

February 14,2024 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 14th day of February.

PRESENT:	Gary Kamp	Supervisor
	LuEmma Quackenbush	Councilwoman
	John VanKersen	Councilman
	Donald Bramer	Councilman
	Jade Weiss	Councilwoman
	Marcia Shults	Town Clerk
	Brett Preston	Attorney

ABSENT: Donald Oeser Highway Superintendent

PUBLIC HEARING: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Helman with the Town of Glen spoke/voicing his opinion regarding Solar. Town Residents express their concerns about the Solar Farm's that are expected in the Town of Root and some of the effects and concerns of loss of water with resident's wells due to the construction of said Solar Farm Pannels.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Canajoharie Central School sent a letter to Supervisor Kamp looking for donations for their S.A.D.D Program.

OTHERS PRESENT;

Stella Gittle, Town Assessor; Richard Bingham, Pete Ossi, & Dustin Pank Planning Board; Colleen Pank, Board of Appeals; William Maring, Town Historian; few residents

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilwoman **Quackenbush** motioned seconded by Councilman **VanKersen** to approve the minutes from the January 10,2024 meeting as presented.

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss Nays 0

REPORTS:

Reports were available from the Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer, the Dog Control Officer, the Justice, the Planning Board, & The Supervisor.

There were no reports from the

The Attorney

Town Clerk

The Highway Superintendent

The Assessor reported that all applications for the STAR program and the Senior Exemptions are due no later than Friday March 1, 2024.

Planning Board reported how they are still making some corrections with the Solar Energy Facilities Law and are hoping to have everything finalized by April.

AGENDA

Supervisor **Kamp** presented the agenda for the meeting.

Councilman **VanKersen** motioned seconded by Councilwoman **Weiss** to adopt the agenda.

Ayes 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss

Nays 0

OLD BUSINESS:

There is still a vacant position on the Board of Assessment Review.

Board of Appeals has a vacant position available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2 of 2024

Solar Moratorium

Board Member **Bramer**, 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, Resolution No. 14 of 2021 on July 14, 2021, Resolution No. 6 of 2022 on February 9, 2022, Resolution No. 12 of 2022 on August 10, 2022, Resolution No. 6 of 2023 on February 8, 2023 Resolution No. 14 of 2023 on July 12, 2023 be it further.

RESOLVED: That for a period of six (6) months commencing on February 14, 2024 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 with this Moratorium is in effect. Nothing in this Resolution shall prohibit a home owner from installing solar panels for the generation of electrical power from his/her own domestic consumption and usage.

SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER: **Weiss**

Ayes: 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss

Nays: -0

Resolution No. 3 of 2024

Standard Work Day Retirement Resolution

BOARD MEMBER: **Quackenbush** presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS: The Town of Root was presented with the Standard Work Day and Reporting Retirement Resolution for 2024.

WHEREAS: The Elected Officials, Town Clerk, Marcia Shults Term stating on 01/1/2022 ending on 12/31/2025; Highway superintendent Term starting on 01/1/2022 ending on

12/31/2025, Donald Oeser; Councilwoman, LuEmma Quackenbush Term starting on 01/1/2022 ending on 12/31/2025; Code Officer, Clifton Dorrough Term starting on 01/01/2024 ending on 12/31/2024; Assessor, Stella Gittle Term starting on 10/9/2019 ending on 09/30/2025; Town Attorney, Brett Preston Term starting on 01/1/2024 and ending on 12/31/2024, Councilwoman, Jade Weiss Term starting on 01/1/2024 and ending on 12/31/2027; Councilman, and Donald Bramer Term starting on 01/1/2024 and ending on 12/31/2027. Appointed Officials, Justice Clerk, Patricia Ricotta Term starting on 01/1/2024 ending on 12/31/2024; and Book Keeper, Patricia Laux Term starting on 01/1/2024 and ending on 12/31/2024.

RESOLVED: The Elected and Appointed Officials will resume their Standard Work Day Retirement for 2024.

SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER: **VanKersen**

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss Nays: -0

Resolution No. 4 of 2024

Generator Installation

BOARD MEMBER: **Quackenbush** presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS: The Town of Root Town Board make the following transfer of \$ 9,562.00 within the Covid Liability Fund A688 to A1620.4 Fund, Building Expense.

WHEREAS: Building Expense, A1620.4 Fund paid for the Generator 26/22.5 kw air cooled standby w/o ats 7290. Installation on February 7,2024 for the Rural Grove Fire Department in the amount of \$ 9,562.00.

RESOLVED: A1620.4 Building Expense gets reimbursed in the amount of \$9,562.00 from A688 Covid Liability Fund for the Installation of the Generator.

SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER: **Weiss**

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss Nays: -0

Resolution No. 5 of 2024

Insurance Money Transfer

BOARD MEMBER: **Quackenbush**, presented the following Resolution and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS: The Town of Root Town Board make the following transfer of \$10,145.50 within the A1990.4 Contingency to A1910.4 Insurance Fund.

WHEREAS: A1990.4 Contingency Fund paid for the coverage of Hearn & Marshall Insurance in the amount of \$10,145.50.

RESOLVED: A1990.4 Contingency Fund gets reimbursed in the amount of \$10,145.50 for coverage of A1910.4 Insurance Fund.

SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER: **Bramer**

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 – Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss Nays: -0

Trailer Age Law concerns will be tabled till March Meeting.

Solar Energy Facilities Law Draft 3 is still in progress and the Planning Board are working on finishing up some small details and are hoping to have it finished by April.

The Town is in search of a deputy Code Officer and will be getting information that is needed for the position and an advertisement will be placed in the Recorder after the March Meeting.

The Canajoharie Central School District is looking for money donations for their S.A.D.D program.

Councilwoman **Quackenbush** motioned seconded by Councilwoman **Weiss** to Donate money to the Canajoharie Central School S.A.D.D. Program.

Ayes 4- Kamp, Bramer, Quackenbush, VanKersen, Weiss Nays 0
Town Highway Superintendent Donald Oeser asked to attend the Highway School in June.

Councilwoman **Quackenbush** motioned seconded by Councilman **VanKersen** to approve Highway Superintendent Donald Oeser to attend said Highway School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ABSTRACTS

Abstract #2 of the General fund for vouchers numbered 19-52 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$92,933.92.

Abstract #2 of the highway fund for vouchers numbered 10-24 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$51,892.26.

Abstract #2 of the Capital fund for vouchers numbered 1 were audited and ordered paid. Paid abstract total was \$1,868.50.

Councilman **VanKersen** motioned seconded by Councilwoman **Quackenbush** to accept the audit of abstract #2 of the general fund in the amount of \$92,933.92, abstract #2 of the highway fund in the amount of \$51,892.26 and the abstract # 2 of the Capital fund in the amount of \$ 1,868.50. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN

Councilman **VanKersen** motioned seconded by Councilwoman **Quackenbush** to adjourn at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Shults, Town Clerk