The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Solar Energy Law Workshop on the 16th day of May at 3:00 PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Benjamin Bauer Supervisor

Tom Hohensee Councilperson

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Also Present:

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

Supervisor Bauer called the meeting to order and asked everyone in attendance to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Board discussed and started to amend the March 18th Solar Energy *Draft*.

Supervisor Bauer has been exploring the possibility of a Host Community Agreement. The Association of Towns sent him two examples to look at. Both Towns agreed to pay a percentage of megawatt usage. The Towns are now receiving approximately $2,500 -$3,500 per megawatt per year totaling approximately $12,000 annually. Both companies issued a one-time start up payment. One for $300,000.00 and one for $100,000.00 which was specifically given to the local library.

Fly Creek resident Eileen Kukenberger thought a Host Community Agreement was a horrible idea. It will look as if applicants will be granted whatever they are seeking so long as they donate a substantial amount of money to the Town. “That is not what we are here for”.

Councilperson Hohensee viewed it as a valued opportunity for the Town so long as the applicant is following our law.

Supervisor Bauer replied that the Town Board is trying to protect the Town from inappropriate Solar Development.

Kukenberger responded “We are giving birth here to something that will be here forever, and the law needs to be right”.

Fly Creek resident Connie Hobbie wanted to know how many times the existing Town Land Use Law has been overturned by the State for not allowing Solar Energy Farms. Supervisor Bauer had no answer.

Supervisor Bauer also found the NY Public Energy Commission has already passed a blanket Host Community Agreement where the Solar Energy Project pays $500.00 per megawatt to the utility that ends up getting disbursed to all the customers within the municipality that offers them the utility. This is not much money but at least something.

For next month’s meeting Councilperson Dalton volunteered to come up with language for Historic Registers and Conservation Easements. Councilperson Hohensee will submit language for Aquafers and Prime Soil. Councilperson Kjolhede will bring language addressing Maintenance Plans. What is still needed is a clear but strict Decommissioning Plan.

The next Solar Law Workshop will be held June 20th, at 3:00 PM.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela Deane

Town Clerk