

**Public Hearing-EV Charging Stations
Town Board Meeting
February 20, 2014
7:15 p.m.**

Present: Supervisor Susan Zimet, Councilwoman Jean Gallucci, Councilman Dan Torres, Councilman Jeff Logan. **Absent:** Councilman Kevin Barry.

At 7:23 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to open the Public Hearing on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Comment:

Andy Balmuth, Regional Sales Director of ChargePoint, NJ was present to provide the Board with information and best practices from experiences in the industry. He commended the Town Board for being the first municipality in Ulster County to have charging stations in its code. ChargePoint is the largest and most open EV charging network in the world. Every 10 seconds, a driver connects to a ChargePoint station and by initializing over 3.7 million charging sessions, ChargePoint drivers have saved over 2.6 million gallons of gasoline and driven 65 million gas free miles. Best Practices include: Charging for charging, PCI Compliance, Having stations on Networks, Cord Management is Critical, Location and Installation. The Town Board thanked Mr. Balmuth for coming.

At 7:55 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:58 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to open the meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda: +Re-adopt Town Seal.

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Announcements:

Supervisor Zimet indicated that the Town received \$30,000 from Woodland Pond for an outstanding water/sewer usage debt that was never collected.

Cusanno/Wortmann Annexation:

The Town and Village were petitioned to annex property at 152 Rte. 32 North. The Village held a public hearing and left it open on February 12th. According to Town Attorney Joe Moriello, the Town and Village are required to hold a joint public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to set a joint public hearing with the Village on this annexation for March 27th at 7:15 p.m., with both clerks noticing the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried. The Town Clerk will request that this be put on the Village's February 26th agenda for approval.

Town Map:

Supervisor Zimet indicated that the Town is being asked to amend the Town Map. Attorney George Lithco indicated that Town law requires that in order to get a building permit, a property must have 15 feet of actual frontage on a street shown on the official Town Map. In the proposal to amend the official map, it was proposed that there should be a new classification, right-of-way, which can be an easement. That would solve the problem of having it shown on the official map. But it would not solve the problem that Town Law 280A requires of having actual frontage on the street. Therefore the Town can do one of two things. It can supersede Town Law 280A. Or the alternative would be to go back and revisit an Open Development Area, which is specifically allowed by Town Law 280A.

Attorney Lithco suggested directing the Town Engineer to prepare guidelines that will provide guidance to an applicant for an ODA.

Supervisor Zimet and Councilman Logan will work on this.

New Capacity Zone Resolution:

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in an order issued on August 13, 2013, accepted the tariff revisions proposed by the New York Independent System Operator to create a New Capacity Zone (NCZ) that groups the mid-Hudson Valley (electricity load zone G) in the same capacity zone as Westchester and New York City (Zones H, I, and J); and

WHEREAS, this order is scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the NCZ is to address existing transmission constraints by altering the price signals in wholesale energy markets to attract investors in new plants whose Installed Capacity (ICAP) will be sufficient to meet electricity needs in times of peak demand; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) opposes the creation of the NCZ, stating that the order ignores PSC proceedings underway to address transmission constraints by upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, these transmission upgrades were recommended by the Governor's New York State Energy Highway Blueprint, which seeks to increase the capacity of transmission lines to carry 1,000 MW of additional lower-cost power from the north and west to meet downstate needs, eliminating bottlenecks in transmission; and

WHEREAS, the PSC is currently reviewing four proposals to accomplish the task of upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the PSC further stated on September 12, 2013, that the NCZ will result in unjust and unreasonable electricity rates, possibly increasing rates by as much as 25%, costing rate-payers in the new zone over half a billion dollars in a three-year period; and

WHEREAS, Central Hudson-Fortis, a utility serving rate-payers in Zone G, also opposes the creation of the NCZ, estimating that it will increase prices by at least 6% for residential and 11% for industrial rate-payers; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will hurt many small to medium-sized industries, including the dairy industry for whom electrical power makes up a large percentage of its costs; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will cause disproportionate harm to low- and fixed income rate-payers, particularly in light of the Public Service Commission's report that the percentage of customers in the Central Hudson service area whose electricity has been shut off for not paying their bills has risen from 1.89% to 5.99% in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the NCZ will unfairly burden rate-payers in upstate counties, whose "peak" energy needs are much lower than those in Westchester and New York City; and

WHEREAS, the express purpose of the NCZ is to create new "peaking" capacity, which favors increased use of fossil fuel-based generation; and

WHEREAS, increasing fossil fuel generation contradicts and in no way addresses New York State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of at least 30% renewable electricity by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the FERC has failed to adequately consider these proposed transmission upgrades, which make the NCZ unnecessary;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of New Paltz calls upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to postpone indefinitely its order issued August 13, 2013, which conflicts with State efforts currently underway to address the same problem of transmission constraints; and further calls on N.Y. Governor Cuomo, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and U.S. Representative Gibson to intervene on our behalf to halt the creation of the NCZ; and that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Cuomo, the FERC, the PSC, Central Hudson-Fortis, Federal and State Elected Representatives, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Public Utility Law Project of NY (PULP), and the Business Council of the State of New York.

Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Resolution on Proposed Transmission Upgrades:

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to adopt the following resolution:

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

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.

Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Park Point:

Wilmorite representatives will be attending next week's Town Board meeting on February 27th to discuss the PILOT. There could be a large turnout.

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to spend up to \$200 to reimburse BOCES or any other location that charges a fee for the use of its space. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to hold Public Comment after the discussion with Wilmorite at next week's meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:55 p.m. the Town Board exercised their attorney-client privilege to meet with Attorney George Lithco to prepare for next week's public meeting with Wilmorite.

At 10:30 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Historian Job Description:

Tabled. Due to the inclement weather, the Historic Preservation Meeting was cancelled.

Re-Adopt Town Seal:

Councilman Torres uncovered the original hand drawn Town Seal from 1966 and asked if anyone would be willing to re-colorize it. Councilman Torres thanked Matthew Maley for volunteering to do the job, and would like to send him a letter of Thanks on behalf of the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Torres to re-adopt the new colorized Town Seal. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that the Town and Village would like to thank the Highway Department for its hard work during the bad weather this winter.

Department Reports:

Supervisor Zimet indicated that the 1st and 2nd Police Commission Meetings were snowed out. However she has been meeting with the Chief to discuss a variety of issues.

Bookkeeper Request:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to make the bookkeeper's part-time help Rachel Moreau full-time with an increase of 12 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$12. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor's Request:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to hire Ann Berkley part-time for 25 hours per week at a rate of \$12 per hour in the Supervisor's Office. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Torres to accept the minute of *January 15, 2014*. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to accept the minutes of *January 23, 2014*. Seconded by Councilman Torres, all aye votes cast. Councilwoman Gallucci abstained due to her absence from the meeting. Motion carried.

Warrant:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the February Warrant in the amount of \$1,251,969.82. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:50 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk