

Regular Town Board Meeting
Public Hearing
April 18, 2024

Present: Supervisor, David DiSalvo; Deputy Supervisor, Don Huff; Councilmember, Nate Guzzardi; Councilmember, Jeff Coniglio; Councilmember, Joseph Rawleigh.

Also present: Attorney, Veronica Devries; Deputy Clerk, Kaylee Leone

Excused: Highway Superintendent, Sam Cipriano; Accountant, Terri McKerrow; Code Enforcement Officer, Shawn Grasby

Others present: Community Members, Matt Scully, Patrick Scully, Crik Christophel, Steve Zoller, Chuck Cottone, Johnna Schrier, Karl Schrier, Penny Bowlds, Daniel Bowlds, Amanda Coniglio, Pete DiSalvo, Cathie Gehrig, Gretchen Saunders, Mary Kay Kreutter, Bradley Tonkery, Blair Powley.

At 6:00pm Supervisor DiSalvo opened the Town Board meeting at the Mount Morris Town Hall, 103 Main Street, Mount Morris, NY. Supervisor DiSalvo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor DiSalvo opened the public hearing at 6:00 PM on Local Law No. 1-2024 a Local Law to Impose a Moratorium on the Creation of New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Town of Mount Morris.

**TOWN OF MOUNT MORRIS
Local Law No. 1
of the Year 2024**

A Local Law to Impose a Moratorium on the Creation of New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Town of Mount Morris.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Mount Morris as follows:

Title.

This Local Law shall be known as the “Moratorium on New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems.”

Authority and Purpose.

Authority and Intent. This Local Law is intended to be consistent with and is adopted pursuant to the authority to enact zoning laws granted to the Town under the New York State Constitution, and the laws of the State of New York, including but not limited to the following authorities: New York State Constitution Article IX, § 2(c)(ii)(10); Municipal Home Rule Law § 10; and Statute of Local Governments § 10.

Purpose. In 2016, the Town of Mount Morris adopted Chapter 48-44.3 of its Code entitled “Solar Farm Law” to set forth development standards for creation of Solar Farms within the Town and adopted Chapter 15 of its Code entitled “Battery Energy Storage Systems” in 2020 to set forth development standards for creation of Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town. Since that time, unanticipated and significant Solar Farms development has permeated the Town, including in locations in which such Solar Farms may have a disproportionate impact on surrounding land uses. This has been true of Battery Energy Storage Systems as well. This Moratorium is necessary to temporarily restrict the development of New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems so that the Town Board may consider creating subsequent zoning regulations to encourage appropriate Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System development. The Town Board has determined that this would best enhance and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Mount Morris.

Definitions.

For purposes of this Local Law, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- a) “Solar Farm” shall have the same definition as it has in Section 48-44.3(A) of the Town of Mount Morris Code.
- b) “Battery Energy Storage System” shall have the same definition as it has in Section 15-3 of the Town of Mount Morris Code.
- c) “Solar Collector” shall have the same definition as it has in Section 48-44.3(A) of the Town of Mount Morris Code.
- d) “New Solar Farm(s)” shall mean any Solar Farm which is not currently the subject of any pending Special Use Permit Application and for which no Special Use Permit has ever been obtained.
- e) “Town” shall mean the Town of Mount Morris, in Livingston County, New York.
- f) “New Battery Energy Storage Systems” shall mean any Battery Energy Storage System which is not currently the subject of any pending Permit Application and for which no Permit has ever been obtained.

Moratorium and Prohibition.

The Town Board hereby imposes a Moratorium on applying for, the processing of applications for, and/or constructing any New Solar Farms or New Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Town of Mount Morris for a three (3) month period commencing on the effective date of this Local Law and continuing until July 18, 2024 , and further provides that no application for a building permit, variance, special use permit, or approval of any kind will be accepted for review by the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Town Planning Board, or Town Zoning Board of Appeals during this period.

The Town Board hereby imposes a Moratorium on applying for and/or constructing any New Solar Farms or New Battery Energy Storage Systems in the Town of Mount Morris for a period commencing on the effective date of this Local Law and continuing until July 18, 2024, and further provides that no application for a Building Permit, Variance, or Special Use Permit will be accepted for review by the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Town Planning Board or Town Zoning Board of Appeals during this period. This moratorium shall apply to all zoning districts and all real property within the Town.

Variances.

The Town Board shall have the power, after a public hearing, to vary or modify the application of any provision of this Local Law upon its determination that strict application of this Local Law would impose practical difficulties or extraordinary hardships upon an applicant and that the variance granted would not adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the Town or significantly conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Local Law. Any request for a variance shall be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk. The Town Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the application on not less than five (5) days’ public notice and shall make its decision within thirty (30) days after the close of the Public Hearing.

Extensions.

This Moratorium may be extended for such additional periods as the Town Board may determine to be necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town and accomplish the stated purposes and intent of this Local Law.

Termination.

This Moratorium may be terminated earlier than July 18, 2024, upon enactment of local legislation regulating development of New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town.

Penalties and Enforcement.

Building Inspector. The provisions of this Local Law shall be administered and

enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Any person, firm or corporation that shall establish, place alter, enlarge or erect or modify any sign or billboard on any structure or freestanding, in violation of the provisions of this Local Law or shall otherwise violate any of the provisions of this Local Law shall be subject to:

Injunctive relief in favor of the Town of Mount Morris to cease any and all such actions which conflict with this Local Law and, if necessary, to remove any construction which may have taken place in violation of this Local Law; and

A fine not to exceed ONE THOUSAND AND 00/1000 DOLLARS (\$1,000) for each violation. Each day a violation continues shall be considered a new and separate violation.

Costs and Attorneys' Fees. In the event the Town is required to take legal action to enforce this Local Law, the violator will be responsible for any and all necessary costs incurred by the Town relative to such action, including attorneys' fees, and such amount shall be determined and assessed by the Court. If such expense is not paid in full within 30 days from the date it is determined and assessed by the Court, such expense shall be charged to the property or properties within the Town on which the violation occurred, by including such expense in the next annual Town tax levy against such property, and such expense shall be a lien upon such property until paid.

Superseding Intent and Effect.

This Local Law shall supersede any inconsistent provisions of the Town Code, or all other local ordinances, laws, or resolutions of the Town of Mount Morris.

Hardship.

Should any owner of property affected by this Local Law suffer any extraordinary hardship in carrying out the strict letter of this Local Law, then the owner of the said property may apply to the Town Board of the Town of Mount Morris in writing for a variance from strict compliance with this Local Law upon submission of evidence of such extraordinary hardship. For the purposes of this Local Law, extraordinary hardship shall not be the mere delay in being permitted to make an application or waiting for a decision on the application for any permit or approval of any kind whatsoever during the period imposed by the moratorium set forth in this Local Law.

An application requesting a variance based upon extraordinary hardship shall be filed with the Town Clerk, including a fee of \$250 to cover processing and advertising costs by the landowner, or the applicant with consent of the landowner. The application shall provide a recitation of the specific facts that are alleged to support the claim of extraordinary hardship and shall contain such other information as the Town Supervisor or his or her designee shall prescribe as necessary for the Town Board to be fully informed with respect to the application.

Upon submission of the aforementioned written application to the Town Clerk, the Town Board shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of said application, schedule a public hearing to consider whether an extraordinary hardship is present. A public hearing on any request for an exception for extraordinary hardship shall be held by the Town Board at the first regular meeting of the Town Board that occurs after the expiration of the publication of notice of the request for a waiver. The notice shall be advertised in the Town's designated newspaper at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing. Notice shall also be given, by regular mail, to abutting property owners at the addresses on the tax rolls. At said public hearing, the property owner and any other parties wishing to present evidence with regard to the application shall have an opportunity to be heard, and the Town Board shall, within fifteen (15) days of the close of said Public Hearing, render its decision, either granting or denying the application for variation from the strict requirements of this Local Law.

If the Town Board determines that a property owner will suffer extraordinary hardship if this Local Law is strictly applied to a particular property, then the Town Board shall vary strict compliance with this Local Law to the minimum extent necessary to provide the property owner relief from strict compliance with the Local Law.

Termination.

This Moratorium may be terminated earlier than July 18, 2024, with the enactment of local legislation regulating development of New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town.

Severability.

If any provision of this Local Law is determined to be unconstitutional or invalid, the validity and enforceability of the remainder shall not be affected.

PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

Supervisor DiSalvo asked if there were any public comments.

Clerk Woodworth read aloud the letter from John and Gloria Hall and the letter from Michael and Barbara Duby as they could not be in attendance but wanted to speak on the matter of the public hearing. See attached letters in meeting minutes.

April 17, 2024

Town Board
Town of Mount Morris
103 Main Street
Mount Morris, NY 14510

Re: Public Hearing on April 18, 2024
Proposed Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2024 – A Local Law to Impose a Moratorium
on the Creation of New Solar Farms and New Battery Energy Storage Systems in the
Town of Mount Morris

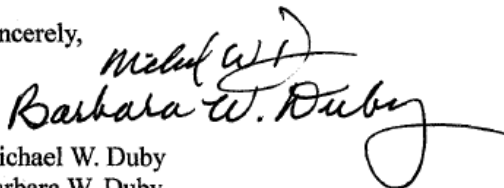
Dear Supervisor and Board Members:

It is plain to see while traveling within our Town the vast visual impact of the large-scale solar field projects and the changes they have created. Serious impacts in addition to visual ones are not yet known. A lot of the land was agricultural fields that actively grew crops and can no longer be used as such, at least for the next several decades. The possibility of new residential construction in these areas has been eliminated as well. The contamination of ground and surface water, as well as the soil itself from rain runoff and snow melt from the solar panel arrays, is a serious concern. The risk of fire in both the panel arrays and battery storage facilities is a very serious concern. Wildlife habitat has been destroyed and animals displaced.

The word moratorium by definition means “a stopping of an activity for an agreed upon period of time.” Instead of a moratorium, our local laws need to be changed to eliminate the creation and approval of any new projects.

It is our understanding that so far there are approximately 1500 acres involved. We strongly feel that the Town of Mount Morris has approved more than its fair share of these large-scale solar electrical-generating and battery storage projects and the Town has become over-saturated with the same.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Duby
Barbara W. Duby
1773 Hoagland Road
Mount Morris, NY 14510

April 11, 2024

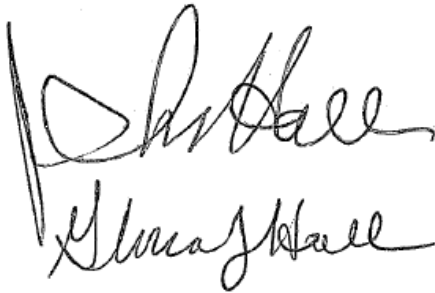
To: The Mount Morris Town Board
Re: Moratorium on new solar development

We urge the town board to pass this moratorium.

The current solar project is causing far too much damage to our rural heritage to even consider any further development. The alteration of once productive farm land into what amounts to permanent industrialization of the land is heartbreaking. We have born witness to the desecration of this land by hundreds of truck-loads of stone, concrete, steel, machinery, huge coils and crates of who knows what being transported daily and the bulldozing and reshaping of the land into mounds, ridges, road ways, concrete work, and of course the solar panels themselves, all to create a landscape that will most likely remain indefinitely. Money set aside for reclamation of the land once the solar panels are no longer viable will long ago have been used for "more pressing needs", although it is doubtful that the amount put aside would have been adequate anyway. It seems the town board is more interested in short term financial gain than the long term health and viability of our rural community. God only gave us so much tillable land, and once it is used up, there is no getting it back.

We cannot un-do what is currently under way, but we can see that no further industrial encroachment destroys our remaining agricultural heritage.

John and Gloria Hall



UPSTATE IS A SOLAR GHETTO

I live in a solar ghetto.

South of our town, toward the next village, down maybe a dozen miles of two-lane road, they're putting them in, left and right. Bulldozing the fields, laying the cables, pouring the concrete. On lands where the Senecas grew the three sisters, and which have sustained family farms since the early 1800s, it's all going away, the greens and the golds and the flowers in their seasons.

No more corn, no more beans, no more horses in their pastures.

Just rows and rows of solar panels, the ranks and files of an invading army, the strip mining of our day, rural America put to death to satisfy the politics of people far away.

They're a welfare scam.

They'll never generate a profitable kilowatt of power. They will never sustain themselves in the marketplace. They will never be a source of consequential electricity.

They are a way to milk tax credits out of the government, to partner with the politicians who spin tales of climate change to cripple our economy and strip our freedoms. The money comes from the taxpayer, the damage is done to our countryside. It is an odd mix of colonialism and virtue signaling.

The metastasizing of arrogance and oppression, the destroying of a countryside and a culture.

For nothing. All for nothing.

Upstate New York lies near 43 degrees north latitude, meaning the sun is at an angle ill suited for the generation of electricity, and that the sun's light must pass obliquely through the atmosphere, further diminishing its power. In addition, most of upstate New York will experience, in an average year, 61 clear days, 104 partly cloudy days and 200 completely cloudy days.

Also, it snows, and snow accumulates on solar panels, rendering them inoperative.

That's why solar farms in upstate New York typically generate over the course of a year far less than 20% of their capacity, with the winter months often generating in the low single digits of capacity.

And that is part of an American economy-choking effort that last year saw China increase its carbon dioxide production from coal burning alone some five times more than the United States cut its carbon dioxide production from all sources.

What all of that means is that New York solar farms accomplish nothing.

plant and animal sustainability standpoint, a solar farm is about the same as a paved parking lot.

The only thing green about them is the taxpayer money going into the pockets of out-of-state companies and Chinese manufacturers. A society that demands ethically produced coffee is fine with an energy system that sends little African kids into pit mines. Politicians who decry suburban sprawl demand the bulldozing of vast stretches of the rural countryside. Green energy is the blood diamonds of our day.

And in upstate New York it forever removes from production the farm land which is the lifeblood of both our culture and our economy. It forever deranges the archeological reminders of Native America, the arrowheads turned up every spring in the plowing and the subtle traces of camp and village bulldozed to put in solar panels that will be obsolete and abandoned in a decade.

Obsolete and abandoned in a decade, but standing for centuries as a reminder of the arrogance of our day and the permanence of the desecration of our land.

The holdings of Mary Jemison and her adopted people are falling victim, as solar arrays scar the land alongside what used to be the most popular state park in America, monstrosities displacing natural beauty.

That's the reality of solar power in rural upstate New York.

And yet thousands and thousands of acres of some of the most productive and beautiful agricultural land in the world are being desecrated to put in solar farm after solar farm, destroying both the past and the future of rural upstate New York.

That's what happens when you are poor and have no political power.

And the people who rule over you are bastards.

Bob Lonsberry © 2024

<http://www.lonsberry.com/writings.cfm?story=4684>

They generate negligible amounts of electricity, and they do not reduce the world's supply of greenhouse gasses.

Further, solar farms are using land that is already helping reduce carbon dioxide. An acre of corn, for example, the most common crop grown on upstate New York land, absorbs 38,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year, and an acre of brush or forest absorbs between 4.5 and 40.7 tons of carbon dioxide a year. The natural green hills and valleys of New York are – left alone – excellent, God-given protectors of the climate.

Further, those natural acres sustain wildlife and biodiversity in a way fenced and close-cropped solar arrays don't. Solar farms are biologically sterile, fenced off to exclude deer and other mammals, and they aren't allowed to grow into the meadows that feed pollinators and provide insect life to sustain bird populations. They are the cause of a silent spring. From a

Crik Christophel asked how long the moratorium would last. Attorney Devries explained the moratorium would be for 3 months, but the town is actively working on a solar law.

Karl Schrier asked if the battery storage moratorium is just for the one on Frost Rd and Supervisor DiSalvo said that the law would cover the whole town.

Brad Tonkery asked about the limitations for the battery energy storage facility. Supervisor DiSalvo said that they do not know the limitations of the battery energy storage law at this point. They are working on the law and would like to wait for the study to come back from the large fire in another battery energy storage facility.

Blair Powley asked if this moratorium will be effective against 94C projects such as Morris Ridge? Supervisor DiSalvo said yes. Attorney Devries interjected and said the state does have the ability to override local codes for these types of projects. This moratorium will only cover what the Town of Mount Morris is allowed to regulate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of last month's meeting from March 21, 2024. motion was made by Deputy Supervisor Huff, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 21, 2024.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

A motion was made by Councilmember Guzzardi, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to accept the Supervisor's Report for March 2024 as presented.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Deputy Supervisor Huff said that the Highway Department has been doing crossovers and digging ditches. They finally received the new truck and since it took so long to get it they replaced the tires, which is worth \$2000.

He said that they hired a new employee Spencer DiSalvo, and he is starting on Monday.

Deputy Supervisor Huff said that the Highway Department needs a new heating system at the shop before the fall because two of the heaters are not working. He wanted to let the board know about this early on so they could develop a plan to have the replaced. Councilmember Coniglio asked if they had looked into buying a used oil burner. Deputy Supervisor Huff said he feels they need to stay with the system they have. An oil burner would require a completely different system and would be more costly to replace.

Councilmember Guzzardi said that he is in the process of getting a quote to reroof the salt shed. Supervisor DiSalvo reminded him that we need insurance paperwork from the contractor to prove the contractor is covered.

AMBULANCE

94-Calls
 32 -ALS Transport
 45 -BLS Transport
 04- Inmate Transport

Supervisor DiSalvo said that the Ambulance is scheduled for June 8th for First Responders Day and they will also be working at the Many on the Genny.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Councilmember Coniglio advised that the grant paperwork for the solar eclipse party in the park is due. Clerk Woodworth said that she was aware of this, and the grant paperwork is due a month after the event. She is the one who applied for the grant and has been in communication with Livingston County Tourism. She was waiting for the remaining bills from the event to be paid. These bills would be included in the vouchers submitted at tonight's board meeting. As proof of payment for services is a requirement of the grant.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Clerk's report for the month of March. A motion was made by Councilmember Guzzardi, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh, to accept the report as presented.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

VOUCHERS/ AUDIT OF CLAIMS

A motion by Deputy Supervisor Huff, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi to approve Vouchers 89-118 which includes on General A Abstract in the amount of \$77,533.71.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Councilmember Guzzardi, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Huff to approve Vouchers 22-28 on General B Abstract in the amount of \$14,667.32.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Deputy Supervisor Huff, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to approve Vouchers 27-34 on the Highway DA Abstract in the amount of \$24,213.52.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Councilmember Rawleigh, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi to approve Vouchers 2-3 on the Highway DA Abstract in the amount of \$894.79.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Councilmember Rawleigh, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Huff to approve Vouchers 11-12 on the Refuse SR Abstract in the amount of \$2,574.31.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Deputy Supervisor Huff, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to approve Vouchers 6-7 on the Sewer SS Abstract in the amount of \$2,022.70.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Councilmember Rawleigh, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi to approve Voucher 13 on the Wayer SW Abstract in the amount of \$7,344.11.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

Total Abstract 4 \$129,250.46

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor DiSalvo asked if there were any further comments regarding the public hearing for Local Law No.1-2024.

There were no comments regarding the public hearing. Supervisor DiSalvo announced that the Town Board would keep the hearing open. Attorney Devries said that they were sending the local law to the County Planning Board for approval.

Cathie Gehrig said that she would like to comment on something that doesn't pertain to the local law and would like to request an executive session under section 108 of the OML to include her and the town attorney, so that the board could seek legal advice on the topic she wished to discuss.

Crik Christophel said that she would like to know who wrote the zoning proposal. Attorney Devries said the town worked with THOMA and she thinks that its best to get Ms. Christophel's questions in writing so that THOMA can answer them accordingly.

Ms. Christophel said that she doesn't understand why this is so secretive and why it needs to be asked multiple times. She said that when THOMA was here they said it was the Code Enforcement Officer. She doesn't understand why the board can't say that and that someone needs to be accountable. Attorney Devries said that her understanding is THOMA was the one guiding the board. She asked Ms. Christophel to please get her questions in writing to the board and the board will get the answers from THOMA.

Ms. Christophel went on to say that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan is very important, and the zoning committee looks at the Comprehensive Plan for direction. Members on the committee said there were things they didn't agree to or discuss that were included in this plan. According to state statute they must make a recommendation. It seems to her that nothing was done right.

Supervisor DiSalvo said that as far as he knows everything was done correctly with the Comprehensive Plan.

Attorney Devries said again to Ms. Christophel, please get your questions in a letter so the Town Board can formally answer them.

Steven Zoller asked what the total cost for the bill for THOMA was. Supervisor DiSalvo said that the money came from a NYSERDA grant. Steve Zoller said that he is not very happy that the grant money was flushed down the toilet. They have been asking questions for months and there are no answers. Supervisor DiSalvo said that the town has not paid THOMA the final payment due to the inaccuracies and the job not being completed.

Karl Schrier asked about the prison committee that the Supervisor is on. Do they have any plans for the prison. Supervisor DiSalvo said that companies have approached Bill Bacon the county attorney, but no decisions have been made. He went onto say that the state is charging more to heat the building than a new boiler system would be. They are looking into replacing the heating to save money. Councilmember Guzzardi said it seems that would cost way more than what they are thinking, and they should investigate further.

Matt Scully asked when the new solar law would be available for the public to see. Supervisor DiSalvo said it will be a few months. They are in the process of writing it now.

Mr. Scully also asked if we had any right of refusal for the large solar projects. Supervisor DiSalvo said unfortunately no we don't they are state mandated and regulated.

Gretchen Saunders said that on May 8th EDF Renewables is hosting a meeting from 3- 6pm and doing a presentation at 6:30 pm at the Genesee River. She said they will answer the questions and concerns that people have. She worked very hard to get this meeting to happen and she hopes people will come and listen to what they have to say.

Brad Tonkery said that Hendershot Road is in disrepair, and he would like to know if the solar company will fix it and if so when they plan to fix it. Supervisor DiSalvo said the town plans to repair the road and will bill the solar company for the cost.

Supervisor DiSalvo said that people need to prepare themselves because the solar company plans to work full blast and they would like to have everything operational by the 1st of the year.

Blair Powley asked if Morris Ridge is under the laws of 94C, is there any in mid process or possibility for public input and feedback. Can the state force the developer to make changes or does the town have to do this. Supervisor DiSalvo said it was done by ORES and its heavily regulated. All complaints that aren't answered in the manner people wish from EDF Renewables can be made to ORES.

Supervisor DiSalvo went on to say that this is the first commercial solar project in the State of New York, and they are being held accountable and are the example. Karl Schrier said this is what they will base the other solar projects in New York off of .

Johnna Schrier asked about four more projects that are on the books to come in. She asked if they are Morris Ridge. Supervisor DiSalvo said no they are smaller farms. Gretchen asked who the owners are. Supervisor DiSalvo said that he knows two of them are Dragani and Welch and he isn't sure about the other names. Matt Scully asked if it's a portion of their land or all of their land. Supervisor DiSalvo said it's a portion of land that they aren't farming.

Supervisor DiSalvo said that the solar isn't going on prime farmland.

Gretchen Saunders asked the board members about the illegal immigrants that have been occupying the old ridge restaurant. That they are living there in unhospitable conditions and the septic is running off into the ground. Supervisor DiSalvo said that the septic has been taken care of by the county. The county wrote them up today. Gretchen asked if they could stop them from occupying the residence if the septic was going where it was. Supervisor DiSalvo said this is why we have turned it over to the County Health Department.

Crik Christophel asked if their sewage was flowing into the ground. Supervisor DiSalvo said yes, and that's why the county is involved.

Deputy Supervisor Huff said that ICE is the only entity that can take care of the fact that they are illegal. No one else has the right to ask if they are.

Supervisor DiSalvo said the health department condemned it. He has heard rumors that they are changing plates on vehicles, so they don't get caught. The Sheriff's Office was there once and removed them. They are doing everything they can to take care of the situation.

Matt Scully asked if the landowner has paid his taxes. Clerk Woodworth advised that she doesn't know who paid their taxes without looking into the system. Many parcels taxes are paid through banks because the properties are in escrow.

Supervisor DiSalvo said last call public comment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Guzzardi, seconded by Supervisor DiSalvo to adjourn this meeting.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Clerk Woodworth asked the board if they planned to go into executive session as Cathie Gehrig had requested. The board said yes. She advised the meeting needed to be reopened.

A motion was made by Councilmember Coniglio, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to open the meeting.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Supervisor DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to go into executive session at 6:53 PM.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Supervisor DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Guzzardi to exit executive session at 7:05 PM.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion by Supervisor DiSalvo, seconded by Councilmember Rawleigh to keep the Public Hearing open on Local Law No. 1-2024 until next meeting on May 16, 2024.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

A motion was made by Councilmember Rawleigh, seconded by Councilmember Coniglio to adjourn this meeting.

Vote: Aye 5 (DiSalvo, Huff, Guzzardi, Coniglio, Rawleigh)
 No 0
 Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Respectively Submitted,

Chelsey Woodworth
Town Clerk/Tax Collector