

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HUNTER HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 AT 5:30 PM VIA ZOOM.

Present at Town Hall:

Daryl Legg	Supervisor
David Kukle	Councilman
Raymond Legg	Councilman
Sean Mahoney	Councilman
Dolph Semenza	Councilman

Lara Hamrah-Poladian	Secretary to the Supervisor
Larry Gardner	Town Attorney (arriv. 6PM)
Marc Czermerys	IT

Present via Zoom:

Corina Pascucci	Town Clerk
Susan Graham	Office Assistant
John Lyons	Grant & Lyons
Kim Garrison	Grant & Lyons

Gordon Woodcock, Kaelyn Roche, David, Sarah Schneider, Ernie Reale, Katie Peterson, Regina

Supervisor Legg calls the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

FEE SCHEDULE

Discussion – obtaining fee schedules from other towns for comparison.

Town Board will request a comparison from the Planning and Building departments for the next meeting, this item to be tabled until then.

Supervisor Legg makes a MOTION to table Planning and Building fee schedule item until the March 9, 2021 meeting, this item to be discussed at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Councilman Mahoney.

Ayes -5-

Noes -0-

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Legg makes a MOTION to go into Executive Session at 5:46 PM to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Seconded by Councilman Semenza.

Ayes -5-

Noes -0-

Supervisor Legg makes a MOTION to come out of Executive Session at 6:06 PM. Seconded by Councilman Semenza.

Ayes -5-

Noes -0-

New Zoom session

DRAFT SOLAR LAW

John Lyons and Kim Garrison summarize the changes in the Draft Solar Law.

Article 4, Page 5, Subsection A – thumbnail sketch of regulatory scheme

Section 3 – speaks to community solar systems and the energy they produce should be for the benefit of Town of Hunter residents.

The remainder of the law sets forth regulations and standards, including Planning Board review.

K. Garrison summarizes the revisions from prior Town Board comments.

- Additional protections
- Vista/scenic viewshed protection
- Preserve/protect landscape
- Make sure community solar benefits residents
- Pg. 1, Article 1, Section C
- Item 2
- Article 2
- Renewable permit for community solar- Article 3
- Planning Board review – Article 4
- Ponding/wind impact
- Fencing/wildlife movement
- Violations and existing violations

Discussion on whether to require fencing to be universal and setbacks.

J. Lyons states that they were not more specific to allow the Planning Board to use their discretion to customize fencing to fit circumstances adding that a single standard might not fit in everywhere.

Planning Board to provide Grant & Lyons with fencing standards and postscript wording.

J. Lyons to email Planning Board re: wildlife displacement.

Discussion on clearcutting concerns, board feels that they were handled well in this draft document.

Supervisor Legg asks if there is anything in the draft law that speaks to Subdivisions, for example an applicant subdividing a 100-acre parcel into ten parcels.

Councilman Semenza states that the draft law addresses this under General Requirements (pg. 15, Article 3)

J. Lyons speaks to a change in the law at the state level regarding large scale commercial solar projects of 25 megawatts or more. He adds that a new state agency was created, Office of Renewable Energy, to review large scale facilities and Section 94C of the NYS Executive Law has created controversy as it increased the authority the state has to ignore local land use regulations. He adds that the Town's draft law prohibits these large facilities. He will look into answers about the Town of Hunter being in the Catskill Park and environmental concerns with large facilities.

New Zoom session

Councilman Mahoney states that this draft law integrates battery storage which we currently have a moratorium on, adding that they must be part of a solar array.

Bond discussion – abandonment and decommissioning and escrow provisions.

Town Board wishes to hold another meeting with Grant & Lyons and then set a Public Hearing.

Supervisor Legg makes a MOTION to come out of Executive Session at 7:03 PM. Seconded by Councilman Mahoney.

Ayes -5-

Noes -0-

Corina Pascucci, Town Clerk, RMC

Town of Hunter