

Resolution-Consolidated Funding for Solar Project

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz has had a long-standing interest in Sustainability and Renewable Energy, and every aspect of energy and resource conservation was even more strongly emphasized when the US Environmental Protection Agency designated New Paltz as a Zero-Waste community, one of only 13 nation-wide, and

WHEREAS, looking at the closed, capped landfill property as the centerpiece of a multi-use Project, the Town reviewed efforts at the neighboring Town of Esopus, where plans for a Landfill Photovoltaic Generation (PV-on- Landfill) Project have been extensively developed, and

WHEREAS, the Town learned that Esopus intends to generate – on an annual basis -- all the electricity needed for Municipal use, and

WHEREAS, because the Town and Village of New Paltz have been working collaboratively on a range of resource and governance matters, the Municipalities elected to develop PV-on-Landfill facilities as a joint Project, and

WHEREAS, to scale up to the production of the Village's and Town's entire annual requirement of electricity for all Municipal uses, the Town Board and Village Trustees in September 2012 authorized a Solicitation for a Solar Generating Facility located at the closed, capped landfill, and

WHEREAS, during the succeeding planning process, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Company provided an electric service upgrade cost prior to the joint Project's incurring the expense of a Coordinated Electric Service Interconnection Report (CESIR), with the cost of utility-side interconnection costs to the Town property then determined to be approximately \$420,000 (Four-hundred twenty thousand dollars), and

WHEREAS, the impact of those interconnection costs on the ultimate price points in a Power Purchase Agreement has been an overwhelming disincentive to proceeding with the proposed PV-on-Landfill Project, and

WHEREAS, a similar situation regarding utility-side electric service up-grade costs has held up the Town of Esopus Project, and

WHEREAS, our precedent-setting joint Project with the Village of New Paltz would become feasible if each Municipality could receive a grant commensurate with the infrastructure funding gap, and

WHEREAS, Town and Village jointly authorized the Solar Project Manager to apply for a total of \$400,000 in Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Grants from the New York Department of State; however, no such awards were received, and

WHEREAS, the Municipalities now have the opportunity to present a combined Proposal, requesting Priority Project status from the MHREDC, and

WHEREAS, each Municipality's Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) will be for the very high leverage of private investment and economic impact created by each potential grant, but considering them together as a group will make it possible for the MHREDC to demonstrate to the other 9 Regional Economic Development Councils a replicable example of Regional Multiple-Municipality collaboration, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that each Municipality's CFA be submitted by July 30,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of New Paltz hereby authorizes the Supervisor to sign a CFA prepared by our Solar Project Manager, with copies provided to the Town Board before submittal on July 30.