



Town of New Paltz

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Supervisor Susan Zimet
Councilman Kevin Barry
Councilwoman Jean Gallucci
Councilman Jeff Logan
Councilman Dan Torres

Resolution on Proposed Transmission Upgrades

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held at the Town Hall, in New Paltz, New York, on the 20th day of February, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Susan Zimet, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Susan Zimet	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Kevin Barry	<u> </u>	<u> ✓ </u>
Councilwoman Jean Gallucci	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Jeff Logan	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Dan Torres	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Torres who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci to wit:

WHEREAS, as part of Governor Cuomo's *New York State Energy Highway Blueprint*, the Public Service Commission (PSC) was tasked with initiating Alternating Current transmission upgrades to increase the capacity to move excess power from upstate to downstate, thus relieving "existing bottlenecks" by adding at least 1,000 additional MW of electric transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission is currently reviewing proposals submitted by four developers, in a comparative process, with the goal of accepting one of them; and

WHEREAS, three of the proposed plans call for upgrades in Columbia and Dutchess Counties, which include the construction of new, taller towers and expansion of the existing right-of-way, while a fourth plan, proposed by Boundless Energy, calls for upgrading transmission lines in Ulster County and tunneling under the Hudson River near Newburgh, without constructing new towers or widening corridors, and at a lower cost than the other proposals; and

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WHEREAS, upgrades that involve building new towers or widening the right of way could damage the environment, impair scenic view sheds, and negatively impact property values and the region's tourism economy; and

WHEREAS, the cost of transmission upgrades will be paid by electricity ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo, in his State of the State message, has called for speeding up the process of siting transmission upgrades and giving preference to projects that remain within the existing right of way; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Portfolio Standard adopted by the State of New York calls for obtaining 30 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015, however none of the four proposals addresses the question of how the proposed projects would enable improved and lower-cost access to transmission and distribution networks for projects involving local renewable generation, such as municipal projects sited on capped landfills and other brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan calls for becoming less energy and fossil fuel intensive while strengthening the regional economy, expanding renewable energy generation exponentially across the Region, and improving the resilience of the energy delivery system; and

WHEREAS, the PSC will meet on February 20 to review the process it has instituted to select and oversee implementation of the proposed transmission upgrades;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz calls on the PSC to incorporate in its proceedings firm requirements that 1) proposed transmission upgrades shall not include construction of additional, taller towers or widen the right of way, 2) preference shall be given to lower-cost proposals, 3) upgrades shall include a plan for supporting affordable local distributed renewable generation that takes into account both transmission and distribution; 4) that proposals demonstrate how they will advance the New York State Renewable Portfolio Standard and Federal, State, and

Regional plans to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation; and that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Audrey Zibelman, chairwoman of the PSC, with additional copies to Governor Cuomo and the members of the New York State Energy Board.

VOTE:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Supervisor Zimet	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Barry	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> ✓ </u>
Councilwoman Gallucci	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Logan	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Councilman Torres	<u> ✓ </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

Rosanna Mazzaccari

Rosanna Mazzaccari, Town Clerk

February 21, 2014

Date