

TOWN OF CAMBRIA TOWN BOARD

April 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the Town of Cambria Town Board was held at 7:00 pm on the 13th day of April 2017 at the Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, Town of Cambria, New York.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor
Matthew Foe, Councilman
Jeffrey S. Hurtgam, Councilman
Joseph Ohol, Councilman
Randy M. Roberts, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT:

Tamara J. Cooper, Town Clerk
Jon MacSwan, Highway Superintendent
Robert Roberson, Attorney
Jamie Johnson, Wendel
53 interested persons

Following salute to the flag, Supervisor Ellis opened the public hearing on the Town of Cambria Opting out of Real Property Tax Exemptions Relating to Wind and Solar Energy Systems.

**PUBLIC HEARING –
Opting out of Real Property Tax Exemptions Relating to Wind and Solar Energy Systems**

The Clerk read the following public hearing notice:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Cambria will conduct a Public Hearing at the Cambria Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, Sanborn, New York, 14132, on the 13th day of April, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to hear and consider the Town of Cambria opting out of the real property tax exemptions relating to wind and solar energy systems situate in or to be situate in the Town of Cambria at which time and place the Town Board will hear all persons interested.

Supervisor Ellis began by addressing a flyer that was circulated around the Town that raised some issues on solar and wind power. He also indicated that at the present time the assessor has not put an assessment on any of the residential solar installations as she is unable to determine market value. Without a market value she cannot place a legitimate value on these properties.

Tax liability- the only tax that would be affected is the Highway Tax which is \$2.07 per thousand.

Supervisor Ellis stated that there was never any intent by the Town Board to generate any additional amount of tax revenue. The driving force behind the decision to move forward with the local law was concern over the commercial solar applications where there is a possibility of 20-40 acre sites filled with solar panels to generate power commercially. There is concern from many citizens in Town who have the potential of having these installed near their property.

Supervisor Ellis opened the Public Hearing to those present who wished to be heard:

Several people were in attendance and voiced their opinions to the Town Board about moving forward with this local law to opt out of tax exemptions for solar arrays.

The following people spoke and were opposed to the proposed local law:

David Edbauer-Plank Road
Judy Hepner-Cambria Road
Darrin-CIR Electric
Jim Rosasco-Upper Mountain Road
Christopher-Solar Liberty
Sam-Solar Liberty
Pam Columbo-Upper Mountain Road
Bob Johnson-Lower Mountain Road
Robin Ross-Townline Road
JR Rappolt- Thrall Road
Megan Dray- Campbell Blvd.
Ed Shaw- Lower Mountain Road
Harvey Huff-Upper Mountain Road
Doug Lorenze- Upper Mountain Road

- With this proposed law some residents feel the Town is making solar uneconomical for future Cambria residents who may need to install solar- a less expensive option to supply energy to their homes. If the Town starts to tax solar systems some residents will not be able to afford to stay in their homes. The assessments just increased, the new law will increase it even more.
- Requested the Town investigate alternate ways to address individual commercial solar projects.

- Receipt of a resignation from Heather Blasius, Highway Clerk, dated April 11, 2017 and he would like the Supervisor/Town Board to advertise for a replacement.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to accept the resignation of Heather Blasius, Highway Clerk, dated April 11, 2017, with regret and best wishes to her.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to authorize the Supervisor to advertise for the Highway Clerk position.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

- The plows can be removed from the remaining trucks.
- Brush is being picked up.
- Beginning road work in the Town.
- Community Room repair/painting is nearly completed.

HTI TIRE RECYCLING FACILITY

Supervisor Ellis is in receipt of a letter from HTI Tire Recycling Facility indicating effective immediately they can no longer accept off road or solid industrial tires. They do not have the ability to recycle these and technology does not exist to shred these types of tires. This will impact the town's annual October tire drop off.

ATTORNEY REPORTS

No reports.

CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

John Pressley, Cambria Fire Company, indicated that they are up 117 calls from March; 132 in total. Most of these calls are EMS. \$42,000.00 is not enough money to help out those in the community. They are going to a critical care level which means they will be carrying narcotics. An email/letter has been sent to Governor Cuomo regarding the property tax cap and its effect on the fire protection districts. Supervisor Ellis stated that the Town is limited with the amount provided because of the tax cap.

Dave Edbauer-4715 Plank Road, expressed his concern about the transparency in local government. He feels that in some cases that perhaps some strategy had taken place behind the scenes and out of the public eyes. He attended the Town Board work session expecting to see a discussion on the subject but was disappointed there was none. He is asking that the Town find a way to put more discussion in the public minutes. Mr. Roberson, Town Attorney, indicated that minutes are not verbatim and only reflect action taken. Mr. Edbauer would like the Town to consider ways to get residents involved; social media for instance.

David Godfrey, Legislator reported on the following:

- Senator Charles Schumer has been up to the Niagara Air Base to fight to get a simulator in for the tankers instead of the C130.
- Governor has announced the 3rd round of funding for High-speed Broadband-June 15th.
- Press release cautioning boaters and property owners of high water levels-banks have been compromised and levels are 13" above where it should be.
- Iroquois Job Core offers free labor for municipalities and any non-profit organizations- you buy materials and they provide the labor.

NYS RETIREMENT SYSTEM RESOLUTION

Supervisor Ellis indicated that the Town is required by the Office of NYS Comptroller to establish standard workdays and reporting procedures with elected and appointed personnel who are part of the NYS Retirement System.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Cambria, hereby establishes standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to the New York State and Local Retirement System based on time keeping system records or their record of activities.

2017

Elected Official

Amel S. Jowdy, III, Justice

The resolution in its entirety will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office of the Town Clerk for a period of 30 days.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved approve the NYS Retirement System Resolution and the entire resolution will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office of the Town Clerk for a period of 30 days.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

PROCUREMENT POLICY PROPOSALS

WATER OPERATING

Redon 5øHydrafinder Hydrant Markers

Jon MacSwan, Highway Superintendent, indicated purchase of hydrant markers to replace broken markers and stock. Three proposals were received. Low proposal received from Blair Supply Corp. Rochester, NY.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Ohol and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam, it was resolved to approve the procurement policy for 100- 5' hydrant markers with flags from Blair Supply Corp, 785 Rfahan Rd. Rochester in the amount of \$2,600.00. This is a 2017 budgeted item.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

DRAINAGE

Hydraulic thumb for excavator (drainage work)

Purchase of this Hydraulic thumb for the excavator will expedite tree removal and drainage projects. This item was not in the budget for 2017. Three proposals were received. Low proposal received from Lacey Heavy Equipment, Lockport, NY in the amount of \$7,995.00.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to approve the procurement policy for the purchase of a Hydraulic thumb for the excavator in the amount of \$7,995.00 from Lacey Heavy Equipment, Lockport, NY. (This item was not in the budget for 2017).

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Ohol, it was resolved to approve a line item transfer from the Drainage Contractual 8540.04 to Drainage Equipment 8540.02 in the amount of \$7,000.00.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by motion made by Councilman Ohol and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam.
Time: 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara J. Cooper
Town Clerk