NOTE – These minutes were never officially approved, the Town Board never had all 3 present members together to do so.

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Solar Energy Law Workshop on the 20th day of June at 3:00 PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

**Town Board Attendance:**

Benjamin Bauer Supervisor

Tom Hohensee Councilperson (Absent)

Chris Kjolhede Councilperson (Absent)

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Pat Kennedy Councilperson

Pam Deane Clerk (Absent)

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

Supervisor Bauer noted that Pam Deane was out of Town, and he would be taking the minutes in her place.

Supervisor Bauer reminded the board that the passed Solar Moratorium was only for 6 months, after which it could be extended another 6 months by resolution.

The Town Board discussed making changes to draft solar law to better consider historic and cultural resources, conservation easements, aquafers, and prime soils.

Those present agreed that language proposed by Deb Dalton regarding Historic and Cultural resources would be a good addition to the law.

Those present agreed that proposed language regarding conservation easements did not seem necessary.

Councilperson Hohensee had been tasked with coming up with language to add regarding aquafers and prime soils, so that discussion that tabled for a month until he could provide those updates.

Supervisor Bauer gave members of the audience a chance to give input. Eileen Kukenberger expressed her concerns regarding eminent domain being used to connect projects to the grid near her property. She also expressed concerns regarding the protection of aquafers and drinking water. Ed Hobbie expressed concerns regarding different viewsheds being treated differently, particularly language currently in the draft law regarding the viewshed from Otsego and Canadarago Lakes.

The Board discussed next steps.

Supervisor Bauer said he would continue looking into improving the language around a decommissioning plan, would follow up with Hohensee regarding aquafers and prime soils, and would update the current draft law with the historic and cultural resource language discussed at this meeting. He would also look into the cutoff point between small scale and utility scale solar energy systems.

Councilperson Kennedy said she would look into the language regarding native grasses and plantings under utility scale solar systems, to clarify what the ‘goal’ of that language was. She also said she would look into the minimum size cutoff for utility scale solar energy systems.

Councilperson Hohensee is still responsible for looking into language regarding aquafers and prime soils.

Councilperson Kjolhede is still responsible for looking into language regarding the maintenance of solar energy systems.

The next solar workshop is scheduled as usual for the third Thursday of the month at 3:00pm, which in this case will be July 18th.

Respectfully submitted

Ben Bauer

Town Supervisor