

**Town of Hoosick
Public Hearing
Monday December 28, 2015 6:30 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Supervisor Mark Surdam, Bruce Patire, Dave Sutton, Jeff Wysocki, Jenn Hyde

Public Hearing regarding: Local Law #4, 2015 Real Property Taxation for Certain Solar or Wind Energy Systems or Farm Waste Energy Systems

Publication: Legal Notice was published in the Eagle Newspaper Dec 11, 2015

Public Comment

Town Attorney Bill Ryan: explained the following: Section 487 of the Real Property Law allows Towns to opt out of the solar exemptions There is a list of Towns that have adopted local laws to opt out, which also includes school districts. There is no best course of action to follow. He advised the Board to do more research and gather public opinion. He would like to send this law to the Attorney General, the State Comptroller and Office of Real Property for their opinion on the law.

Patire: This Law excludes residents from exemptions of solar power, The Associations of Towns states, you cannot pick and choose who you want for the exemption.

Sutton: Would like to see actual figures of values and costs.

Town Attorney Ryan: an example would be - take a current value of property at \$500,000. And then the solar panel value is \$150,000. The exemption amount only pertains to the \$150,000.

Wysocki: Said with his solar farm project with Hoosick Falls Central School; if the Town does not exempt the solar farm, then there will not be a solar farm and the school will not go forward with it.

Surdam: Looking at these solar farms as a commercial business. Money is being generated from the solar farm. There are many options available the Town needs to look at and gather information on, a pilot program and payment in lieu of taxes. Does not want to stop progress in the community, this is very new to everyone. Agrees more opinions are needed from the State level and agrees the Board needs to see the tax numbers.

Public who spoke: Larry Bugbee, Wally Sheffer, Vicki Wysocki, Kevin Allard, Keith Cipperly, Dennis Casey, Jeff Delurey.

Adjournment

Sutton made the motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:00 pm, Patire seconded, all ayes carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Stradinger, Hoosick Town Clerk