

TOWN OF STARK

County of Herkimer

State of New York

703 Elwood Road

Fort Plain, NY 13339

TOWN OF STARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 10, 2023

The Town of Stark Monthly Board Meeting was held on October 10, 2023 at the Town Justice Building.

Supervisor Bronner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Highway Superintendent David Hajczewski led us in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call as follows: Supervisor Richard Bronner-Present, Councilman Tony Grescheck-Present, Councilman Emil Ziaja-Present, Councilman Richard Smith-Present, councilman John Voght-Present, Highway Superintendent David Hajczewski-Present, Town Clerk Lynn Rogers-Present.

Also in attendance: Bernard Melewski, Special Counsel Attorney, Frances Kabat, Labella Associates, review engineers, David Strong and Lydia Lake (New Leaf Energy), Sue Jordan, Nick Jordan, Kay Sheldon-Moyer, Ron Klump, Jane Klump, Town Justice Deb Bronner, Connie Young, Bob Cernia.

Town Clerk Rogers read the minutes from the September 2023 meeting. Councilman Voght made a motion to accept. Councilman Grescheck seconded the motion. All approved.

The public portion of the meeting opened at 7:07 PM.

Kay Sheldon-Moyer spoke about her concerns about liability insurance on the water project. Supervisor Bronner agreed that there should be a water board that is separate from the Town Board. However, efforts to recruit members to serve on a water board have been unsuccessful. In the meantime, he has included the water district in the Town's insurance. Kay stated that if something happens involving the water project, the Town will be held liable, perhaps at a great cost. Town Justice Deb Bronner added that there is a transition period in a project of this size. Kay then asked what is being done to supply water to Starkville. Connie Young replied that the Community Corporation is willing to work to make this happen. The Community Corporation is having a meeting on Nov. 4, where this will be discussed.

Bernard Melewski reported that New Leaf has submitted a new draft for the Environmental Impact Statement. There will be a public hearing on the new draft. In the meantime, notices will be posted, letters will be sent to Stark residents and the updated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be added to the Town Website. There will be a public comment period. Comments will be reviewed by New Leaf and a final Draft Environmental Impact Statement submitted.

Councilman Grescheck made a motion to accept the revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the New Leaf Sickler Road Wind Project, and to issue a notice of completion of a Draft EIS. Councilman Voght seconded the motion. All approved. Roll Call 5-Ayes, 0 Nays. Supervisor Bronner-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Smith-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye.

Councilman Smith made a motion that a public Hearing for public Comment on the revised DEIS shall be held at the Owen D. Young Central School on November 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM. Councilman Ziaja seconded the motion. All approved. Roll Call 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. Supervisor Bronner-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Smith-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye.

Councilman Voght Made a motion that the Special Council and Labella Engineering shall be directed to ensure public notice of the DEIS, Public Hearing, and Public Comment period is made in accordance with state regulations. The Draft DEIS and appendices will be posted on the applicant's website with a link to that site on the Town of Stark website. A notice will be placed in the official newspaper of the Town used for legal notices. Additionally, notice to be provided directly by mail to residents in the Town of Stark, and as requested by the Springfield Planning Board Chair to specific Springfield residents. Hard Copies of the DEIS will be forwarded to the Town of Warren Library in Jordanville, with the Town Clerks of Stark and Warren and the Town of Springfield which will help ensure that all affected area residents have received notice and have access to the documents. Councilman Grescheck seconded the motion. All approved. Roll Call 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. Supervisor Bronner-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Smith-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye.

Jane Klump announced that the Community Corporation, DAR and ODY School will be hosting a Veterans Day program on November 9, 2023 at the School Auditorium beginning at 1:00 PM.

The public portion of the meeting closed at 8:06 PM.

The gas and diesel fuel tanks will be arriving October 11, 2023.

The Town has received a signed contract from Herkimer County for Real Property Tax Service Agency for the 2024 Assessment year.

A letter was received from Mark Nagele, Superintendent of Highways for Herkimer County, stating the black powdered coating for the guide rail on Wiltse Hill Road Bridge will now be galvanized due to cost over-runs.

Highway Superintendent David Hajczewski, said that Don Foor has a 6-wheel International for \$17,900 for sale. He will schedule a test drive.

The Town Board Christmas Party will be December 5, 2023.

Councilman Smith made a motion there will be no raises for elected officials for the 2024 Town Budget. Councilman Grescheck seconded the motion. Roll Call 4-Ayes, 1-Nay. Supervisor Bronner-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Nay, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Smith-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye.

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the 2024 Tentative Budget with changes as the Preliminary Budget for 2024. Councilman Grescheck seconded. All approved. Roll Call 5-Ayes, 0-Nays. Supervisor Bronner-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Smith-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye.

The Board reviewed the Supervisor Report. Councilman Grescheck made a motion. Councilman Ziaja seconded the motion. All approved.

The Board reviewed the Clerk's report. Councilman Voght made a motion to accept. Councilman Ziaja seconded the motion. All approved.

The Board reviewed the General Fund Vouchers and the Highway Fund Vouchers. Councilman Smith made a motion to pay the bills. Councilman Voght seconded the motion. All approved.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 9, 2023. This will also be the Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget for the Town of Stark.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.