

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Public Hearing

Local Law #3 – Large Scale Solar

November 14, 2019

6:55 p.m.

A Public Hearing for Local Law #3 – Large Scale Solar for the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held at the Town Hall #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Public Hearing opened at 6:55 p.m. by Deputy Supervisor Stephen Hook after the conclusion of the Public Hearing for the Final 2020 Budget.

Present:

Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Lauren Bell	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:	Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
	Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Town Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons opened the Public Hearing and introduced Building Inspector, “Jay” Trapp, who explained the background and need for this proposed law. Mr. Trapp reminded the audience if the Town’s Zoning law does not include anything about large scale solar installations, they are then illegal.

Some questions arose regarding where Large Scale Solar installations were allowed. Discussion followed.

Gillian Black of Eden Renewables, a large-scale solar company, was in attendance. He presented technical facts regarding solar installations. Questions were asked and answered. Mr. Black specified his company tries to make the solar projects ecofriendly, creating an environment that blends in as well as being a haven for apiaries and wildflowers. Mr. Black explained there are limits to where solar panels can be installed based on the power lines.

Councilwoman Cashen inquired as to whether the Board should delay voting on the law since a published copy has been available for only a short time frame, especially considering the law does not allow for solar installations to occur in the commercial zone. Councilwoman Lee responded that as a

member of the Zoning Revisions Committee they have done a considerable amount of research and have spoken to other Towns who regret using their limited commercial land for something so long term.

A question arose about creating an overlay on the Zoning Map. Attorney Fitzsimmons cautioned this might be considered spot zoning. He stated if the Board chose to pass this law as written, minor revisions can be made without needing to go to County Planning first. Building Inspector Trapp reminded the audience the planning board has the ability to control how this law is used.

Both Councilman Hook and Keeler were satisfied with the law, especially considering revisions could be made down the road.

Councilwoman Cashen was not against the law but was hoping for more review.

Motion to Close the public hearing was made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried. Councilwoman Cashen opposed.

Attorney Fitzsimmons proceeded to go over the SEQRA Long form of which the 16 questions of Part 2 were No. Motion for a negative declaration of SEQRA was made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried.

Motion to adopt Local Law #3 – Large Scale Solar, was made by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook to close Public Hearing at 7:44 p.m.

Town Clerk