

April 12, 2021

The Saratoga Town Board met at 6:00 pm in the town hall. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. All members were present. The meeting was officially noticed on April 9, 2021.

The Town Board considered issuing an access easement over Town property on Tower Road to neighboring landowner. Tower Road going into the old landfill is a public highway that has not been discontinued. Since the Town has placed a gate at the entrance of Tower Road to avoid garbage being dumped at the landfill site or the monitoring wells and vent pipes damaged, the Town does not get road aid for that portion of Tower Road. The agreement with Daniel Spaulding would give him a fifteen foot wide by six hundred foot long private access easement to his property that would run along the South East portion of the Towns' property, beginning at the end of Tower Road. With this accepted agreement, the Town of Saratoga would remove the gate at the entrance off of Hollywood Road. Wood County Solar Project would place signs, install cameras, and install fencing on the North side of Tower Road at the start of the Town of Saratoga's property running the entirety of the property to the East. They would also install a new gate in order for the Town to access the landfill property. The Board discussed road maintenance, access for both the Town and water monitoring company, other possible options for access, and future use of the property. There was concern over the condition of the road and the maintenance the Town would be responsible if they allowed the easement. The road would just need to be passable and it would be up to the Town if they would like to update the road; but it would not be required. The Towns' attorney, Larry Konopacki, has spent many hours on not only this agreement, but several other items and agreements that have needed to be addressed for Wood County Solar. His fees are being paid by the Town. Wood County Solar has been approached about paying all fees incurred due to the different items that have come up regarding the solar project. McDonald made a motion to approve the private access easement over Town property on Tower Road to the neighboring landowner, Daniel Spaulding, as long as the legal fees that the Town has incurred due to Wood County Solar project are paid by Wood County Solar. The Town would like at least a minimum 5 foot high fence to be installed the length of the property, and an additional walk thru gate be added to the agreement with Wood County Solar. Carrell seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board discussed hiring an Independent Consultant to review the solar project and its potential impacts on the community. Wood County Solar agreed to contribute \$5,000 towards the cost of a third party consultant. The Towns' attorney recommended Kent Syverson with Syverson GeoConsulting, LLC.

He would provide the following for the Wood County Solar Project;

- Represent the interests of the Town Board and residents.
- Review documents provided by Savion/Alliant Energy and any other documents as instructed by the Town, and references as necessary to thoroughly understand the solar project. The assessment is to evaluate the project's potential impacts on public health, safety, and welfare.
- Research issues to prepare for answering the questions of the Town Board and Township residents.

Kent's consulting background is in sedimentology, hydrogeology, and geotechnical aspects of soil. He has physics coursework that feels will allow him to research and understand the critical aspects of the solar project.

Carrell made a motion to hire Syberon GeoConsulting, LLC to do a third party review of the solar project for a cost of \$5,000 and an additional Town meeting to do a presentation of his results along with questions and answers for the Town Board and residents at a cost of \$1123.20. Heeg seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Building Inspector position with Josh Volz. Lorelei Fuehrer, the current inspector for the Town will be retiring at the end of June. Lorelei has worked with Josh at a previous job. Lorelei would continue to finish out permits that were issued with her and would be willing to help Josh with questions that may arise. Josh has his HVAC, Construction, and plumbing certifications and is working on getting his electrical certification. He would not do commercial permits, only tracking, since those would have to be done through the State. Josh lives locally so there shouldn't be a problem with him doing the inspections in a timely manner. Currently the Town retains 20% of the permit fee and the Building inspector gets 80%. Josh would continue that split with the Town. The Board would like him to attend one Board meeting a month. Josh would accept the position as the Towns' Building Inspector. McDonald made a motion to approve Josh Volz's acceptance to become the Towns' Building Inspector after Lorelei Fuehrer's retirement in June 2021. Heeg seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board discussed the Town of Rome's proposed Zoning change that would be across the street from the Town of Saratoga. They would like to change the zoning of a 62.4 acre parcel that is currently zoned forest & outdoor recreation to rural residence district. There is some concern that Town of Saratoga residents could be impacted negatively on their property values. The Town of Rome's zoning allows a camper to be parked all year around for use and would allow a second camper on the property from May – October. Supervisor Carrell and Lorelei, the Building Inspector, has talked to representatives from the Town of Rome and they would be interested in talking with the Town of Saratoga. Lorelei will attend the Town of Rome Plan Commission meeting on April 13th and speak with them about the Town of Saratoga's concerns.

Patty Heeg and Douglas Passineau were thanked for their many years of service as Town Board Supervisors.

Carrell made a motion to adjourn. McDonald seconded it. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Heidi Kawleski, Clerk