

LINCOLN TOWN BOARD

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Lincoln Town Hall, 6886 Tuttle Rd., Canastota, NY 13032

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Attendance: Supervisor Melissa During, Peggy LeClair, Doug Holdridge, Jayne Black and Doug Fusillo.

Others in Attendance: Anthony Domenicone, Jon Black, John Schoeck, Jim Jones, Caitlin Choberka, Linda Barker, Ed Mills, Paul Hogan, Mat Spendley, Bill Trimarchari, Drew Rogerson and Steve Mellott.

Pledge of Allegiance

Weisbrod Solar Public Hearing Continued:

Doug Holdridge expressed concern about using non-native tree species for screening. He also thinks a berm is needed along with native tree/shrub species to provide adequate screening based on the site's location. Caitlin Choberka, Engineer from C & S recommends native species as well.

Ed Mills has an issue with tax payer money going to cut trees that were planted using tax payer money years ago to protect the Oneida lake watershed. Ed disagrees with the project being built on prime farmland and wants to know what assurance the town has that future owners of the solar will return it to farmland.

Solar Drew explained the owner of the project pays into an escrow account to cover the decommissioning costs.

Doug Fusillo mentioned that decommissioning takes time and a lot of money especially if the racking (supports) is drilled into the ground. He thinks the estimated cost of decommissioning is too low. Doug Fusillo asked if the decommissioning workers were going to be paid prevailing wages. Drew Rogerson said NYS wages were to be paid.

Doug Holdridge asked if the gravel storm water zone was going to be built to handle a 100-year flood event. Doug also asked about the heavy metal/toxin content of the panels. Drew Rogerson said there is no cadmium and less than .01 % lead. Supervisor During said most of the panels will be recycled per the town and county decommissioning laws for solar and wind.

Supervisor During recommended closing the public hearing at 8:45pm and scheduling a special town board meeting on Wednesday, March 26 at 7pm in the town hall where the board will provide a decision on the Weisbrod solar project.

Resolution 34-25: Motion to close the public hearing and hold a special meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7pm by roll call:

Peggy Leclair- aye

Jayne Black- aye

Doug Holdridge- aye

Doug Fusillo- aye

February 12, 2025 meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Resolution 35- 25: Motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Peggy LeClair, 2nd Jayne Black, carried unanimously.

Financials: The town's financial statements from Bryn Wilcox were reviewed with no questions or comments.

Supervisor's Announcements and Updates:

NYS Ag & Markets- has a new animal companion program. (NSAPF?) Information is available from Melissa.

Governor's budget- Melissa had a productive conversation with Commissioner Ball. He indicated the budget is trying to make NY more cost friendly. Budget highlights include:

\$1 million for Ag in the classroom program

\$1.8 million for sustainability for NY farmers

\$25 million to protect farmland

Enhancing CHIPS

As a side note, Commissioner Ball prefers to see solar on parking lots.

Drew Thomas joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss health insurance opportunities for town employees. Currently, there's a \$8,300 deductible (town covers), monthly cost for employees is \$711/month. HRA (health reimbursement account) involves using insurance card and bills are

paid when they come in. With a HSA (health saving account), the employee owns the money and employer can contribute to the account. The option to utilize both types of accounts is also available to employees.

New Business:

Resolution for the Harriet Tubman Underground Rail Road, NY Scenic Byways Nomination and Corridor Management Plan Adoption.

Resolution 36-25: Motion to authorize Melissa to enter into the town's IT agreement was made by Doug Holdridge, 2nd Peggy LeClair, carried unanimously.

Resolution 37-25: Motion to have Melissa administer the DASNY grant was made by Doug Holdridge, 2nd Peggy LeClair.

Deputy Supervisor's Announcements: Peggy reminded everyone about the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and Bicycle Give Away on April 19, at 11 am at the town hall. April 22nd is Earth Day and depending on the weather, clean-up will begin.

Clerk's report was given with no questions.

Resolution 38-25: Motion to approve the Clerk's report was made by Doug Holdridge, 2nd by Doug Fusillo.

Historian, David Sadler, announced he acquired a \$2,050 grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for the town's first historical plaque.

Highway Superintendent Anthony Domenicone was able to acquire enough salt to see the town through the rest of this winter season. Oneida Department of Transportation offer to share some of their salt until Lincoln's salt order was filled. Salt will be returned as soon as possible.

Anthony mentioned it was time for signing road roads with weight limits. Spring repairs and equipment maintenance are also underway.

Resolution 39-25: Motion to approve highway superintendent's report was made by Doug Fusillo, 2nd Doug Holdridge.

Melissa prepared certificates of appreciation for those involved in the salt swap project of 2025. She also thinks the town needs to address the staffing of the highway department. During busy winters, Tony's putting in 90 hours a week. The town needs more skilled labor capable operating equipment and snowplows.

Old Business:

An audit of the Clerk's records was conducted on February 25, 2025 by Jayne Black. There were no irregularities, and a copy of the audit is available from the Clerk's office.

Resolution 40-25: Motion to accept the Clerk's Audit was made by Doug Holdridge, 2nd Peggy LeClair.

Zoning Application and Fee Schedule. John Schoeck researched the process. Assessor Mat Spendley expressed concern for spot zoning. The topic will be further discussed at the meeting on March 26.

Resolution 41-25: Motion to enter executive session at 8:59pm by Doug Holdridge, 2nd Doug Fusillo.

Payment of Claims:

Resolution 42-25: Motion to approve payment of vouchers, with the exception of the alarm bill, was made by Doug Fusillo, 2nd Doug Holdridge.

Resolution 43-25: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42pm was made by Peggy LeClair, 2nd Jayne Black, carried unanimously.