

Village of Schoharie
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2019

Presiding: Mayor Caza

Present: Trustee Palmer, Trustee Woods, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Medak, Clerk/Treasurer Leslie J. Price, PT Typist Debra Byrne

Attendees: Len & Meg Berdan, Terry Wilbur, Marion Jaqueway, James Cook, Ashley Foland, Ben Griffen, Jason Ballard, Diana Bell Jackson and Patsy Nicosia from The Times Journal

Meeting brought to order by Mayor Caza @ 6:33PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Privilege of the Floor: (POF):

1. Marion Jaqueway – Presented to the Board a list of concerns regarding the Bliss Road Solar Project.
 - a. Many Village and Town residents are not aware of the project.
 - b. Will the poles from the site to the substation be able to handle the power?
 - c. Project goes against the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Schoharie. Marion read several paragraphs of the Towns Comprehensive Plan.
 - d. Value of surrounding properties will decrease in value.
 - e. Concerns regarding the water run-off, flooding, sink holes on this property.
 - f. Concerns on how to recycle the solar panels after use. Are these panels toxic in any way?
 - g. Offered to take anyone for a tour of her property to show the size and site of this project.
 - h. This group is not against solar power, just afraid to jump in without the proper information and education.
2. Jason Ballard – Concerns over Bliss Road Solar Project
 - a. Very concerned over drainage problems for his property as well as the Village of Schoharie, once all the trees are removed from this projected site. Once the trees are removed there will be no barrier for water runoff.
 - b. Questioned the regulations for The Birchez. Was supposed to be 55 and older and no children, no pets. Has this been monitored? Would like the Village to investigate this as he see's all aged people as well as children and used cars being parked on the Fire Lane.
3. Diana Bell Jackson – Was representing Schoharie Promotional.
 - a. First ever Corn Hole Tournament at Fox Creek on October 19th, 2019.
 - b. Invited the Board members to their October 1st meeting regarding the stone plaque to go by the County Courtyard. Also asked about the Letter of Support from the Village for this project. This letter was mailed to the County.
 - c. October 28th Promotional will be cleaning up the highways and they are looking for volunteers.
 - d. November 29th Promotional will be turning on the lights at Fox Creek for the holidays. There will be a party following the light ceremony and all are invited.
4. Terry Wilbur – Supports Marion Jaqueway and feels this is a personal project, not a community project.
5. Len & Meg Berdan – Supporting their Solar Project.
 - a. This Solar Project is a community planned project and follows all laws and zoning use as per the Zoning Board.
 - b. This project will supply power to 2,000 homes. Project will supply clean energy at discounted costs to residents.
 - c. Project will enhance Tax Base and present PILOT program to project.
 - d. All drainage concerns will be addressed by Borrego.

6. Marion Jaqueway – rebuffed Berdan’s comments, after 20 years they will evaluate the market to see if they will continue with the project.
7. Jason Ballard – rebuffed Berdan’s remarks stating that storms are more intense and cutting down trees is a big deal for the entire Village.
8. Ben Griffen – asked if Town was seeking the Village’s support for this project. He also asked if the expansion of Cobleskill Stone was shut down by the Town why is this project any different? Mayor responded that the Town does not have to seek the Village’s approval on this project.
9. Mayor Caza – Asked permission to read the draft of the letter he would be giving to the Berdan’s and stressed the letter was in support of the process not the project itself.
10. James Cook – Regarding his property at 130 Fair Street, stated he appreciated the Village letting go of the past due Village Water and Sewer invoices before he owned the property but noticed on his current bill there were penalties incurred before he took possession on this property on June 26th, 2019. He has made a payment of \$53.72 on the new bill which he prorated. He is asking the Village Board to remove previous taxes and penalties as of June 26th, 2019. Mayor Caza proposed that the previous bills as well as the penalties be removed and accept the payment of \$53.72 as paid in full.

Motion made by Trustee Medak second by Trustee Johnson unanimously carried to approve the prorated amount of \$53.72 as payment in full and removing any previous charges and penalties.

11. Mayor Caza asked for a motion to present the Berdan’s with a letter of support from the Village to continue the process for the Bliss Solar Project.

- a. Trustee Medak – He agrees that renewable energy is important and believes that it is important that all concerns are met. He supports this project if all concerns are met.
- b. Trustee Johnson is a strong advocate to be sure the Town does it’s due diligent to make sure all concerns are met including visual impact, animal life, drainage and water to the Village before moving forward on this project.
- c. Trustee Palmer wants to wait on the letter until he hears from the Village residents who are scheduled to speak at the Town Board meeting.
- d. Trustee Wood does not see a need to give a letter now.

Motion made by Mayor Caza second by Trustee Johnson to present the Berdand’s with a letter of support from the Village. Motion approved by majority vote. See attached, Letter to Berdand.

Counted Vote – Yay Mayor Caza, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Palmer
 Nay – Trustee Wood
 Abstain – Trustee Medak

7:30PM Mayor Caza proposed short break

7:50PM Meeting reconvened.

Minutes: August 13, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2019 Employee Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Trustee Wood second by Trustee Johnson unanimously carried to approve meeting minutes for August 13th and August 21st, 2019 as written.

Bills:

Motion made by Trustee Johnson second by Trustee Palmer unanimously carried to approve the invoices on the August Abstract. The Abstract reads as follows:

General	\$ 28,938.63
Water	\$125,442.62
Sewer	\$ 3,476.14
Pool	\$ 2,546.11

Bank Statements for August were reviewed and signed by the Board

Incoming Correspondence: Reviewed and Discussed

- A. Spectrum Cable will be sending a check to the Village of Schoharie in the amount of \$148,500.00 for the purpose of upgrading Schopeg's equipment. This is indicated in section 10.3 of the newly approved Cable Franchise Agreement with Spectrum.

Motion made by Trustee Johnson second by Trustee Medak unanimously carried to approve using the Village of Schoharie as a pass thru and sending Schopeg a check in accordance to Section 10.3 in Franchise Agreement.

Outgoing Correspondence: Reviewed and Discuss

- A. Per the Board's discussion, a letter was mailed out to Flyod Guernsey III concerning his last water/sewer tax bill.
- B. Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS): Village will request their payment in the amount of \$1,351.94 for their 2019 PILOT.

Old Business: Reviewed and Discuss

- A. Justice Audit – On August 22, 2019 the Village Clerk emailed the 2018-2019 Audit and Resolution # 8-2019 to the Unified Court System.
- B. Fema Wastewater Treatment Plan – 75% already in our bank account, additional \$61,000 has just been received.
- C. Walk-About by Village Board – Trustee Johnson made a list of observations from the Trustee walk-about and passed this around to the Board. Would like to schedule future walk-about and perhaps include DPW.

New Business:

- A. Shared Services Agreement between NYSDOT and the Village of Schoharie was emailed to the Board. Board would like to go through a check list at the next Employees Meeting and discuss street sweeping.

Motion made by Trustee Medak second by Trustee Palmer unanimously carried to approve the Mayor signing the Shared Services Agreement between NYSDOT and the Village of Schoharie.

- B. Trustee Johnson would like to work with Angela Kogler to update Village website. Would also like to put the 2019-2020 Village Budget on the website.
- C. Trail Advisory meeting is set for September 18th at 6:00PM. Dave Henry is Chairperson.

Other:

- **Schoharie County Village Officers Association meeting is on Wednesday September 25, 2019 hosted by the Village of Sharon Springs**
- **The next Employees Meeting is scheduled for 6:30PM Wednesday September 18th, 2019**
- **Next Village Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 8th, 2019 at 6:30PM.**

Motion made by Trustee Palmer second by Trustee Johnson unanimously carried to adjourn meeting at 8:22PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A Byrne

JEFFERY PALMER, TRUSTEE
MARK WOOD, TRUSTEE
PETER JOHNSON, TRUSTEE
SAL MEDAK, TRUSTEE

PO BOX 219
SCHOHARIE, NY 12157-0219
E-MAIL: villscho@midtel.net

Mr. Leonard & Ms. Margaret Berdan
136 Main St., PO Box 68
Schoharie, NY 12157



LAWRENCE J. CAZA, MAYOR

LESLIE J. PRICE
CLERK AND TREASURER

518-295-8500
(FAX) 518-295-8501
TDD NUMBER 1-800-662-1220

Dear Len and Meg:

Our neighbor, the Town, is beginning the procedure of a State Environmental Quality Review, a SEQR, for the Bliss Road Solar Project that is being considered for the property you own. The SEQR is just one part of an entire undertaking involved in the path toward a potential Special Use Permit for the Solar Array Project. The Village gave its approval for the Town to be the "Lead Agency" in this SEQR and we are anxious to see what the results will be.

The Bliss Road Solar Project is outside the boundaries of the Village of Schoharie. Before this Project will move forward, it must meet all the stringent requirements of the Town's Site Plan Review Process, NY State Requirements, and the Town Planning Board's evaluation and approval processes. This path has all the necessary benchmarks and safeguards already built in. The Village of Schoharie has great confidence in its neighbor, the Town, to do what needs to be done to be sure any issuance of a Special Use Permit will come only after all concerns have been heard and all significant issues have been addressed. It is clear from the public conversation that the proposed project, while supported by many, has also raised concerns. We think the Town Board has the appropriate review process in place to accomplish the objective of a fair outcome.

Therefore, the Village of Schoharie will support the process, already underway, to have your Solar Project be properly vetted, reviewed, and fully understood. The goals of Solar Energy are worthy goals; the value of adding more solar energy to the current mix of sources for energy is indisputable. We wish to be worthy stewards of our environment and we wish to be good neighbors, neighbors who trust and support the legal process and who have faith in the people involved to do their due diligence and to seek the appropriate answers so that we can all be satisfied that the course is followed to the proper results.

We wish you, the Town Board, the Town Planning Board, and all of our neighbors the very best in discerning a positive outcome.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Caza".

Village of Schoharie Board of Trustees
Lawrence J. Caza, Mayor