

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

October 30, 2014

A Special Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Friday, October 30, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 5:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Diane L. McCord
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk
Randolph Horner, Solar Project Manager**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

ESOPUS TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

Power Purchase Agreement, entitled “Solar Power & Services Agreement” with SunEdison Government Solutions LLC.

WHEREAS: the Town of Esopus has been an early leader among New York municipalities, with its Town Hall Solar Facility providing the majority of the electricity needed to power the building and its Geothermal mechanical systems, and

WHEREAS: after completion of the Town Hall Photovoltaic (PV) Project in early 2010, the Community continued to build upon the solar momentum with another successful PV installation at the Esopus Port Ewen Library, funded largely by a Department of Energy grant administered by the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and

WHEREAS: Following these 2010 installations the Town embarked upon a study as to how all municipal electricity requirements could be met on an annual basis by a large-scale PV Project sited on the Town's closed, capped landfill, and

WHEREAS: in October 2011 the Town Board authorized Solar Project Manager Randolph Horner to begin a development process with an Application for Interconnection with Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, and

WHEREAS: Project Manager Horner was also authorized to conduct a Municipal Procurement proceeding, in accordance with procedures followed during the two previous projects, and

WHEREAS: a Vendor Team was chosen, which ultimately had to be disqualified due to an inability to perform according to the terms and conditions set by the Town, and

WHEREAS: during a continuation of that Procurement Process a replacement Vendor was chosen and the industry-leading SunEdison was authorized to bid for NYSERDA financial incentives December 31, 2013, and

WHEREAS: During 2014, the Town has worked with SunEdison to develop a final Project Plan and Power Purchase Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE, the Esopus Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign the Power Purchase Agreement, entitled "Solar Power & Services Agreement" with SunEdison Government Solutions LLC.

Resolution offered by: Councilperson Wayne Freer
Resolution seconded by: Councilperson Diane McCord

Supervisor John Coutant	AYE
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	Abstain
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE
Councilperson Diane McCord	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	AYE

Each of the Board members made comment:

Councilperson Van Vliet thanked Randolph Horner for all of his hard work. She understands he is an expert and has worked very hard on this project. She is still concerned the Town Attorney Paul Keller recommended we seek the opinion of an expert, impartial person in the field. She felt Randolph was bias because he is so involved in this project. Councilperson Van Vliet said she did not hear any comments from the public and does not know how her constituents feel about the project. Therefore, she wished to abstain from the vote.

Councilperson McCord felt there was a lot of time spent going over this information. The Town has been a "pioneer" in the first solar project. The project has been profitable to us and we have not had any problems; if we did, Randolph fixed them. Councilperson McCord said she has to follow Randolph's expertise and voted yes.

Councilperson Wayne Freer said we have been a front runner with our solar projects. Councilperson Wayne Freer has talked to people in the solar field as well as many throughout the Town and they feel it is a good idea to pursue solar alternatives. The people liked the idea of generating energy with fixed costs (to a degree) at the landfill, rather than utilizing other usable land. Councilperson Wayne Freer Voted Yes.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett said he was deeply concerned about supporting this because he questioned whether the Board did enough due diligence to seek independent advice. We are all emotionally invested in this project and want to see it happen. Councilperson Barnett also commended Randolph Horner for all of his hard work and does not doubt his sincerity. Our own attorney advised us to look for an independent expert, however, we did not have the time to get this done by November 1st. On the other hand if the contract is not signed by November 1st, SunEdison would lose their subsidy and the project would be back where we started from; which is equally concerning. Councilperson Barnett said his original feelings were to vote no for those reasons. However, the thought of missing an opportunity out ways the concerns he has. The solar project is really important to the town. Councilperson Barnett was conflicted and does not know if there was a better deal out there but does not want to prevent the town from moving forward on this project and missing out on this subsidy. Councilperson Barnett said, " I feel somewhat constrained to vote in favor of it. That is why I vote yes".

Supervisor John Coutant said he has worked hard and diligently for years with Randolph Horner on this project. Supervisor Coutant's concern for all the constituents has been to have an opportunity to stabilize the cost of what government spends on electricity over the next 20 years. Currently it may be a touch higher in cost per kilowatt hour but over the course of time the cost of electric has not come down. Nor does Supervisor Coutant foresee it being any more stable when there have been 3 raises approved by the public service commission for Central Hudson in a short period of time. Anything government does has a degree of risk to it and can be questioned. Supervisor Coutant said he has talked to many constituents who are in favor of the solar project and stabilizing the cost of electricity over the years. Supervisor Coutant stated when the recommendation to seek someone with expertise in the Solar Field was made by Attorney Kellar's, Supervisor Coutant felt Randolph is one of the most knowledgeable people on the East Coast relative to Solar Energy and did not feel we could do any better. Supervisor John Coutant voted Yes.

A Majority was in favor, Resolution was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:33 PM WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WANE FREER. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**