Old Business

Discussion and Action regarding the Park Grant

Supervisor Hart reviewed that Mr. Aidun had come before the Board asking for Board support to apply for a reimbursable SAM grant. Councilperson James has concerns regarding the SAM grant process/review for fund reimbursement. Councilperson James asked if there was a fund surplus that could be used if needed. Supervisor

February 23, 2017

Hart added there were HUD funds that can be added to the monies that have been raised for the park. The Board is still waiting for clarification from Atty. Smith regarding using the funds raised so far for the initial reimbursement.

The town auditor will be contacted questioning if the donated funds could be used for the reimbursable monies for grant.

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to approve the grant application with the contingency that the auditor approves the use of the fund raised to be used for reimbursable monies seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

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

Carried

Discussion and Action regarding the Gas Ban Law

Supervisor Hart reviewed that originally the proposed law was a Fracking Ban that has now moved to a full gas extraction ban law. The proposed law has been fashioned after the Town of Caroline's existing Local Law. Councilperson Powers commented that Newfield needs to be prepared and a law can be changed for the times. Supervisor Hart commented that his thoughts have changed regarding this topic and that, as new technology advances, there should be safer and cleaner ways to extract gas then the Town would be willing to revisit the topic. Councilperson Laughlin stated she hates to see the harvest of natural gas stopped. Councilperson Laughlin added she felt the chances of seeing an existing law lifted or changed as slim. Councilperson Laughlin stated she does not feel the country can survive using only wind and solar energy and will need natural gas to remain independent. She hoped if the technology improves, the town would be open minded enough to possibly lift the ban. She also added she did not want to put a brick wall in the path of the opportunity of harvesting natural gas. Councilperson Allinger stated he did not feel the country currently had as great a need today for natural gas, and that Texas was harnessing wind and solar energy because of tanks of excess natural gas.

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to hold a public hearing March 22, 2017 at 6:.30 PM for public comment regarding proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2017 "Prohibition within the Town of Newfield of Natural Gas and Petroleum Exploration and Extraction Activities, the Underground Storage of Natural Gas, and the Disposal of Natural Gas or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration, and Production Wastes", seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

February 23, 2017

After the Public Hearing the meeting will move to focusing on the Solar Moratorium. Future meeting events as follows: Possible Solar Law introduction April 13th, Public Hearing April 27th, possible vote April 27. March 9 SUN8 will present their proposed project to the Board. The Board will invite the Planning Board to a meeting to discuss Site Plan Review.

At 8:21 p.m., a motion was made by Councilperson James to adjourn the meeting seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 7, 2017

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk