

Public Hearing of the 2024 Solar Moratorium Law Meeting Minutes

Held: Tuesday May 15, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.

Location: 7578 County Route 333 Thurston, NY

Present: Michael Volino, Holly Chase, Noel Sylvester, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave, Rachel Treichler, Nick Nolton, Saige McGarvey

Visitors: Ruth Schoonover, Gary Lewis, Marge Taft, Sam Dick, Lisa Hargrave, Tim Hargrave, Jeff Sweeney, Eva Turner, Teresa Borhman, Tom Stephens, Helen Stephens, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad, Brennan Hardy

Michael Volino called the public hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. The Board opened with the pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Volino stated that the reason for the Public Hearing was to finalize and make a decision on the 2024 Solar Moratorium Local Law #2 now that the word repair has been removed from the document. Marge Taft asked what the \$7,400.00 from the pilot program was for. Supervisor Volino stated that it was a 10 year payment agreement on the Solar system on Lewis road. Volino also stated that the solar panels are projected to only last 10 to 15 years. Jeff Sweeney stated that the land owner will continue to pay land taxes. Marge Taft asked what the reason was the Town Board didn't want solar systems in the Town. Supervisor Volino stated that the Town wouldn't benefit from the energy created it would be dispersed to NYC. Volino stated that the Town Board needs more time to research the Tier 3 systems and the moratorium would give them time to do that. Gary Lewis asked if there is any Solar Co applications on the books at this time. Supervisor Volino stated no there isn't. Volino stated that he hasn't heard from the solar co representative since February and March of 2024. Sam Dick asked if there were any stipulations on tier 3 systems for distance from neighboring residents. Ruth Schoonover asked if the solar panels were going to be visible to the neighbors on Knowles road. Jeff Sweeney stated no that the panels would not be visible. Sweeney stated that he spoke with his neighbors about establishing a solar system on his farm. Sweeney proceeded to say that if his neighbors had a problem they would be here. Noel Sylvester stated that he personally didn't like Jeff Sweeney's degrading attitude. Supervisor Volino stated the main goal is to establish a moratorium to give the Town Board time to research as much as possible to keep the residents of the Town of Thurston safe.

With no further discussion motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Holly Chase to close the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Put to vote: Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk