

**JULY 14, 2021, TOWN BOARD**

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Root, County of Montgomery and State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 1048 Carlisle Road, Sprakers, New York on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.

PRESENT: LuEmma Quackenbush Deputy Supervisor  
Donald Bramer Councilman  
Dominic Cuomo Councilman  
John VanKersen Councilman  
Laurel Eriksen Town Clerk  
Donald Oeser Superintendent of Highways

ABSENT: Gary Kamp Supervisor  
Robert Subik Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcia Shults, Deputy Town Clerk; Stella Gittle, Assessor; Planning Board Members, John Lyker and Noah Radliff; Bill Maring, Town Historian; several residents

Deputy Supervisor Quackenbush opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Councilman VanKersen motioned seconded by Councilman Cuomo to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting as presented.

Ayes 4 – Quackenbush, Bramer, Cuomo, VanKersen Nays 0

**REPORTS**

Reports were available from the Code Enforcement Officer, the Dog Control Officer, the Justice and the Supervisor.

There was no report from the Attorney.

The Town Clerk reported that she has replaced her 10-year-old computer to comply the with updated security policies of some of the office programs necessary in her office.

The Assessor and the Planning Board spoke to the residents and Board Members about utility scale solar farms. The land mass that these solar farms use removes thousands of acres out of agricultural production, also to control vegetation under the panels strong herbicides are used which affects adjoining farm land and residential property owners.

The Highway Superintendent reported that the paving has been done. He also reminded Board Members that he has approximately \$66,000.00 in additional monies available to the Town from PAVE-NY, Extreme Winter Recovery and CHIPs that he must expended before the Town receives payment from New York State.

**AGENDA**

Deputy Supervisor Quackenbush presented the agenda for the meeting. Councilman VanKersen motioned seconded by Councilman Bramer to adopt the agenda.

Ayes 4 – Quackenbush, Bramer, Cuomo, VanKersen Nays 0

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Utility Scale Solar Energy System moratorium is set to expire on August 12, 2021; because this is Local Law is still being drafted it is necessary to extend the moratorium.

**RESOLUTION NO.14 of 2021**

BOARD MEMBER VanKersen presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, a six (6) month moratorium on UTILITY SCALE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS was passed by Resolution No. 4 of 2020 on February 12, 2020 and consecutively updated by the following Resolutions: Resolution No. 9 of 2020 on August 12, 2020; Resolution No. 6 of 2021 on February 10, 2021, be it further,

RESOLVED, that for a period of six (6) months commencing on August 12, 2021 with the expiration of the previous moratorium and upon the passage of this Resolution by the Town Board, a Moratorium is hereby enacted on the construction or installation of any new UTILITY SCALE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS, also known as SOLAR FARMS within the Town, and it is further,

RESOLVED that the Town Code Enforcement Officer is hereby prohibited from approving or issuing any building permits for any SOLAR FARMS while this Moratorium is in effect. Nothing in this Resolution shall prohibit a home owner from installing solar panels for the generation of electrical power for his/her own domestic consumption and usage.

SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER Cuomo. Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes 4 – Quackenbush, Bramer, Cuomo, VanKersen Nays 0

A recommendation was received from the Planning Board with regard to the age of trailers. The Planning Board recommends that the age limit on trailers being brought in for residential dwelling be established at no greater than fifteen (15) years old. Trailers that are older yet in excellent condition would need to seek a variance from the Board of Appeals before it can be sited on the property. Any fees associated with the approval process or incurred by the Code Enforcement Officer for inspecting these older trailers will be paid by the individual seeking to site the used trailer. The next step for this is writing the local law.

The cold storage facility was discussed briefly. The committee needs meet again before any decisions can be made.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Code Enforcement Officer has condemned the old highway garage facility, specifically the garage bay area. The Town will take the necessary steps to remove this structure.

#### ABSTRACTS

Abstract #7 of the general fund for vouchers numbered 139-168 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$31,568.21.

Abstract #7 of the highway fund for vouchers numbered 94-107 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$168,828.34.

Councilman VanKersen motioned seconded by Councilman Cuomo to accept the audit of abstract #7 of the general fund in the amount of \$31,568.21 and abstract #7 of the highway fund in the amount of \$168,828.34. The vote was unanimous.

#### ADJOURN

Councilman Bramer motioned seconded by Councilman Cuomo to adjourn at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurel Sherrie Eriksen, Town Clerk