

**UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
SOLAR PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING: INSTALLATION AND
MAINTAINENCE
TOWN HALL 249 DUNCAN ROAD LAGRANGEVILLE NY 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Supervisor Maas

Councilmen: Steven Frazier, Corrina Kelley, David McMorris, John Welsh

Attorney: Jeffrey Battistoni

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 7:00 P.M.

Wendy DeWolf and Jamie Fordyce, representatives from East Light Partners, explained the solar project to date and also the benefits of community solar. This allows a family the cost savings in electricity, without the installation of their own solar panels. The Town will gain the benefit of the lease payment and will be able to purchase discounted energy from this as well.

Members from the public were given an opportunity to provide public comment or ask questions.

No Public Comments were made.

Will ice and snow storms impact the panels?

Answer: The panels do emit a small bit of heat which helps reduce the buildup of snow and ice but are also rated to withstand extreme weather conditions.

How is it different from having a subscription from a company such as Green Mountain?

Answer: It is tied to a specific local project and will appear directly on your electric bill as a direct correlation whereas, Green Mountain for example, you are purchasing a renewable energy credit which is more of a product.

Will we be able to tell how much energy is being produced?

Answer: Yes, ELP will be tracking and collecting that data.

Is there no cost to subscribe?

Answer: There is no upfront cost to subscribe, however the only downside is that you will have to pay 2 bills. One to Central Hudson and one to ELP for the percentage that you purchase, the State will eventually work on consolidated billing to pay only your energy provider.

What happens when/ if Central Hudson raises their rates?

Answer: In order to combat this you would want to raise your subscription level with ELP.

How is it determined how much to use/ purchase?

Answer: It is based on historical usage for your consumption.

How is the energy distributed if only some subscribe?

Answer: As the panels generate electrons that will flow into the grid and go towards areas of lower resistance. So therefore you may be receiving some of the energy without subscribing but you will not receive the savings.

Next month the Board will be passing the appropriate resolutions after hearing comments from the interested agencies. In November ELP will hear from Central Hudson on the connectivity aspect and if that piece works, they will proceed. In December, if East Light has permits from the Town and DEC and connection from the grid then they will begin the financing of the project followed by construction in the late spring or summer.

As there were no further public comments or questions, at 7:28 P.M. Supervisor Maas declared the Public Hearing closed in order to open the regularly scheduled agenda meeting.

**UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
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The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the August 15th, 2019 minutes which was seconded by Councilman McMorris and all were unanimously in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY ALAN SURMAN, DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Mr. Surman read the commendation awarded for ‘neighbors helping neighbors’ and presented it to Rick Plambeck and Sarah Israel who were unable to attend the Legislature meeting last month for their heroic efforts in helping the Bocker Family during the tragedy that occurred on August 17, 2019 involving a plane crash into the Bocker home.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Welsh made a motion to enter executive session which was seconded by Councilman Frazier. Supervisor Maas explained it was regarding a discussion on the acquisition, lease or sale of real property.

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Welsh made a motion to exit executive session and resume the regularly scheduled meeting which was seconded by Councilwoman Kelley and all were unanimously in favor. Supervisor Maas reported that there was no action taken.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor Maas explained that the cash flow has been distributed to the Town Board as well as the escrow, abstracts and other financial reports. She also noted the Town is in the middle of the commercial liability insurance application and checking the asset lists for both the Town and the Highway Department. The Tentative 2020 budget will be ready on Sept 30th for public view. Supervisor Maas also mentioned a few positive comments about Constable Jimmy Miller and Code Enforcement Officer George Kolb.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Frazier spoke about early voting in Dutchess County beginning Saturday Oct 26th and Union Vale is one of the site locations.

Councilwoman Kelley spoke about the Bocker Family and ways to help keep them in your thoughts and correspond if anyone wants to send a card to the family to help encourage them during this difficult time. She also mentioned the blood drive Union Vale will be hosting for Hannah Bocker on Saturday, October 12th in Tymor Park from 10-4pm. Councilwoman Kelley also spoke about resident Marianne Delise holding Pilates classes in Tymor and will be donating 100% of the proceeds directly to the Bocker Family. She further spoke about other ways to support the family.

Councilman Welsh spoke about a new campaign the Town is enacting for safer speeds in Union Vale. In cooperation with the NYS Police, Union Vale will be enacting October as ‘Less Speed, Less Harm’ to remind residents to slow down and be safer for people and animals.

Camby, Chestnut Ridge Road to Clove Valley, Wingdale Mountain Road, Bruzugul Road and S. Parlman Road. These are roads, in particular, where there have been many complaints. However, it is important to obey all posted speed limit signs.

Councilman McMorris spoke about his work this past week with the Union Vale Veterans regarding Home Town Hero Banners. He also spoke about the many options available for our Veterans and offered his contact information to learn more. He also mentioned the Rebuilding Together for Dutchess County Application which can be found on the Town Website through Dutchess County.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Supervisor Maas stated that Mallory Road was completed and looks very much improved. However, Mr. Wisseman was not in attendance and did not provide a written report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

Conservation Advisory Council – Ackie Busch spoke about the latest avenues of the CAC. They are brainstorming ideas for the Recycling Center in order to encourage more use. Some of the ideas include furniture exchange, toy exchange, book exchange and possibly composting. ‘Food for Thought’ is a new program designed to inspire more time in Tymor Park. Their kick-off event will feature speaker, Andrew Richards of Shady Knoll Orchard, on the cultivation of fruit trees and a food truck. Weevils were released on Clove Valley Road for long term control of mile-a-minute vine. They are also in connection with Barbara Butler from Waterman Bird Club to build blue bird boxes to educate local children and help the species. Mrs. Busch also reported working with Councilman McMorris, Climate Smart Community Coordinator, on making Union Vale a Climate Smart Community. They are open to all questions from the community.

Events

Nina Bartholomew spoke about this year’s Oktoberfest and some of the new elements include credit card sales and a NFL room to watch the Jets and Giants games. They will also be selling raffle tickets and commemorative wine and pint glasses during the day.

Homeland Towers LLC/ Cell Tower in Tymor Park

The Town of Union Vale is currently in litigation with the Town of Beekman after Beekman initiated an Article 78. The Attorney’s at Van DeWater & Van DeWater are preparing a response due by the end of October. Unfortunately there will be a cost between \$18,000 - \$22,000 incurred to Union Vale in order to respond to this situation, which was unexpected.

Furnace Pond

The dam engineering firm, Milone and McBroom have completed their report which was conducting an analysis to lower the hazard class from and B to an A which will impact the maintenance costs associated with the maintenance plan. After the Town hears from the DEC they will be able to move forward with the appropriate ongoing maintenance measures.

Employee Benefits

In conclusion of the payroll audit the Board was given a packet for consideration to tie up loose ends as the other items mentioned during the audit were already corrected. These include:

- 2 hour call out for Constable and Park and Highway
- 3-month waiting period for full time employees to receive benefits
- Compensatory time in circumstantial situations only, for non-exempt park employees during snow plowing or large event set up and take down
- The way the handbook is written regarding full time employees and full time elected officials, what is the definition of full time elected and full time employee

Boiler Replacement

Jake Gosnell spoke about the boiler at Town Hall that was installed at its inception in 1995. As this is aging and inefficient they hope to move to a propane system fueled by the large propane tank installed for the generator. They will also move to a hot water heater as well to improve efficiency. Mr. Gosnell also presented the Board with 3 quotes on the new potential system. As they were similar prices Mr. Gosnell recommended Crown Energy as they already maintain all of the systems in the Park, Highway and Town Hall currently. There was further discussion on the topic regarding procurement.

MOTION FOR CROWN TO REPLACE BOILER

Councilman Welsh made a motion to accept the bid from Crown and move forward with Crown Energy to replace the Town Hall boiler and install hot water heater as recommended by Park Manager, Jake Gosnell. This was seconded by Councilman McMorris and all were unanimously in favor.

New Crop Initiatives 1.3 acres on route 55 for pumpkins, corn and other crops:

The idea from this came from using vacant land to grow items that we purchase from retailers for decoration for events.

Councilman Frazier had concerns about the soil but it was suggested to bring in top soil. Discussion ensued on this topic.

MOTION FOR AGRICULTURAL ENDEAVOR ON VACANT LAND RT 55

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve experiment for agricultural endeavor on the 1.39 acres of land on route 55 which was seconded by Councilman McMorris and all were unanimously in favor.

Updated financial Process for Town Clerk & Tax Collector

Due to suggestions from the Towns liability insurance the Town is buttoning up controls which are being tested now and can be voted on when the Board is comfortable.

Citizens Preparedness Training Class

Dutchess County will host another class which will supply each family that attends with a bag for emergency use and training on how to prepare your family in the event of a crisis or emergency. Tuesday October 22nd was proposed as a potential date.

NYSDOT Traffic Studies

The State of New York Dept. of Transportation has stated that the requesting municipality must provide NYS with the traffic study data signed by an Engineer in order to make a speed modification request. This will then hold the Town accountable for paying for the speed study before any determination can be made by NYSDOT. Supervisor Maas will investigate the cost of this for consideration.

MOTION REFUND ESCROW ACCOUNTS

Supervisor Maas made a motion to pay the 4 escrow accounts that are closed, which was included in the escrow report provided, in order to refund those individuals. This was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve budget adjustments, warrants, pay bills which was seconded by Councilman Frazier and all were unanimously in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TOWN ISSUES

Tillman – spoke about the new Thruway aka Shaughnessy road and asked about the trash bags that were discarded there. Tillman also inquired if the Bockers will be staying in the Tymor Rental house. Supervisor Maas stated she was waiting to hear back from Barrie Bocker however, she knows it is available to her if the need arises. She also spoke about the upcoming blood drive for Hannah Bocker that Mary Jane Begley organized. Tillman also asked about an address to send mail directly to the Bockers. Lastly, she added Jane Geisler is in favor of the solar project.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Director of the Mid Hudson Library System, introduced herself and offered to answer any questions for the Board as they think through library services for Union Vale.

Betty Albrecht wanted to thank the Board and Loretta Ryan and all that have helped with the park improvements from the Town Hall and the Park to the Equestrian Center.

Jeff Stafford- Asked if the Town will be renewing the contract with the library? He benefits greatly from the electronic book services.

Sue Kilcrease- echoed the sentiment about the park improvements and also spoke about the need for a library contract and hopes everyone uses the library and encourages the Town Board to explore this and hopes it get settled soon that is fair and equitable to all of the Town and MHLS.

Brian- spoke about the library accessibility and the contract and encourages the Board to think about the contract to have continued library use.

Supervisor Maas commented that due to many other time sensitive issues and the tragedy of the plane crash the Town has decided to work on the Library contract during the month of October as that still gives plenty of time before the current contract expires at the end of the year. She also feels there has been some misinformation disseminated and stated the whole Town Board is pro-library services since day one nor has it ever been a question. It has been requested by the Union Vale Town Board to have meetings with the Mid-Hudson Library System and although they have come to the Town Board meetings, they have not set aside time and agreed to have substantive discussions with Union Vale. She spoke further and hopes everyone can have a polite, good discussion where each side talks about all the concerns of the entire resident body and this has not been afforded to the Union Vale Town Board. She expressed, again, that after many letters and conversations, she would like to have a meeting with Mid-Hudson Library System that does not take place during a scheduled Union Vale Board Meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 9:03 p.m. Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilman McMorris and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Casey
Town Clerk

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