

Minutes
Planning & Economic Development Committee
September 21, 2022, 6:00 pm, Legislative Chambers
~~Livestreamed on Facebook~~
(Livestream unavailable due to Construction in Legislative Chambers)
Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Muldowney, Harmon, Wilfong, Gustafson, Penhollow

Members Absent: Rankin

Others: Lee, Chagnon, McCoy, Emhardt, LaTone, Engstrom, Mueller, Conroe and Moore

Chairman Muldowney called the meeting to order at (6:00 p.m.)

Approval of Minutes (8/17/22)

MOVED by Legislator Harmon, SECONDED by Legislator Wilfong.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Karen Engstrom, Mayville. I'd like to give you some transcripts from a recent hearing. The first hearing by OREZ, the Office of Renewable Energy sighting New York's new energy sighting operation. These transcripts are from a film which I put in your email. It is something that occurred on August 26th of this year. You perhaps remember people coming in October of 2020 from the Town of Ripley and they tried to let you know what kind of concerns. This transcript contains testimony to the State by various fire chiefs and emergency people and the mayor of North East Pennsylvania who are all very concerned. I just wanted to alert you that these state hearings will be coming at us. Every township is facing solar. Solar is coming our way from Albany. One of the other people besides those who are explaining the size and the magnitude of this was the head of the Planning Department for the Town of Ripley and she met with the developer and he said we are not interested. I'm going to quote him "we are not interested here in making electricity because we don't basically. We just want to get the renewable energy credits" and those are (*inaudible*) which are sold on the market so that's the purpose of anything in this area because the energy created in respect to the energy invested is neutral or negative. Also, the communities in Central New York have filed a law suit which I included in this paper here, the cover for. They had the courage to file a lawsuit. Sighting the office of renewable energy sighting as the dependent. These are a number of organizations, Towns and groups that state in part "we shall (*inaudible*) that OREZ violated its enabling (*inaudible*) and the state event environmental review act SEQRA by neglecting one half of its statutory mandate that is environmental protection". So they had the courage to take on the State, something we really respect because all of our communities need some tools to help them fight back. Cattaraugus County has taken a step. They've put a moratorium on all solar projects because and I quote them, this is the head of their IDA "The return for economic development is

not there. The local contractors did not get a call. The projects are either taking good farmland or taking wooded land through clearcutting. The one in Ripley will take down 531 acres of woods for destruction and will – according to local developers who are looking at this area and not necessarily going to be here for solar, they realize from their assessments that you will get 10-14% of what is promised in the capacity factor for this region. This region is a 10-14% capacity factor and (*inaudible*) rates it at 18. But still, when you say 40,000 homes are being electrified and you do the math, you come down to 4,000 homes and your destroying 3,000 acres of land in Ripley. All of our communities will be facing a similar situation. The moneys that were promised up on the hill to Arkwright and Cassadaga wind are not fourth coming. Here is the energy owner, RWE of German Company. This is the Generation Asset list. All their companies are listed here. They are big operators around the world. Cassadaga wind comes in at 15% of the capacity that they promised. So the moneys are not fourth coming. People sign on disclosure agreements when they commit their land for any number of parts of these projects which you can't find out because it's against the documents they've signed. The moneys that are promised – and you will find one fire chief in this film and in this transcript saying “their promising our fire department \$189,000. Well the danger that's (*inaudible*) here is so extreme, no amount of money can represent one life lost. I also call your attention to the fact that Amazon has decommissioned all of its solars. They were on top of all of those (*inaudible*) centers because of fires. It is so unsafe they have quietly decommissioned all of their solar. This was Monday, I lost my paper I showed on Monday so I reprinted it. Electric bills, my gas bill went up 26% this month. I don't know about yours but that's where it is so we're seeing Europe and their energy policy is reverting reliable energy now that solar and wind in the northern hemisphere has been proven a failure and in fact has proven is very harmful as they discovered some nuclear (*inaudible*) are being ramped up. This is according to MPR and the Wall Street Journal. New York energy policy is reckless. It is a reckless assault on our communities that will cause (*inaudible*) harm. NYSO warns that the technology does not exist to meet the SCOPING plans. These large batteries that they propose only hold from 1-2 hours so what good is it to put a giant lithium ion battery in place?

Chairman Muldowney: (*Inaudible*)

Ms. Engstrom: Sure. Forbes have mentioned that 351 communities have rejected solar and wind because of the environmental and economic harm that's done. So you have these documents. I also have what I provided before which is a suggestion and that is Niagara's law unanimously passed by Niagara County's Legislature says it would be good to recycle these units. If we recycle the components, we don't waste all the materials and we don't cause a toxic waste dump problem which is what is transpiring. If that law were to be put in place, developers would think twice. Communities would have some defense. There is a number of other options to be – we would like to see them made in the United States. Two things, recycle and made in the United States are environmentally necessary and responsible to do so, thank you.

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Appointment - Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency – Presented by Chairman Chagnon

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Use of 2022 2% Occupancy Tax Funds for Acquisition of Near-shore Cleanup Equipment – *Presented by Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator, Don Emhardt, Town of Chautauqua Supervisor and Mike LaTone, representative of Chautauqua Lake Partnership*

MOVED by Legislator Harmon, SECONDED by Legislator Wilfong to Table

Unanimously Carried – TABLED

Discussion - Update of Chautauqua Lake Association – *Rudy Mueller, President of the Chautauqua County Lake Association, Doug Conroe, Executive Director and Debbie Moore, Treasurer of CLA Board*

MOVED by Legislator Wilfong, SECONDED by Legislator Gustafson to adjourn.

Unanimously Carried (6:56 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,
Olivia Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk