

**MINUTES
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 23, 2021**

PRESENT:

Supervisor Don Trout, Councilman Mike Pfeiffer, Tyrone Thomas and Bob Lotz.

ABSENT:

Councilman Strader

ALSO PRESENT:

Highway Superintendent, Joe Mull, Assessor, Jim Cleere, Account Clerk, Kim Hendrickson, MRB Engineer, Patrick Nicoletta, Ted Young, John Morabito, Alice DiDona, Ken and Rita Cook, Jim Clise, Gary Robson, Ed Lerkins, Josh Mull, Randy Neth, Sue Henry, Fred Henry, Dave Foulkrod, David Shaw, George Dutton, Marge Dutton, Rebecca Emerson, LC Collins, LC Collins, Darel Logue, Scott Brown, Anne Brown, Maureen Doyle, Eugene Moretti, Tim TenEyck, Joe Wukitsch, Mirel Oese-Siegel, Kris Scoravaca and Robet VanKuren.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Trout led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

FIRE EXITS:

2021-072

Councilman Thomas made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Councilman Pfeiffer seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes – July 26 Regular Town Board Meeting
August 11, Special Town Board Meeting

Approval of Bills:

GENERAL FUND – TOWNWIDE	\$2062.24
HIGHWAY TOWNWIDE	56.13
WATERLOO SEWER DISTRICT #1	127.98
5 AND 20 SEWER DISTRICT	19,954.62
BURGESS ROAD WATER DISTRICT	17,617.55
BORDER CITY WATER DISTRICT	19,527.75
POWDERLY ROAD WATER DISTRICT	168.41
BREWER ROAD SOUTH	2,680.85
RTE 96, REED, HECKER, MILLS, KINGS WD 5	102.35
TOTAL	62,297.88

Approval of the Town Clerk's Monthly Report
Approval of the Canine Report

AYE

NAE

Supervisor Trout
Councilman Pfeiffer
Councilman Lotz
Councilman Thomas

The motion was carried.

2021-073

Councilman Lotz made the motion to approve the abandonment of Welch Road in the Town of Waterloo. Councilman Pfeiffer seconded the motion.

AYE

NAE

Supervisor Trout
Councilman Pfeiffer
Councilman Lotz
Councilman Thomas

The motion was carried.

2021-074

Councilman Pfeiffer made the motion to schedule a Budget Workshop Meeting on September 7th, at 2:00 PM. Councilman Lotz seconded the motion.

AYE

NAE

Supervisor Trout
Councilman Pfeiffer
Councilman Lotz
Councilman Thomas

The motion was carried.

Supervisor Trout asked MRB Engineer, Mr. Patrick Nicoletta if the calibration was done for the master meters on Burgess Road from the Village to the Town and from the Town to Junius.

Mr. Nicoletta said he was not aware that was done. Supervisor Trout then asked him to find out the last time they were done.

Councilman Lotz asked Mr. Nicoletta if there is a contract with CPE to do the calibration. Mr. Nicoletta said possibly, or it may be a different company.

Supervisor Trout then asked him the status of the Sewer Use Law. Mr. Nicoletta said they are currently working on it, and they hope to have a draft for the Board at the next month's meeting. He said he is hopeful to have a final Sewer Use Law by November.

Mr. Nicoletta also said on the manhole rehabilitation project, they currently have completed four manholes.

Mr. Nicoletta said concerning the bioxide project, he spoke with the Project Manager and was told the equipment should be here approximately by September 13th.

Councilman Lotz said he has talked to the Electricians to get new wiring in so there will be no problems when they start the project.

PETITIONERS OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Trout asked Mr. Kris Scornavacca , Project Director for Nextera Energy to please come forward to answer questions from the Public concerning the Solar Farm.

Supervisor Trout then asked the petitioners who addressed Mr. Scornavacca to please limit their questions to five minutes.

Mr. Joe Wutitsch said first he is speaking for most of his neighbors and said he has many questions to ask. He also said he is one of two ad hoc local members of the siting board. He asked Mr. Scornavacca what the impact would be of the 80-megawatt project and what affect it will have on property values, protecting screening efforts, transparency, and environmental and financial aspects.

Mr. Wutitsch said this project has challenges and questions, ie, loss of farmland, impacts on their way of life, and a possible decrease in property values.

Mr. Scornavacca answered and said that the application is undergoing a hard review that answers those questions.

He said Trelina's application for a certificate of public need and environmental compatibility is being reviewed by the New York State Board of Electric Generation Siting and the Environment. This committee consists of a seven member body that includes Mr. Wutitsch and Mr. Richard Swinehart of Packwood Road, two non-voting, ad hoc local members
The siting board will make a recommendation on the certificate to the administrative law judge by December 7th, 2021.

Mr, Scornavacca also said there is a host community benefits agreement with the town which provides new revenue for the town. He said they are will also apply to the Seneca County IDA for a PILOT Program.

This will generate revenue to the Town of approximately \$425,000 a year for 20 to 25 years for the life of the project.

Mr. Wutitsch referred to an April 2021 newspaper in which he said Mr. Scornavacca said that he doesn't believe the solar project will result in a 5 to 7.5 percent drop in property values.

That statement is contrary to an article that Mr. Wutitsch provided which states that there is a decrease in their property values.

Supervisor Trout reiterated as he has before that the town will have the host agreement and will have a property protection plan for the homeowners who may be affected by this solar project.

Mrs. Rita Cook asked Mr. Scornavacca about more having more public meetings. She said promises were made for public transparency and public meetings for residents, but only two were scheduled in 2019 and nothing has been scheduled since.

Mr. Scornavacca said that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, that they were put on hold. He said he has attended several Town Board Meetings to answer questions and they will be sending out mailers and homeowners can also view their website for information.

Mrs. Anne Brown asked if hedges could be installed to shield the view of the solar panels.

Mr. Scornavacca said that setback requirements will be followed and said if granted, vegetative screening of sufficient height is likely. He also encouraged homeowners to ask for a company official to visit them to point out their concerns.

Mr. Robert VanKuren also asked about the composition of the solar panels and whether they contain any chemicals or elements that could cause ground contamination and possibly groundwater.

Mr. Scornavacca said that panels will not be selected until the decision is made on the application. He said he believes they will be mainly silicone and sand-based glass and will not have toxic chemicals.

Mr. Wutitsch then asked the Town Board if they would consider passing a resolution at tonight's meeting to impose a one year moratorium on solar projects. He said that would give our new Governor, the Honorable Kathy Hochul time to develop her own policies and procedures concerning Solar Farms.

Supervisor Trout said that would not happen at tonight's meeting but in the future they possibly maybe more conversation about a moratorium.

Supervisor Trout thanked everyone at the meeting for their questions and concerns and said although he is officially closing the meeting, they are welcome to stay with Mr. Scornavacca and ask more questions.

2021-074

Councilman Pfeiffer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion.

AYE

Supervisor Trout
Councilman Pfeiffer
Councilman Lotz
Councilman Thomas

NAE

The motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra L. Ridley