

March 23, 2017

The regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room March 23, 2017 at 7:00 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 Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Mike Allinger. Also present were 8 attendees. Councilperson James was absent.

New Business

Environmental Management Council Update

Michelle Henry gave an update of topics discussed from the EMC and WRC monthly meetings including: blue spectrum lighting vs. LED lighting, 6 proposed solar farms, free lead and drinking water testing to residents, a new water/sewer scoping committee and WRC grants for creek bank restoration and repair. Ms. Henry also commented CSI collected water samples from the Pony Hollow creeks on 5 separate occasions and there had been a marked increase of E.coli after manure had been spread. Ms. Henry stated there are grant funds available for farmers to build and repair buffer farm areas. Representatives from Bergen Farms and the Schwoeble are a neighboring property owner in the Pony Hollow community was present at this evenings meeting. Ms. Henry commented she had reached out to Cornell Cooperative Extension regarding suggested practices for winter manure spray spreading. It was stated there will be new State regulations regarding spray manure spreading in June. Mrs.Schwoeble stated that the Town of Newfield had a Road Preservation Law and asked if Bergen's had applied for an application for a permit. Supervisor Hart stated Highway Superintendent Berggren planned to post additional roads with weight limit signs after the winter plough season. Mrs.Schwoeble voiced her concerns; jeopardizing their business, their well water and the value of their property in relationship to the current farm practices in Pony Hollow. The Schwoeble's will meet with Bergen Farms in the future. Future water testing results and the USGS well testing in the Pony Hollow area will be shared with Bergen Farms.

Old Business

Update and Discussion regarding the Solar Energy Facilities and Solar Farms Law

Councilperson Powers presented a computation of 8 solar laws from towns in New York State and highlighted the points she felt could be considered for a solar law for the Town of Newfield. Councilperson Powers noted the laws were from towns that do have zoning, but that she concentrated on the large solar requirements in each law. Councilperson Laughlin commented she felt Delaware River Solar were closely following the examples listed. The Board agreed to review each presented law and its highlights and compile information at the April 12th meeting.

Discussion Site Plan Review Law

No new information from Planning Board

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Discussion of Local Law No. 3 of 2017 “Prohibition within the Town of Newfield 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.”

Councilperson Powers commented she did not feel a second Public Hearing was necessary as there has been prior Public Hearings, has been on past agenda, past articles in the Newfield News, along with the showing of residents at last evenings Public Hearing she felt it should be moved along. Councilperson Laughlin stated she would like to reach out to Atty. Smith as comments were about fracking. Councilperson Laughlin would like a statement added that stated the current Town Board would like this topic revisited if and when technology advanced where gas extraction could be done safely. Councilperson Allinger suggested that the comments still be gathered from residents while the proposed ban is still in review. A notice will be put onto the Town website that written comments will be accepted until April 19, 2017. Proposed Law No. 3 of 2017 can be introduced on April 20th and then voted on May 11, 2017.

At 8:12 p.m., a motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Allinger.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 24, 2017

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk