

Town Of Independence
Public Hearing
Regular Meeting
September 12th, 2019

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on September 12th, 2019 at 6:30 pm for a Public Hearing . The hearing had been duly advertised by legal notice and posting on the Town Clerk signboard. Purpose of the Hearing was to hear all persons interested in the matter of the adoption of the introductory Local Law #1-2019 entitled "A Local Law to opt-out of the Real Property Tax Exemptions Provided for Certain Energy Systems by RPTL Section 487 in the Town of Independence".

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council: Howe, Acomb, Waters, Meunier; Town Clerk, Cindy Welch; Attorney for the Town, David Pullen.

Visitors: Terry Rasmussen, OYA Solar Inc. and eight area residents.

Supervisor Reichman opened the meeting.

Attorney for the town, Dave Pullen, spoke regarding that adopting the law would help to create a fair and equitable way of enabling the town to receive some real property tax revenue from certain otherwise exempt systems by negotiating PILOT payments (Payments in lieu of taxes). Mr. Rasmussen spoke explaining that OYA Solar Inc. had been in business for about ten years. Highlights he spoke on included:

- project would commence about July 2020 and would operate at least 25 years
- A Bond would be posted at the beginning that would be used at the end to pay for costs of demolition
- would hire local labor to build
- would be agreeable to do a glare study
- they take care of the ground so that the soil is good when the project is demolished
- they have done PILOTS in Jefferson and Orange counties.

Visitors asked questions, discussion was held and the hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order and the pledge was given.

A motion was made by Council Acomb to approve the August 8, 2019 minutes seconded by Council Waters and carried by all.

A motion was made by Council Howe to approve the August 19, 2019 minutes seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all.

Upon further discussion, **Resolution #7-2019 -Resolution to Adopt Local Law #1-2019** was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Howe. The Clerk called a roll vote with all voting Yes. Clerk to submit paperwork to the attorney for the town.

In the absence of Highway Superintendent, Denny Graves, the highway report was read by Supervisor Reichman.

Work report: Oil and Stone of Heselton Rd. Crossroad; cleanup from storm damage; cutting brush on Nye Road, work on Paynesville Hill; mowing roadsides; assisting towns of Willing and Andover.

Equipment report: serviced the 2015 Peterbilt.

Fuel Report:

	Used	Purchased	Water	Fire Dept.	IES	Police	Measure
Gas:	169.9	0 gals	9			11.9	2'3"
Diesel:	863.0	0		60	22.5	0	2'3"

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Water report: new meters purchased, still attempting to schedule with Corrpro to repair the Cathodic unit.

Discussion again held regarding the Little League Field area with a motion by Supervisor Reichman to purchase approximately 1500 sq.ft. for \$1000.00, including installing 130 ft. of wooden fence to match the current owner's existing fence, paying for survey and attorney fees. Motion was seconded by Council Acomb and approved by all. Board members asked Attorney Pullen if his office could draw up the purchase agreement, Pullen replied yes. Report to follow.

Discussion was held concerning the Town Assessor position. (Board had interviewed two applicants). Motion was made by Council Meunier seconded by Council Waters to hire Teresa Lyons. Appointment effective October 2, 2019. Motion carried by all.

Discussion was held regarding Steuben Trust Bank closing the Independence branch. Motion by Council Acomb seconded by Council Meunier to change to First Citizens Bank effective as soon as possible. Motion carried by all.

Other discussion:

- Budget workshop 9/17/19 at 5:30
- Trick or Treat hours - 10/31/19 --- 6-8 pm
- WCS Backflow protection report filed with the Town Clerk

The Clerk, Financial, Justice, and Police monthly reports were reviewed by board members.

Bills were reviewed with a motion made by Supervisor Reichman seconded by Council Meunier and approved by all to pay abstracts #9-2019 in the following amounts:

General	Vouchers	145-159	\$30906.00
Highway		130-149	\$53084.93
Water		53-63	\$11880.45

A motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Reichman seconded by Council Waters and approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Cindy Welch, Town Clerk

