

Minutes
Administrative Services Committee
December 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers
Livestreamed on YouTube
Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Scudder, Vanstrom, Parker, Davis

Members Absent: Muldowney

Others: Lee, Chagnon, Dennison, Slagle, Abdella, Thomas, Barmore, Blevins, Faulk, Hernandez, Makowski, Spanos, Barone, Gregory

Complete video of meeting can be viewed on YouTube

Chairman Scudder called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (11/7/22)

MOVED by Legislator Vanstrom, SECONDED by Legislator Parker.

Unanimously Carried

Privilege of the Floor

Karen Engstrom, Town of Chautauqua. I've been here before on this subject. It's PFAS and solar. PFAS and solar are very important to a lot of us. We have been writing in letters. We've been signing letters, multiple letters because polyfluoroalkyl(?) substances have been found in the Chadakoin River as reported in the Post Journal. They are now found in milk. They are being given an alert by the EPA as to our drinking water and our drinking water. We know they are present in solar panels. Solar panels are being proposed for this County in many place. The Town of Mayville has suffered PFAS contamination of its ground water and its drinking water and it was very dangerous. It cost a great deal of money to correct. Chautauqua Lake is at risk. All of us are at risk if we put forward a requirement that there is proof that there is no PFAS in any components of solar. We will be protecting our community from this potential threat. PFAS is responsible according to the Post Journal and other sources for causing cancer to the liver, kidneys, prostate and reproductive (*inaudible*) deficiencies and hormonal disruptions. The Town of Chautauqua has taken that step and put into their permitting process a requirement that there be proof that there be no PFAS possible contaminations from any solar component in our County. We propose that the Legislature do the same. It's very simple, protect our environment, and protect our community. Resolve that there be proof of no PFAS in any of our solar components. It's a simple environmental step. The Cattaraugus County IDA has already determine that no solar projects will be anywhere built except on brownfields. They have also indicated there is no economic return and I'm quoting the head of the IDA "because solar and

wind do not accomplish the main IDA criteria which is to create and retain local jobs”. It also does not deserve a pilot simply because the State and Federal government give them exemptions. They also have mortgage tax exemptions, sales tax exemptions and they take real estate gigantic amounts of real estate off the roles which are potentially – if they don’t go forward that real estate that has been taken out of the community will then be the responsibility of the County whether it’s for toxic waste or for the tax money lost. Ripley solar this week, 523 acres were identified and rejected by the State regulation department because the deforestation mitigation plan was rejected by the state siting board. 523 acres of mature forests will be clear cut in addition to the hundreds and hundreds of acres of forests that’s already been cut by lease holders who plan to make money off the project. We’re instructed by the developer to clear-cut so that the regulations that were going to be imposed on the developer would be over looked would be no longer relevant. Would be as I stated here “avoided”. So it makes no sense to cut forests to build solar. In this case, of course we know that solar in this area takes more energy to create than it ever returns to the community simply because we’re above the (*inaudible*) where there isn’t enough sunshine and the cost and the impact has been proven to be negative by the European energy commissions. There are 11 complainants now suing the Office of Renewable Energy siting because as the lawsuits states, the siting board has violated the SEQRA and 94c regulations and statutes to protect the environment. The lawsuit, as you can see on the back of the piece of paper here in summary, also says that besides violating the protection of the environment statues they wrote the laws the regulations in a – the written (*inaudible*) solar and developers by an attorney and consultant for the state not by the state not by experts for the state but by the attorney and consultant for the wind and solar developers. He’s noted in the lawsuit that you have in your emails, I sent the entire lawsuit. This is just a cover page and a summary. It’s 41 pages long and it’s really worth reading because it does bring to your attention the fact that the new department of siting which is the (*inaudible*) is not providing us the protection it needs it’s simply working for on behalf of the developers so we propose that you support that lawsuit I mean you could do a (*inaudible*) that would be wonderful. Cattaraugus County is considering it but just to put forward a motion saying “Yes, we’d like this straightened out”. Please take a looks at that lawsuit. It does work on our behalf and it brings attention to this. It doesn’t include PFAS which I think is a particular interest to our County and we should be trying to protect our communities by a very simple and environmental regulation.

Local Law Intro 15-22 – A Local Law Providing for a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees – *Presented by Debbie Makowski, Director of Human Resources and MaryAnn Spanos, Director of Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services*

Local Law Intro 16-22 – A Local Law Providing for a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees: Director of Real Property Tax Services III and Director of Human Resources – *Presented by Debbie Makowski, Director of Human Resources*

Proposed Resolution – Confirm Re-Appointment - Chautauqua County Ethics Board – *Presented by Paul M. Wendel, Jr., County Executive*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorize Transfer of Tax Foreclosure Property to Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency – *Presented by Todd Thomas, Assistant County Attorney and Benjamin Haskin, Associate Corporation Council for the City of Jamestown and Council for the Jamestown Urban Renewal Agency*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Authorizing Increase in County Clerk Fees – Mortgage Tax – *Presented by Larry Barmore, County Clerk*

Unanimously Carried

Proposed Resolution – Setting Salary for Grant Specialist – *Presented by Nathaniel Barone, Public Defender and Debbie Makowski, Director of Human Resources*

Unanimously Carried

Discussion - Human Services Reorganization – *Presented by Paul M. Wendel Jr., County Executive, Debbie Makowski, Director of Human Resources, Steve Abdella, County Attorney, Dr. Mike Faulk, County Coroner Physician and Carmelo Hernandez, Director of Community Mental Hygiene*

MOVED by Legislator Davis, SECONDED by Legislator Parker to adjourn

Unanimously Carried (6:36 p.m.)

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