

Town of Burns Public hearing - Local Law & SEQR
April 14, 2022

Town Personnel Present: Supervisor Dianne Freiner, Councilman Richard Butler, Councilman Daniel Duthoy, Councilman Jeramie Hurlbut, Councilman William Mammosser, Clerk Stephanie Miller, Highway Supervisor Glenn Odell, Dog Control Officer John Owens, Justice David Gominiak.

Citizens Present: William Phelps, David Butler, Staci Derrenbacher, James Neary, Marie Hoffman, Steve Marcus, Elaina Gordon, Eric Gordon, Colt Ellerstein, Tom Hoffman, Fran Hoffman, David Manning, Dustin Gordon, Darlene Clancy, Chris Maker, Jared Maker, Peter Rauber, Rodney Acomb, Patricia Schultz, Fred Greenthal

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Freiner at 7:00pm, opening the floor for comments.

Fran Hoffman: Wants to know what changes were made to the Local Law, if the town had any specific bullet points. Supervisor Freiner said the buffer zone on Bull Rd has been changed, and the town decided trees/grass needed to be planted. Councilman Hurlbut explained the adjustment was made because it would be more work to move dirt and level ground instead of planting taller trees.

Fred Greenthal: Concerned about Eagles nest on Rt 70. Councilman Hurlbut stated the solar must stay ¼ mile from the nest.

Tom Hoffman: How much of Bull Rd does it cover? Councilman Hurlbut explained it must be further down the road because of the eagle nest. It will be on both sides of Bull Rd. Tom stated he is not in favor of the solar project.

James Neary: Wondering if the drainage will go onto his property and if the law can be changed to protect his property. Supervisor Freiner said the town can look into that.

Chris Maker: Asked if the board is in favor of the solar at all, and when the meeting was advertised. Councilman Hurlbut explained the 94c is out of the town's hands, it has gone up to the state level. Supervisor Freiner explained the history about how the town was approached by the solar companies. Councilman Butler stated the board believed it ultimately came down to a landowner decision.

Fran Hoffman: Calculated estimates on acreage at \$200/acre, the town would only gain \$76,000. Supervisor Freiner explained those figures were the original numbers when other land in Dansville was included, so the estimates have changed and the Pilot program has not been negotiated yet.

Jared Maker: Asked if solar companies are responsible for NYSEG. Councilman Hurlbut stated the bond is responsible and reassessed every 5 years.

Chris Maker: Stated the valley is being targeted because of the 3 phase high voltage lines that run through it. The direct interconnected projects have been causing overloads which is what has been causing our local power outages. The main lines are running over capacity at this point.

Fred Greenthal: Asked what happens to the panels when they are expired. Patricia Schultz commented, stating they cannot be recycled because they leech toxins. Because of this the land can also never be used again for farming.

Steve Marcus: Asked if there will be reduced electricity for residents. Supervisor Freiner stated there will be around \$40/year reduction.

Tom Hoffman: Thanks landowners should have to live next to properties they are installing panels on. He also asked if DEC regulations will prevent him from hunting on his property if it is located next to the solar panels.

Rodney Acomb: Asked how solar is going to be classified in the taxes. Supervisor Freiner explained they are off the tax rolls. Rodney said he believes the town will lose tax money.

Chris Maker: Asked about the "clawback penalty" Councilman Hurlbut stated EDF is paying the landowner the penalty.

Fred Greenthal: Stated panels are cleaned with hazardous materials and he is concerned about it going into the ground, as it is near the wetlands south of the project, and they are the headwaters for the Chesapeake Bay.

Marie Hoffman: Asked if the town submitted a funding request. Councilman Hurlbut stated it was \$94,000. She asked who the town attorney was, Councilman Hurlbut said Dwight Kanyuck.

Supervisor Freiner stated there will be another informational meeting at the legion that will explain more of these questions, at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at the end of the regular town meeting at 9:05pm.