Town of Independence

Meeting Minutes of Public Hearing

RE: OYA Renewables Solar Application Projects

January 29, 2024

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on January 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for a public hearing regarding the renewal of permits for the OYA solar projects: Chenunda Creek and Independence North.

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council Meunier, Bissett, Brubaker and Howe; Town Clerk, Bissett; Glenn MacKay, OYA Project Manager; Tim Freitag, of Bohler Engineering , environmental and permit consultant; Joel Hoffman, local property owner; and Gudrun Scott, local property owner.

The hearing was opened at 6:15 p.m.

Supervisor Reichman advised that the law does not allow for automatic extensions of these projects, thus the need for the public hearing. The proposed projects are essentially the same as the original projects which were approved on July 23, 2020.

Glenn MacKay advised the five (5) megawatt Independence North project has been re-shaped, reducing the footprint by 5 acres. The Chenunda Creek project had not had any measurable change in footprint.

Joel Hoffman, local property owner, states he is okay with the projects and has no objections to renewing the permits.

Gudrun Scott, local property owner, was interested in the possibility of solar farms for the local Native American population to help with heating costs. Mr. MacKay gave her his card and offered to discuss the matter with her further if desired.

Tim Freitag discussed the studies conducted and provided maps for review.

Attorney Buck will prepare and provide final documents for signatures.

Supervisor Reichman closed the hearing at 6:35 p.m.

A motion was offered by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Howe and carried by all for a Resolution to renew the permits for both OYA solar projects.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Mary G. Bissett, Town Clerk