

**Town of Fenner  
Town Board Meeting  
April 12, 2023**

**SUPERVISOR JONES  
COUNCILPERSON CODY  
COUNCILPERSON PUSHLAR  
COUNCILPERSON WESTER absent  
COUNCILPERSON Strack absent  
TOWN CLERK DOLAN**

The regular meeting of the Fenner Town Board was called to order at 8:03 PM by Supervisor Jones with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilperson Cody motioned to accept the March Town Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Cody motioned to accept the Town Clerk's Monthly Report as presented Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Pushlar motioned to accept the March Town Supervisor's Monthly Report as presented Seconded by Councilperson Cody. Approved by the Board.

The Highway Superintendent report was presented and available for review at the town offices.

- Clean up continues after heavy rains, Carey Hill Road remains closed to all but local traffic until permanent repairs can be made.

New items:

- Fenner Clean Up Days – May 5<sup>th</sup> 12-5pm and May 6<sup>th</sup> 8am- 12:00pm - The Town will be paying the bill for everything after the first 10 tons and all of the cost for trucks and hauling.
- New fees for dog redemption? - The Board was made aware of the wide disparities of pricing for licensing and redemption between different towns and villages within the county. Should we consider updating pricing to match current economic considerations?
- Credit Card Machine - Would The Town be interested in offering credit card payments?
- Loader proposal - Tabled until next month, The Board was given documentation on pricing for a new loader, our current loader is 22 years old and on its last legs.

Old items:

- Fenner Church update and Bicentennial updates - committee work continues, please see website for updates.

- Moraine Rd speed limit change in effect - signage will be changed next week.

Oxbow Hill Solar: Keith Silliman asked for time to give an update on the potential solar project in Fenner, he was accompanied by a representative from EDR.

Mr. Silliman explained that there are 3 parts that they are working on concurrently -

1. Inner connecting to electric transmission lines and they are negotiating a contract with ENEL currently with hope that they will come to terms in August 2023.
2. NYSEERDA Energy Credit - proposal was submitted today and they hope to hear back by fall 2023.
3. Permitting - through the Office of Renewable Energy (ORES). Permit will be submitted August 1st 2023.

They are interested in reaching out to the community through mailings and potential gatherings.

Mr. Silliman stated that many studies have already been done - raptures, birds, migration patterns, wetlands, noise analysis and today they began visual impact studies and that results can be found on their website.

Mr. Silliman stated the following: the site is 1586 acres and only 390 acres of prime farmland will be used.

**Public Comment:** Many questions were asked. Mr. Silliman was able to answer some general questions but said he would post the rest of the responses on the Cypress Hill Website as he didn't have the answers today. A resident asked about home values, no answer for that, a resident asked about energy credit he stated we could receive credit through National Grid, the residents in house all use Madison County Coop for electric, he stated he wasn't aware of that, Battery storage was asked about - site would be on Peterboro Road next to substation A resident asked about the life expectancy of the panels - unknown.

A resident asked how they will be disposed of - there would be a decommissioning policy to manage this.

Can solar panels be recycled? - not at this time

How would the site be monitored if this were to happen - one full time employee would be responsible for monitoring.

A resident asked about fire hazard and safety, they will discuss it with The Town.

Overall, there were many residents that were confused as to how they can proceed when Fenner has a law banning industrial solar projects. It was explained that in order to meet NYS Green Energy Initiative home rule is being waved in these situations. To date no solar proposals have been declined regarding local law in New York State.

Nadine Bell, Town Attorney, spoke to residents and reiterated that The Town basically has "their hands tied" and that The Town has done everything they can to block industrial solar.

Supervisor Jones was asked if The Board would continue to fight this and he replied “yes”. Supervisor Jones stated the following facts from Madison County Department of Planning and Workforce Development, regarding the farmland in our Town:

1. Town's total acreage is 19,908 acres
2. The solar project covers parcels (understandably the solar panels will not cover 100% of these parcels) with a total acreage of 1,594 acres (8% of the Town's total land area).
3. The Cazenovia Preservation Foundation has a Farmland Protection Easement on 565 acres.
4. Of the 1,594 acres of the solar project, 810 acres are prime farmland, or 51%.
5. Of the 1,594 acres of the solar project, 386 acres are soils of Statewide Importance, or 24%.
6. 116 properties in the Town claim Agricultural Assessment which equates to 7,195 acres.
7. 125 parcels are classified through property assessment codes as agricultural or 8359 acres.
8. Based on those last two bullets, it is safe to say that at least 7,500 acres are actively farmed in the Town of Fenner, or about 38% of the Town's land area.

**VOUCHERS:**

Councilperson Pushlar moved to approve payment of the General Fund claims numbers G23-34 – G42-49 in the amount \$4075.43 as set forth in abstract number 2 and as audited. Seconded by Council person Cody. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Cody moved to approve payment of the Highway Fund claims numbers H23-27-H23-39 in the amount \$12,411.46 as set forth in abstract number 2 and as audited. Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilperson Cody moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm seconded by Supervisor Jones. Approved by Board

**HANDOUTS AND REPORTS:**

On file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Town Clerk Report

Supervisors Report

Highway Superintendent Report

CEO Report

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Dolan, Town Clerk