

TOWN OF STARK

County of Herkimer

State of New York

703 Elwood Road

Fort Plain, NY 13339

TOWN OF STARK BOARD MEETING FOR DECEMBER 12, 2023 (REVIEWED JAN 11, 2024)

The Town of Stark Board Meeting was held on December 12, 2023 at the Owen D. Young Central School Auditorium in Van Hornesville.

Supervisor Bronner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilman Ziaja led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call was as follows: Supervisor Richard Bronner-present, Councilman Emil Ziaja-present, Councilman Tony Grescheck-present, Councilman Richard Smith-present, Councilman John Voght-present, Highway Superintendent David Hajczewski-present, Town Clerk Lynn Rogers-present, newly elected Councilman Joseph Hubiak-present. Also in attendance were several interested people regarding the wind project.

Town Clerk Roger read the minutes of the November 2023 meeting. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve, Councilman Ziaja seconded. All Approved.

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

Connie Young- asked what questions can't be answered.

Special Council Bernard Melewski explained that answers will be provided once the DEIS has been submitted for approval, after which a series of steps must be followed before the Board can move forward.

Q Marshall expressed her gratitude to the Town Board for their work during this process. Ken Richards asked who the Town's legal counsel was. Supervisor Bronner replied that Gerard Snyder is the Town Attorney, who has been kept up to date on the project. However, Bernard Melewski was hired as Special Counsel representing the Town in this matter. Mr. Richards asked who writes Mr. Melewski's checks. Supervisor Bronner answered that the Town of Stark issues the check from an account funded by the developer, per state law.

Connie Young said she would be more comfortable with a website not sponsored by New Leaf.

Nicole Dillingham said that New Leaf is checking boxes without substantiation, which she claims is completely improper.

Judge Bronner reminded those present that this is a Town of Stark Project, not a Town of Springfield or Town of Warren.

John Constable asked that the Town Board move forward in an informed manner. Supervisor Bronner stated that negotiations cannot be revealed. John asked the Board to move forward in a manner that would benefit the local community.

Kay Seldon-Moyer questioned the revenue from the County.

A representative from the Monastery (who said that Supervisor Bronner was intentionally ignoring his raised hand) said they were never given notice. Supervisor Bronner replied that the Towns of Springfield and Warren were given notice. The representative replied that the Monastery should have been an involved or interested agency. The Town of Warren should have informed the Monastery because they are located in the Town of Warren. Bernard Melewski added the Town had followed the mandate, which did not include the Monastery. He added the Town has done its due diligence. He said that New Leaf will respond to the comments in general.

Others in attendance asked/ said the following comments: A) the plans by New Leaf were very deceptive. B) The visualization findings were incorrect and health issues were not being addressed. C) Is the Town willing to jeopardize the health of residents for financial gain? D) Would the turbines effect long term goal to capitalize on the history of the Town of Stark, which attracts people to the area. E) How much liability will the Town have regarding negative impact from noise, flicker and water supply? F) Are any Board members physically affected? G) What other efforts have been made to contact residents regarding the project. H) Will turbines pave the way for more turbines. I) Has New Leaf been in contact with NYSEG to see if a connection is possible?

The public portion of the meeting closed at 8:45 PM.

The Town of Mohawk in Montgomery County has a 6-wheel vehicle for sale for \$13,000. The truck comes equipped with a plow, sander and wing attachment. Councilman Grescheck said that he knows the Highway Superintendent for the Town of Mohawk and gave him a good recommendation for having good equipment. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to approve the purchase of the truck. Councilman Voght seconded the motion. All Approved. Roll Call vote was taken, Supervisor Bronner-Aye, Councilman Grescheck-Aye, Councilman Ziaja-Aye, Councilman Smith-Aye, Councilman Voght-Aye.

NYS Workers Comp Alliance was discussed. It was recommended the Town lock their rate for three years. Changes could occur if the annual assessments change.

Water Board Nominees are Richard Bronner (Town of Stark), Darlene Bronner (Route 80 Bowl), Debra Bronner (resident), Robert Hoyt (resident), Jonathan Ragantesi (resident), Fred Seifert or Brennan Fahey (ODY), Victor Weaver (Otsquago Apartments).

The Town reviewed the Clerk's report. Councilman Ziaja made a motion to accept. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All Approved.

The Board reviewed the Supervisor's report. Councilman Grescheck made a motion to accept. Councilman Voght seconded. All Approved.

The Board reviewed the General Fund vouchers, the Highway Fund vouchers and the Water Fund vouchers. Councilman Smith made a motion to pay the bills. Councilman Grescheck seconded the motion. All Approved.

The next meeting will be January 9, 2024. Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Voght. All Approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 PM.