

Town Board Minutes
Local Law– Over-ride exemption for certain Solar or Wind Energy Systems
December 9, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Torrey Town Board and the public hearing on the Over-ride exemption for certain Solar or Wind Energy Systems held on December 9, 2014 at 56 Geneva St was called to order by Supervisor Flynn at 7:30PM.

Present: Patrick H. Flynn, Burge W. Morris, John H. Martini

Absent: Colby J. Petersen, Linda K. Francisco

Others present: George Thompson, Dwight James Code Officer, Mary Lilyea, Tim Chambers, Tim Hansen, Bob Clark.

Mr. Flynn led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Flynn opened the public hearings at 7:33 pm

Being no one desiring to speak on the local law, Mr. Flynn went on with other business.

Mr. Flynn presented the abstracts of vouchers for audit.

Motion by Mr. Martini 2nd Mr. Morris that the bills on the General A & B account for \$ 26,148.39 to be paid carried.

Motion by Mr. Morris, 2nd Mr. Martini that the bills on the Highway DA & DB accounts for \$ 35,046.27 to be paid, carried.

Motion by Mr. Martini 2nd Mr. Morris to approve the minutes of the November 5 & 11, 2014 Carried.

Dwight James- Code Officer gave report for 11/11/14 – 12/9/14. C of O- 3 Special Use -2 Site visits- 4 Building inspections -10, meetings- 4, vilations-3, Mileage 95.

Tim Hansen inquire about the vacant superintendent position. Has the board filled the position? Mr. Flynn replied that there has been no decision made.

There being no further discussion or questions on the proposed local law Mr. Flynn closed the hearing at 8:00PM

Mr. Flynn offered the following resolution 2nd Mr. Morris,

WHEREAS, a resolution was duly presented by the Town Board of the Town of Torrey for a public hearing to be held by said Town Board on December 9, 2014 at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, 56 Geneva Street, Dresden, Yates County, New York to hear all interested parties on a proposed Local law entitled To over ride the Taxation Exemption on certain Solar and Wind Energy Systems in Real Property Tax Law Section 487 within the Town of Torrey, and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised on the sign boards at Village of Dresden, Dresden Post Office and at the Town Offices on November 20, 2014 and,

WHEREAS, said public hearing held at the Town Hall at 7:30 PM on December 9, 2014 and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed Local law, or any part thereof, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Torrey, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Town of Torrey to adopt said Local Law,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Torrey hereby adopts said Local Law entitled To over-ride the Taxation Exemption on certain Solar and Wind Energy Systems in Real Property Tax Law Section 487 within the Town of Torrey a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and she hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Law Book of the Town of Torrey, and to give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law to the Secretary of State of New York.

This by roll call vote: Supervisor Flynn- Aye
Councilman Martini – Aye
Councilman Morris – Aye 3 Ayes 0 Nays Adopted
Councilman Petersen - Absent Councilwoman Francisco – Absent

Mr. Hansen inquired if the board would make a decision on the superintendent position before Jan 1st, 2015, Mr. Flynn said no.

Tim Chambers asked if the board had any others interested, Mr. Flynn said yes.

Bob Clark District Legislator reported that the 2015 County budget is in good shape.

He has been involved in the black fiber project which is still in process.

FEMA has begun to make partial payments to the County for the flooding relief.

Mary Lilyea spoke on the fire tax. Fire tax is based on full value, if the land tax increases so does the fire tax. Currently, special district taxes are paid on the full value of a property. With farmland going up at such a fast pace, farmers are paying a bigger share of the burden every year. Her suggestion is that farmland be taxed, for special district purposes, on the ceiling value. (This is part of the Agricultural District law) This value, determined by the State, is what the land can produce and farmers make a living at rather than the market value. This shifts the burden for taxpayers. For example, currently the fire tax rate is \$.54 per thousand. Applying the ag exemption to just the farm land would bring the fire tax to \$.64 per thousand. So a \$100,000 house is currently paying \$54 a year fire tax and with the ag exemption applied, they would pay \$64 a year in fire tax. Farmers would continue pay fire tax on their homes and buildings the same as everyone else. It's just the vacant farmland that would be taxed based on the ag ceiling value. Farms will be going up with the 2015 revaluation project approximately 15-20%. That means that without applying the ag exemption for fire protection farmers will be picking up an even greater share of the burden.

Mr. Flynn made a motion to move into executive session for a personnel issue, 2nd by Mr. Morris at 8:05PM.

Moved out of executive session at 8:30pm, no action taken, Mr Flynn made a motion to closed the meeting, 2nd Mr. Martini , carried at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,