

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 19, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO FLAG

Supervisor Croce opened the meeting with a salute to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Croce  
Councilman Putnam  
Councilman Farrelly  
Councilwoman Delgado  
Councilman DePew

PUBLIC HEARING – SOLAR ENERGY LAW

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to open the Solar Energy Law Public Hearing.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Supervisor Croce read the Legal Notice that appeared in the newspaper stating that there would be a Public Hearing on the Solar Energy Law this evening at 7:00 PM. He also made everyone aware that five members of the Committee that put this draft law together, were present this evening to help answer any questions or concerns. He stated that he would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their time and effort that they put in to get this local law drafted.

Supervisor Croce then asked if there were any questions from the public.

Mr. Richard Gorres, a resident from the Clintondale area, asked why the local law excluded Solar Energy Facilities in some of the Zoning Districts? He stated that it is not allowed in his District which is Hamlet-Residential.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Committee decided to not allow Solar Facilities in the smaller, hamlet, Zoning Districts as these Districts would already be congested. These facilities would more than likely be at least five or more acres and typically the lots are smaller in these hamlet Districts.

Mr. Gorres stated that he has some property, up in the back of his property, that is in the Hamlet District. This would not allow him to use the property for this type of project.

Supervisor Croce stated that they had designated the HR-1, BD-40 and BD-60 Districts because businesses are allowed and they felt that businesses coming in would not want to take up the land to put in, on the ground, solar panels. He stated that they looked at what other Town's in the area were doing with this situation and picking and choosing what fit for Plattekill. He stated that they looked at de-commissioning a facility and who would be responsible for removing the old panels if the facility were to

close down. He stated that the average life expectancy of a solar panel is approximately 15 to 20 years. What happens with these old panels? Who is responsible for them?

Supervisor Croce explained that another Town wanted to have a Letter of Credit to cover the removal and/or disposal of the solar panels. He did not feel that this was something the Town of Plattekill should do. A Letter of Credit would mean that someone would have to put up the money to replace or remove the panels and other equipment that are a part of the facility and just have that money sitting in an account for years in case it was needed. That is a lot to ask of anyone to do for such an extended period of time. He stated that he felt this law would allow residents to utilize their properties, but also protect the neighbors.

Mrs. Laskowsky asked if the Town Board was going to hold open the Public Hearing since there were not many people who attended this meeting tonight?

Supervisor Croce stated no, the Committee has been working for a long time on this local law and he has been mentioning it at previous meetings. He stated that he has also spoken with several solar companies who have received copies of the law and have known this public hearing was tonight. We have had two moratoriums, one that is still in effect, while we were drafting the law and it is time to finalize the new regulations.

Mr. Willie Castillo stated that this local law does not have anything to do with a person having solar panels for their home. This law was drafted to deal with large solar facilities that would be in the business of selling electric.

Supervisor Croce asked if there were any further comments or questions from the public?

As there were no further comments or questions:

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Solar Energy Law at 7:17 PM. Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt Local Law #3 of the Town of Plattekill entitled Solar Energy Law.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Supervisor Croce stated that this local law becomes effective when it is filed with the Secretary of State.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the July 5, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 5, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce                      Yes

Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Abstained (Absent)
Councilwoman Delgado	Yes
Councilman DePew	Yes

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had one announcement and a letter from Senator Larkin as additions to this evening’s agenda.

1.TOWN HALL CLOSING FOR RENOVATIONS:

Supervisor Croce announced that the Town Hall will be closed from August 18<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to allow for the re-construction of the bathrooms and a re-construction of the waste line for the septic system. We have been having issues for quite some time with our bathrooms and the plumbing and we need to just get this fixed once and for all.

Supervisor Croce stated that employees will be working out of the meeting room area so if there is an emergency, there will be employees here during the day. We can still answer the phones and arrangements can be made to pick up things like building permits and court documents. If someone calls, we will try to do what we can to help them. He stated that he knew this might be an inconvenience, but it will only be for one week and then we should be done.

2.LETTER FROM SENATOR LARKIN:

Supervisor Croce read a letter from Senator Larkin stating that he had secured a grant for new vests and Tasers for the Police Dept.

Supervisor Croce explained that he has been working with Senator Larkin, Chief Ryan and Lieutenant Smith since the discussion of needing new vests came up in negotiations on the officer’s labor contract. He stated that we have received a grant for this purpose in the past, but he has suggested to Chief Ryan that we consider putting funds away each year in anticipation of replacing vests for our officers. The vests do have an expiration date and the vests are fitted to the officer.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Chief will be obtaining price quotes for new vests, as per our purchasing policy.

SECTION 1 – POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2017

Supervisor Croce read the Police Department Monthly Report for June 2017. He read that there were 200 documented calls for service and a total of 68 traffic tickets were issued. He read that there were 13 motor vehicle accidents handled by the PPD with 2 persons reporting injuries.

Supervisor Croce did not read the Arrest Blotter and reminded everyone that this report, and all the other monthly reports, can be obtained at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Supervisor Croce read that there were 3 Petit Larceny cases, 1 Overdose Death case, 1 Burglary case, 1 Sexual Abuse case, 1 Sex Offender Registry case and one Fraud case worked by the Detectives. He continued to read that the PPD has received a grant of \$20,000.00 from Senator Larkin to secure the purchase of new Ballistic Vests and Tasers for our Officers. The report stated that the Department has also received some Tactical Helmets and High Velocity Vests from the DCJS as part of a joint award to the Ulster County Chiefs Association.

Supervisor Croce read that the Department currently has 15 Officers and the Chief and Lieutenant will be interviewing for hiring some new officers. Officer Colon was recalled to active duty with the US Coast Guard and he will be active there for a one year period. Detective Riley was issued a Commendation for Excellent Police Duty.

Supervisor Croce finished reading the report stating that the Annual Bruce Loertscher Scholarship Pig Roast and Car Show on June 18<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. The weather was great and a big thank you goes out to all the wonderful people who volunteered their time to make this event a success again this year. Students from each of the four school districts in Town received a scholarship to further their studies in either Agriculture or Law Enforcement.

#### SECTION 2 – BUILDING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2017

Councilwoman Delgado read the Building Department Monthly Report for June 2017. She read that there were 30 Permits issued, 9 Violations issued, 3 Violations closed, 5 Complaints taken, 1 Complaint Closed, 2 Complaints to Violations, 117 Inspections done including complaints, building, violations, fire safety, C of O's & C of C's, 15 Municipal Searches and 16 CC & C of O's issued. These numbers do not include returning phone calls and residents coming in for assistance with codes, building permits, zoning and subdivision issues.

#### SECTION 3 – DOG CONTROL MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2017

Supervisor Croce read the Dog Control Officer's Monthly Report for June 2017. He read that there were 15 calls this month including 3 calls to service from the Plattekill Police Dept., the State Police and the Ulster County Sherriff. He read that the Dog Control Officer responded to 2 active complaints which are now closed or resolved, 2 open cases that have been addressed but are still on-going, 2 stray dogs were impounded, 1 appearance ticket was issued, there is currently 1 dog in the kennel and there is 1 dangerous dog case in the Plattekill Court.

Supervisor Croce also read a reminder from the Dog Control Officer stating that residents should remember not to leave their pets in their vehicles, even if it is running. It is better to leave your pets home.

Supervisor Croce finished by reading a note from the Dog Control Officer. He stated that most years there are at least 3 or 4 missing dog calls after the Town fireworks display. This year there was only 1 call on July 2 and none related to the fireworks display!

#### SECTION 4 – RECREATION DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce read the Recreation Dept. Monthly Report. He read that Summer Camp was in full swing and there were even a few older siblings that joined during the second week after seeing how much fun they were having. She stated that there were still some issues with collecting the trip money and she would suggest just having one total camp fee to cover everything next year.

Supervisor Croce read that the Town Board was invited to the "End of the Camp Picnic/Talent Show on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Hope you can attend!

Supervisor Croce continued to read that Plattekill Residents Day at Rocking Horse Ranch has been set for Sunday, October 15, 2017 and there will be 150 tickets for sale at \$25.00 each. This cost includes

most activities and a full buffet lunch. There is an addition fee, paid in person that day, for anyone wanting to go horseback riding.

There was some discussion on the fee schedule for Summer Camp. This year we had one cost for Camp itself and another fee for the trips. This year the trips were to be paid at the start of camp to cover all the trips. Ms. Doland was stating that there was still a problem with parents paying a week or two after camp started. She would like to see one fee that covers everything, before camp starts.

Supervisor Croce stated that it is a record keeping nightmare for Ms. Doland. She is running the camp program and trying to keep track of who paid for what trip and it can be problematic.

Councilman DePew stated that he also felt one fee would be much better. He stated that the cost for the Town of Plattekill Camp is still below most other Town's in the area.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she understood what Ms. Doland was saying, but she has suggested that maybe she collect the trip money a week or so ahead of camp opening, knowing full well that there will be some stragglers. She stated that she knows some parents don't want to send their children on some or all of the trips. If the fee is included, then there is no choice.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board can discuss this in the future with Ms. Doland. We have some time until next year.

#### SECTION 5 – ASSESSOR DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2017

Councilman DePew read the Assessor's Monthly Report for June 2017. He read that there were 45 transfers, 8 foreclosures, 18 armslength transactions, 6 vacant properties, 11 residential, 1 commercial and 1 mobile home sale. He read that the sale price of residential homes only was \$152,347.00.

Supervisor Croce stated that he questioned the Assessor as to why in February and May there were no sales and so many the following months? He stated that Mr. Sabia replied that he was so busy with doing exemptions and finalizing the tax roll that he was not able to get to the sales until the following month. This means that the March amount was a combination of February and March and the June amount is a combination of May and June. So some of these amounts are for two months instead of individual months.

#### SECTION 6 – BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2017

Councilwoman Delgado read the Buildings & Grounds Dept. Monthly Report for June 2017. She read that they finished the replacement of the gasoline pump and meter at the Highway Dept., moved the containers at the Transfer Station and cleaned around them, dealt with a broken pipe in the bathroom at the Town Hall, repaired a door latch at the Police Station, painted a wall at the Highway Dept., maintained the Park Facilities for Summer Camp, rentals of the Pavilion and the Red, White and Blue Fireworks Celebration and met with the contractor for the police station roof repairs.

Supervisor Croce added that the roof was now done on the police station and he has informed the contractor to get a bill to him for payment.

#### SECTION 7 – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – SIGN AT TOWN PARK

Supervisor Croce stated that he had contacted the Boy Scout doing the sign project and had informed him of the changes the Town Board suggested at the last meeting. He thought he would receive

something back by this meeting, but has not received any new design as yet. This item will be put on the next agenda.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Castillo, a resident and Chairperson of the ZBA, stated that he was at the County Pool with his grand-children and he saw that the Plattekill Summer Camp group was also there. He stated that he was impressed by how well the Camp Counselors and children behaved and how well organized they were. He stated that he just wanted to say it was nice to see how everyone interacted and it made him feel good to see everyone having a good time.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would convey his comments to Ms. Doland. He stated that he was sure she would be happy to hear his complements.

Councilman DePew stated that he just wanted to say he thought the Fireworks Event went very well and he wanted to thank everyone who had a hand in making it a great event.

Supervisor Croce stated yes, he thought the fireworks were great too, but he did receive one comment that the fireworks portion of the event was shorter than usual. He stated that when we receive the contract from the fireworks company it states exactly how many "shells" will be shot off. He stated that it was the usual amount as in past years, however he also felt it was a little shorter timewise, but it was a great event.

Mr. Rich Gorres, a resident, member of the Planning Board and member of the Clintondale Fire Dept., brought up the situation of not having enough EMT's available within the Town of Plattekill to answer emergency calls. He stated that Mr. Cavazza was going to try to set up a meeting with other fire departments and rescue personnel to try to come up with some ideas on the EMT situation.

Supervisor Croce stated that he is a member of the Modena Fire Dept. and he is aware of the EMT situation. He stated that he feels it is nearing the critical point throughout the entire area. He stated that he was thinking that it is getting close to the point where the Town may have to establish an Ambulance District as a vast majority of the local calls are being forwarded to Mobil Life.

There was discussion that the State has increased the training and paperwork and there are just not enough people during the day to answer the calls.

Ms. Cindy Hilbert, also a resident and the Town Planning Board Chairperson, stated that the Town of Lloyd and Town of Marlboro already have a contract with Mobile Life.

Supervisor Croce stated that he hears the calls during the day on his radio and Plattekill, Shawangunk and Gardiner often cannot get an ambulance out. He stated that when he first joined the Fire Dept., they would get a call and it would take about an hour, maybe an hour and a half. Now, it is two or three hours, if you are lucky. And, when you get back to the station there is more paperwork that has to be done. People are hesitant to be on call because if a call comes in at 6:00 in the morning, they would not have the time to give before they have to go to work at their regular job. All the Departments are in the same situation. That is why we may have to establish an Ambulance District and the Town could contract with Mobil Life.

There was a short discussion that the Town Fire Departments currently charge a tax on the Town and County tax bill to supply fire and emergency help to the residents of their district. Maybe the Fire Dept. could respond first and contract with Mobile Life to come as a back-up to take the person to a hospital.

Councilman Putnam stated that this has been brought up and if we contract with Mobile Life to transfer to them, then we are taking two ambulances out and if we get another call, we will not be able to respond right away.

Supervisor Croce stated yes, this is true and he is not sure how to work it out. He stated that he just knows at some point, probably sooner than later, this is going to become a Town situation and we will have to deal with it then.

There were no further comments or questions from the Public.

SECTION 8 – VOUCHERS

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 7/19/2017, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$ 26,433.71, the Highway Fund amount of \$5,937.07, the Capital Projects amount of \$3,922.75, the Drainage District amount of \$441.12 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$603.75 for a total amount of \$37,338.40 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – ADJOURNMENT

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.