

**Town of Independence
Public Hearing Regarding LL#2-2019/Solar Law
Preliminary Budget Public Hearing
November 14, 2019**

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on November 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm for a Public Hearing to hear all persons interested in the matter of the adoption of Intro Law #2-2019 entitled Town of Independence Solar Energy Systems and Facilities Local Law.

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council: Meunier, Acomb, Waters, Howe. Town Clerk , Cindy Welch, Deputy Clerk, Jasmine Bledsoe; Patrolman Sherman.

Visitors: Attorney Dave Pullen, Greg Rosetti from Oya Solar; three WCS students; and eight area residents.

Supervisor Reichman called the Public Hearing to order. The Clerk declared the Hearing had been duly advertised in the form of Legal Notice and posting on the Town Clerk signboard.

Much discussion was held, Mr. Rosetti explained many facets of the proposed project, questions were asked and answered . Some interesting facts: 40% of the generated power can be for commercial use, 60% must be reserved for residential; construction would be by using local employment; life expectancy for the facility is 30 - 50 years. Attorney Pullen suggested four changes, one involving decreasing setbacks.

The Public Hearing was declared closed by motion from Supervisor Reichman seconded by Council Meunier at 7:45 p.m. All in favor.

The Preliminary 2020 Budget Public Hearing was declared open by Supervisor Reichman at 7:53 p.m.

The Town Clerk reported that according to her figures, the 2020 preliminary budget reflected an overall rate per thousand decrease of \$.59 and was well below the allowable tax cap set forth by the State Comptroller. The Clerk also reported the town had gained 483,782 of assessed valuation. Board members stated they would like to have one more budget workshop, clerk reminded them they have to adopt by November 20th, 2019. Meeting scheduled for Monday Nov. 18th at 5:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing was declared closed by motion from Supervisor Reichman seconded by Council Howe at 7:59 p.m. All in favor.

After a short break Supervisor Reichman called the regular meeting to order. The pledge was given.

A motion was made by Council Acomb to approve the October 10th, 2019 minutes seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all.

A motion was made by Council Howe to approve the October 17th, 2019 minutes seconded by Council Acomb and carried by all.

A motion was made by Council Meunier to approve the October 24th, 2019 minutes seconded by Council Acomb and carried by all.

Upon discussion of Intro Law#2-2019, **Resolution #11-2019- Resolution to Approve in Concept Intro LL#2-2019** was offered by Council Meunier and moved upon by Council Howe. Clerk called a roll vote with all voting yes.

Attorney Pullen will amend the existing draft and submit to the Allegany County Planning board for approval. Board to review at the December 12th meeting.

At this time the WCS Lego League Team arrived and gave a presentation of Community Improvements in preparation of their upcoming competition. The skit was enjoyed by all.

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continued

After a short break the regular meeting continued. Supervisor Reichman asked visitors if they had any concerns or questions.

Resident Mike Sutley reported he wanted to register a complaint of two pickup trucks that were continually racing and driving recklessly around town. Council Meunier suggested the board contact the State Police to help out. Sutley also mentioned that the control building up at the water tower should be insulated from the outside to reduce the National Grid utility bill. Board will check into that.

Council Elect Robert Ellison questioned why is town equipment outside of the Highway Building and Impound vehicles inside. PJ Sherman responded it's because if impound cars get damaged (which had happened in the past) the Town would be liable. Ellison questioned why does the Highway Department have two pickups and asked about purchasing new equipment. Another concern was why potholes were not filled in on town roads.

In the absence of Highway Superintendent Graves, Superintendent Reichman read the highway report. Work: working on beaver dam on Pleasant Valley road, working dirt roads, ditch and gravel partial Roeske Road, repairing storm damage from the heavy rains, plowing snow. Equipment: rear tires on the 2015 Peterbilt, installed plow equipment.

Fuel Report:

	Used	Purchased	Water	Fire Dept.	IES	Police	Measure
Gas:	92.5 gals	296.2 gals					3'1"
Diesel:	588	200					2'3 3/8 "

At this time the Clerk read a thank you from an area citizens in regard to the Highway Department trimming trees and brush from the roadway on Hill St.

The clerk gave a bank transition update. Stated she has closed eleven of the accounts at Steuben. All accounts are now opened at First Citizens. The online banking is up and running. The clerk explained her goal is to have all accounts closed by November 30th. Reports to follow.

The board entered into discussion of permit fees for solar facilities. A motion was made by Supervisor Reichman to set the fee for Solar Facility Special Use Permits at \$1,500 to include any costs incurred by the town in direct relation to the permit, (i.e. engineering plans, etc.) Motion seconded by Council Meunier and approved by all. Clerk to rewrite the Permit Schedule Fee.

The annual Aged Exemption is up for renewal. Motion by Council Meunier seconded by Council Howe to adopt the Exemption for 2020 with no changes. Approved by all. Clerk to submit to the County and Assessor.

Winter shoveling for the Town Hall was discussed with a motion by Supervisor Reichman to hire Austin Waite at \$20 per shoveling. Motion seconded by Council Waters and approved by all.

The Clerk, Financial, Justice, and Police and DCO monthly reports were reviewed by board members.

Bills were reviewed with a motion made by Council Howe seconded by Supervisor Reichman and approved by all to pay abstracts #11-2019 in the following amounts:

General	Vouchers #	176-196	\$8867.53
Highway		167-182	\$21783.86
Water		72-82	\$2200.01

A motion to adjourn was made by Council Howe seconded by Council Meunier and approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Cindy Welch, Town Clerk

