

AUGUST 15, 2019
6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC HEARING

Present: Deputy Supervisor Lynn Parnell, Councilmen: Norman Gates & Amos Smith

Absent: Supervisor Gerald Deming & Councilman Frank Rose Jr.

Others: James Campbell (Town Attorney), David Deuel, Lee Gratwick, Dorothea Prine, Amy & Joe Dolce, Father Stephen Muller (Abbey of the Genesee), Kirk Richenberg, Steve Beardsley and Ted Andrews

Deputy Supervisor Parnell opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. and asked Attorney Campbell to read aloud the hearing notice for Considering public opinion and comment about or concerning the proposed Local Law for a one year Moratorium and Prohibition relating to Large Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems.

Attorney Campbell read such notice and then stated that the hearing is to allow the public to comment in favor of or opposition to this law. Mr. Campbell outlined that the Board will allow oral comments this evening and also keep the comment period open until September 10th. Once the comments have been heard tonight, we will close the Public Hearing except for any written submittals. A decision may be made at the regular meeting on September 12th.

Attorney Campbell asked for any comments pertaining to the proposed law:

Lee Gratwick (York Road West)

Solar is a very important aspect of energy and should be encouraged, but not to be used on prime agricultural farmland. If there is land that is not as valuable it should be utilized for solar purposes. Ms. Gratwick stated she is in favor of solar, but not large scale battery energy storage system installations, and asks the Board to proceed with a moratorium.

Dorothea Prine (Retsof Road)

We have at our residence three (3) solar poles, with 42 panels on each. Mrs. Prine gave a brief overview of the options they had at that time, but chose this route. Mrs. Prine commented that we need to have a moratorium on large scale battery energy systems, stating some concern and noting that we already have capable power companies that can provide the services needed.

David Deuel (Telephone Road)

Mr. Deuel stated he fully supports the moratorium on large scale battery systems and commented that a number of towns are preparing to follow suit. The Town of Lima is looking at prohibiting large scale solar projects on prime soils altogether and not allowing battery energy storage systems at this time.

Mr. Deuel stated that he has read a great deal about battery storage and because it is still in its infancy, we will not know the true affects for some time. We could approve the moratorium, giving us 1 year to do research on it. Over the course of the year it will allow more information to come to light. Mr. Deuel commented that he would like the Town Board to consider a BAN on these facilities, perhaps up to 5 years, in order to fully evaluate. A BAN could always be lifted if need be, but does allow more sufficient time to see how technology matures.

Joe Dolce (Main Street-Wadsworth)

Mr. Dolce stated that he disagrees with Mr. Deuel about proceeding with a moratorium and needing additional time to see how technology advances. Mr. Dolce commented that graphene batteries are completely safe and feels that this proposed law is small minded on the subject. In Section 5, the law requires a \$500 fee with such application, which is more than enough. Mr. Dolce stated that he wished this meeting was a question & answer session in order to better understand the meaning behind this law. "What is prepared is a resolution in search of a problem".

Kirk Richenberg (Federal Road)

Mr. Richenberg stated in the proposed law, Section 2, it states that the Town Board formally requested the Building & Zoning Department and the Planning Board to identify and review local laws from other jurisdictions. According to one of our Planning Board members, they have not been informed of or presented this law.

Attorney Campbell replied that the Planning Board will be informed and asked to participate upon adoption of the moratorium.

Mr. Richenberg commented he has been present when several Local laws have been adopted by the Board and feels Attorney Campbell doesn't always encourage open-mindedness.

With nothing further from the public, Attorney Campbell stated that the Board will leave the comment period open until Tuesday, September 10th at 4 p.m. for written submittals.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Parnell to close the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m. Voted on and approved, Yes-3, No-0, Absent-2.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine M. Harris
Christine M. Harris, Clerk