

The Special meeting of the Groveland Town Board was held on Thursday July 28, 2022 at the Town Hall.

Present: Bill Devine, Supervisor; Sandra Bean, Deputy Supervisor and Councilmember; Steve Atterbury, Councilmember; Amy Hunter, Councilmember and John Macauley, Councilmember

Other Town Officials: R. Clymo, Planning Board Member, K. Niedermaier, President
Groveland Fire Department

Others Present: Members of the Community

Supervisor Devine called the meeting to order @ 6:31 p.m.

Councilmember Atterbury led the pledge to the flag

Old/New Business:

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS LOCAL LAW # OF 2022 TO REPLACE #2-2017 PUBLIC HEARING- Supervisor Devine stated that the purpose for the second public hearing was to inform the community of the minor changes following the advisory comments the town received from Livingston County Planning Board after the original public hearing that was scheduled on June 9, 2022. Livingston County Planning Board meets the same evening and the town board meeting and the comment period was left open for written comments until July 14, 2022 regular town board meeting. The town board would not have had the advisory comments until after their board meeting and public hearing on June 9, 2022. All special meetings to discuss the draft solar law have been posted on the town website, as there was not enough time to advertise in the local newspaper when it was decided to have the next meeting to discuss the local law; however an email was sent to the local newspaper per open meetings law as required as all meeting were open to the public and well attended. The town's attorney has offered his comments as well we now have two drafts for review as the attorney has added very minor changes highlighted in red on draft #2.

Supervisor Devine requested Town Clerk to read aloud the public hearing notice for the local law.

A motion by Councilmember Atterbury opened the Public hearing at 6:31 p.m. and seconded by Councilmember Macauley. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Community member question on how lot coverage was handled. Supervisor Devine answered through the Town Zoning Law.

K. Niedermaier reviewed areas of the law that had typos with the board. Board agreed with the areas that needed to be corrected prior to finalization.

Mr. Niedermaier also inquired about the tier system and how the law reads would it be tier system then minimum requirements, and who would be the person responsible for the interpretation of the law. Board responded that it would be the Code Officer to interpret the law

however multiple reviews would happen from the Town Engineer, Town Planning and Zoning Board, Town Attorney and Code Officer.

A Town of Geneseo resident was in attendance at the meeting and commended the board for their efforts in making the law responsible for all of Groveland. It was stated that in Geneseo it seemed that seemed solar projects have happened without much community input and Groveland Town Board is trying to get as much input as possible. A question was raised regarding the agricultural exemption on lands that transitioned to solar.

Councilmember Bean stated that the town board would not be the entity that would have control over that however that at a county level due to the oversight the hope would be that it would be reviewed there.

A community member asked about storage of energy and health impacts if any are known to date and have been disclosed. Supervisor Devine stated that even with other states that have high power lines, they have not disclosed the type of effect it has. It was discussed at previous meeting and the health issue is unknown but it may be a good question to inquire with your own primary care doctor.

Community member asked how does variance work related to solar. Supervisor described how the variance process works.

Councilmember Hunter entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

There was a question on maintenance of the property around the solar energy system, board gave specific in the law where to find wording.

Community member reviewed soil testing, board discussed and agreed that a final soil testing once all decommissioning is complete to add to law.

Board reviewed the changes agreed with the attorneys recommendations and all agreed to move forward with the local law.

A motion to close the public hearing by Councilmember Bean and seconded by Councilmember Atterbury at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 50-2022 LOCAL LAW #3-2022 SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS-

WHEREAS notice of public hearing was duly given and said hearing duly held on the 9th day of June, 2022 with a second public hearing on July 28, 2022 to consider the enactment of the local law Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Law to replace local law #2-2017 Town Of Groveland Regulation of Solar Farms Law with public comments along with Livingston County Planning Board review; SEQR had been completed with negative declaration and

NOW, THEREFORE, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, after due consideration and deliberation, the Town Board of the Town of Groveland duly enacted said local law #3-2022 Regulation of Solar Energy Systems Law on this 28th day of July, 2022, and said local law and adopted thereby shall be in full force and effect as provided by law upon the filing of a copy of this local law with the Secretary of State. The local law enacted will be included in the minutes.

The adoption of the foregoing RESOLUTION was duly out in vote on motion of Councilmember Hunter and seconded by Councilmember Macauley and the results were carried with 0 nay, 5 ayes. Roll Call Votes: Supervisor Devine, aye; Deputy Supervisor & Councilmember Bean, aye; Councilmember Atterbury, aye; Councilmember Hunter, aye; Councilmember Macauley, aye.

A motion by Councilmember Macauley and seconded by Councilmember Bean to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned 8:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Kimberly Burgess, Town Clerk
Town of Groveland
Dated: July 28, 2022