

Town of Fenner

June 9, 2021

Attendance: Councilperson Cody, Councilperson Wester, Councilperson Strack, Councilperson Pushlar, Supervisor Jones

Town Board meeting called to order at 8:03 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Board meeting was held in the Fenner Town Barn to accommodate a larger audience.
Board meeting was audio recorded

Previous month's minutes approved by Councilperson Strack seconded by Councilperson Wester with correction (spelling error)

Town Clerk's Monthly Report motion to approve by Councilperson Pushlar seconded by Councilperson Cody

Supervisor's Monthly report motion to approve by Councilperson Wester and seconded by Councilperson Strack

Highway Superintendent's Monthly Report:

Deputy Robbie Conklin - presented the report
culverts, ditching, truck maintenance and preparing roads for paving

Motion to open public hearing at 8:18 pm by Councilperson Wester seconded by Councilperson Cody. Topic: Solar Zoning Law, Supervisor Jones explained the expectations of the hearing. All comments will be addressed only to the Board and limited to a timed 3 minutes. This was not a question and answer session. Comments that were made in writing will be included also.

Resident: Karol Toole - read attached letter

Resident: Robert Stinson- sent letter for Board to read aloud, attached

Resident: Scott Lake - Against Solar panels - I just have a little under 2 acres, I don't want to drag my house value down I won't be able to sell the beautiness that Fenner holds is unmatched in my opinion I didn't build a house here 20 years ago to look at 1200 acres of solar panels I don't have a big market here in the Town of Fenner, I don't go to all the meeting that my own fault but I still have a say and normally I believe it's your land do want as long as you take care of it it's going to be a big splinter in the town of Fenner

Resident: Dick Foringer- Against Any Solar panels -this is Fenner. If we wanted to live in an industrial park we'd have built a house in Carrier Circle, this is Fenner. Fenner is Agricultural, but covers it in solar panels. Great, you have renewable energy you got energy but you have land that's not tillable, as far reclaiming land? I don't trust that, look what happened with the windmills. Are we happy? Did that work for us? After 15 years? Fool me once. So many things to consider with migration, birds, wild life, going to be effected not to mention home owners, someone next to you wants to add solar panels I guess we're left holding the bad end of the

stick so our home values drop I couldn't sell my house now for what it's worth now and you know it I brought it up before, that's why I say it (chuckle) this is Fenner this is agriculture this is why people live here if you want to get a bigger tax base maybe we should do some work and clean up some of these rental properties in Fenner that just one idea

Jerry Davis - Has lived in Fenner 48 years, I'm your town historian I've been that for 24 years when I took this job the town of Fenner had working farms in Fenner than any other town in Madison County, 26 then, Earning their keep by farming I'm not sure how many we have now since the Amish and Mennonites moved it that has gone up and not down, we are agricultural we always have My property is on the Bumpus farmstead the one of the 2nd oldest farmstead my 2 great, great uncles fought the bear that's in the NYS history books and Madison County in 1802 that's how far back my family goes In the town I love living in the town of Fenner and don't want to see what I see down at the landfill now that popped up in the last two year. I drove by Floyd the Survey Center on my way to the Adirondacks. I saw all that land leveled, probably about 60 or 70 acres and I was wondering what the heck is going on there and then BINGO that whole mile and a half solar panels as far as the eye can see.

Resident: Matt Robinson- Heartfelt Farms Supports Solar Law mostly I don't like the verbiage in the front yard that is unnecessary the other thing was on the surface area related to the buildings and how it was calculated I have greenhouses are those buildings? that is not defined clearly. We shouldn't have Large Industrial scale solar it is not for Fenner it does not seem like a good idea putting it over agricultural land. It does not seem like the right way to go about solar power, we do need solar power so many places that could be covered parking lots, industrial buildings Industrial are Quick cheap and easy to use agriculture area it's not the right thing at this time at this scale. Fencing around is detrimental to the deer, turkey and hunting will be affected. Too much in one town at one time

Resident: Scott Griffin - I think the town needs to rethink their attitude toward this. The tax situation in the next ½ years farm taxes going up so much we are going to be paying so much taxes on our farmland that no one will be able to stay in business windmills were a boondoggle for Fenner the first 15 years the town of Fenner received over 3.5 million dollars. The Board knows this. You can't keep putting the burden on landowners me and my sons and I have 600 acres we farm We plan on farming we tried to help clean up the town, anything we have done in the town is to better the town when opportunities rose we bought empty lots no one wanted and the town couldn't get them to pay the taxes and cleaned them up. We would like the town to rethink this. Was it run by the planning department before it came here?

Resident: Joe Griffin- no one is helping me on my farm, I have holes in my pants, haying all day. I don't see anyone stopping in to help everyone likes to look at the landscape, this is something that would help our operation just think about who is putting the landscape up there

Resident: Matt Robinson- "farm" Solar farms It doesn't mean it's a farm, you have to have an energy source and if your farm isn't paying for itself? it's okay to make money off your land by separate - farming is hard. If something else is paying for it doesn't mean your farming.

Resident: Rick Bosworth - I have been a member of BOAR for 30 years - I see someone who wants to lower taxes because they are in the immediate vicinity near solar farms. This is CNY. Is there not a better place to put these farms? Great for landowners. But they put these in and in 15 years you're on your own I am against solar farm

Resident Scott Griffin - I am addressing this to Council Pushlar and Cody how would who has lived here 100 years, and get along. We are only harvesting the sun, we just want to harvest the sun, they harvest the sun when they harvest the corn. It's no different. We all need the sun, to grow the corn, to make electricity we aren't going to stop the green energy push windfarm lowered taxes bought a lot of equipment town's thinking is off why shouldn't Fenner benefit why not expand on the wind farm and benefit, lower your taxes, bought equipment for the town.

Motion to adjourn public hearing was made at 8:44 pm by Councilperson Wester seconded by Councilperson Cody

Public Hearing will be continued at the July 14, 2021 Board Meeting set forth in:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-18 OF THE TOWN OF FENNER

WHEREAS, at the request of the Town Supervisor, the attorney for the Town has prepared and presented a proposed local law entitled, "A local law to amend the Town of Fenner Land Use Regulations with respect to Solar Energy Systems", and

WHEREAS, the proposed local law is intended to authorize and regulate certain small scale, accessory use solar energy facilities while maintaining the current prohibition of other solar energy facilities that exists under the Town of Fenner zoning regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Fenner has previously determined that the adoption of this local law to amend the Town of Fenner Land Use Regulations with respect to Solar Energy Systems constitutes an unlisted action for purposes of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, that there are no other involved agencies with respect to this action, and the action does not involve the exercise of eminent domain or other public acquisition of land or the advance of public funds for any construction or development, and

WHEREAS, this Town Board opened a public hearing on June 9, 2021 at 8:15 p.m. at the Town of Fenner Town Hall to consider the proposed local law entitled, "A local law to amend the Town of Fenner Land Use Regulations with respect to Solar Energy Systems", and

WHEREAS, this Town Board deems it advisable to continue the public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Fenner will hold a continued public hearing on July 14, 2021 at 8:15 p.m. at the Town of Fenner Town Hall to continue the consideration of the proposed local law entitled, "A local law to amend the Town of Fenner Land Use Regulations with respect to Solar Energy Systems."

Dated: June 9, 2021

Moved to adopt by Councilperson Strack seconded by Councilperson Cody

Individual vote **Councilperson** Strack - aye Councilperson Wester -aye Councilperson Cody - aye Supervisor Jones -aye Councilperson Pushlar aye

Public Comment: residence wondering when Town Highway Crew will begin mowing roadside. Residents were directed to contact Highway Superintendent Smith.

Vouchers

- a. General Fund – G21 -53-61 \$1948.00 approved by Councilperson Pushlar, and Councilperson Wester
- b. Highway Fund – H21-31 –H21-40 - \$13653.95 approved by Councilperson Cody and seconded by Councilperson Strack

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:44 made by Councilperson Wester seconded by Councilperson Pushlar

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Dolan

HANDOUTS AND REPORTS:

On file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Town Clerk Report – May 2021

Supervisors Report – May 2021

CEO Report – May 2021

Highway Superintendent Report – May 2021

Resolution 2021 -18

Submitted letters: Robert Stinson, group letter