

A Town Board Meeting was held
February 24, 2014 @ 7:00PM
at the Town Hall

Presiding: Supervisor Bellows

Attending: Councilman Dittus, Councilwoman Zell , Councilman Briggs, and 6 members of the public.

Resolution # 2014-45

Offered by Councilwoman Zell

Motion to accept the minutes

Seconded By Councilwoman Briggs

BE IT RESOLVED TO accept the January minutes.

All Voted Aye

Resolution # 2014-46

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Claims and Vouchers

Seconded by Councilwoman Zell

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board accept the audited voucher listed on Warrant # 2014-02 Dated 02/24/2014 in the total amount of \$101,450.82

Charged as follows:

General Fund \$38,872.59
Agency-\$3386.89
Capital Accounts-\$7644.00

Highway Fund: \$50,783.13
Trust & Lighting and Special Districts-\$764.21

All Voted Aye

Resolution # 2014-47

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Town Clerks Report

Seconded by Councilwoman Briggs

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the Town Clerks Report.

All Voted Aye

Resolution # 2014-48

Offered By Councilwoman Briggs

Supervisor Report

Seconded by Councilwoman Zell

All Board Members have received their financials

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the Supervisors report for January.

All Voted Aye

Town Board Business

1. United Way can help with fuel oil for any qualified residents
2. A resident's mailbox on Route 28A is a stone structure that was built larger than the one that was damaged by a fatal accident. Residents were concerned that it was dangerous.
3. We will hold a public hearing for the fracking moratorium on March 19 at 6:30 at the Town Hall.
4. The CAC has received a grant for open space plan for \$5,000.
5. We need to have the five electrical boxes at the Town Hall condensed to one. We will be getting RFP's for that job.
6. Soil and water newsletter recently came out. They have trees and shrubs for sale. The brochure is on the Town's bulletin board for anyone interested in more information.
7. The transfer station report has been filed
8. We received a letter of resignation from our historian Deana Decker. We will be looking for a replacement. Letters of interest can be sent to the Supervisor at supervisor@townofhurley.org

Resolution #2014-49

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Opposing NCZ

Seconded by Councilwoman Briggs

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in an order issued on August 13, 2013, accepted the tariff revisions proposed by the New York Independent System Operator to create a New Capacity Zone (NCZ) that groups the mid-Hudson Valley (electricity load zone G) in the same capacity zone as Westchester and New York City (Zones H, I, and J); and

WHEREAS, this order is scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the NCZ is to address existing transmission constraints by altering the price signals in wholesale energy markets to attract investors in new plants whose Installed Capacity (ICAP) will be sufficient to meet electricity needs in times of peak demand; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) opposes the creation of the NCZ, stating that the order ignores PSC proceedings underway to address transmission constraints by upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, these transmission upgrades were recommended by the Governor's New York State Energy Highway Blueprint, which seeks to increase the capacity of transmission lines to carry 1,000 MW of additional lower-cost power from the north and west to meet downstate needs, eliminating bottlenecks in transmission; and

WHEREAS, the PSC is currently reviewing four proposals to accomplish the task of upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the PSC further stated on September 12, 2013, that the NCZ will result in unjust and unreasonable electricity rates, possibly increasing rates by as much as 25%, costing rate-payers in the new zone over half a billion dollars in a three-year period; and

WHEREAS, Central Hudson-Fortis, a utility serving rate-payers in Zone G, also opposes the creation of the NCZ, estimating that it will increase prices by at least 6% for residential and 11% for industrial rate-payers; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will hurt many small to medium-sized industries, including the dairy industry for whom electrical power makes up a large percentage of its costs; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will cause disproportionate harm to low- and fixed income rate-payers, particularly in light of the Public Service Commission's report that the percentage of customers in the Central Hudson service area whose electricity has been shut off for not paying their bills has risen from 1.89% to 5.99% in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the NCZ will unfairly burden rate-payers in upstate counties, whose "peak" energy needs are much lower than those in Westchester and New York City; and

WHEREAS, the express purpose of the NCZ is to create new "peaking" capacity, which favors increased use of fossil fuel-based generation; and

WHEREAS, increasing fossil fuel generation contradicts and in no way addresses New York State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of at least 30% renewable electricity by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the FERC has failed to adequately consider these proposed transmission upgrades, which make the NCZ unnecessary;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the **Town of Hurley** calls upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to postpone indefinitely its order issued August 13, 2013, N.Y., which conflicts with State efforts currently underway to address the same problem of transmission constraints; and further calls on N.Y. Governor Cuomo, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and U.S. Representative Gibson to intervene on our behalf to halt the creation of the NCZ; and that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Cuomo, the FERC, the PSC, Central Hudson-Fortis,

Federal and State Elected Representatives, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Public Utility Law Project of NY (PULP), and the Business Council of the State of New York.

All Voted Aye

Resolution #2014-50

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Transmission Upgrades

Seconded by Councilwoman Zell

WHEREAS, as part of Governor Cuomo's *New York State Energy Highway Blueprint*, the Public Service Commission (PSC) was tasked with initiating Alternating Current transmission upgrades to increase the capacity to move excess power from upstate to downstate, thus relieving "existing bottlenecks" by adding at least 1,000 additional MW of electric transmission; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission is currently reviewing proposals submitted by four developers, in a comparative process, with the goal of accepting one of them; and

WHEREAS, three of the proposed plans call for upgrades in Columbia and Dutchess Counties, which include the construction of new, taller towers and expansion of the existing right-of-way, while a fourth plan, proposed by Boundless Energy, calls for upgrading transmission lines in Ulster County and tunneling under the Hudson River near Newburgh, without constructing new towers or widening corridors, and at a lower cost than the other proposals; and

WHEREAS, upgrades that involve building new towers or widening the right of way could damage the environment, impair scenic view sheds, and negatively impact property values and the region's tourism economy ; and

WHEREAS, the cost of transmission upgrades will be paid by electricity ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo, in his State of the State message, has called for speeding up the process of siting transmission upgrades and giving preference to projects that remain within the existing right of way; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Portfolio Standard adopted by the State of New York calls for obtaining 30 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2015, however none of the four proposals addresses the question of how the proposed projects would enable improved and lower-cost access to transmission and distribution networks for projects involving local renewable generation, such as municipal projects sited on capped landfills and other brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan calls for becoming less energy and fossil fuel intensive while strengthening the regional economy, expanding renewable energy generation exponentially across the Region, and improving the resilience of the energy delivery system; and

WHEREAS, the PSC will meet on February 20 to review the process it has instituted to select and oversee implementation of the proposed transmission upgrades;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that **Town of Hurley** calls on the PSC to incorporate in its proceedings firm requirements that 1) proposed transmission upgrades shall not include construction of additional, taller towers or widen the right of way, 2) preference shall be given to lower-cost proposals, 3) upgrades shall include a plan for supporting affordable local distributed renewable generation that takes into account both transmission and distribution; 4) that proposals demonstrate how they will advance the New York State Renewable Portfolio Standard and Federal, State, and Regional plans to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation; and that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Audrey Zibelman, chairwoman of the PSC, with additional copies to Governor Cuomo and the members of the New York State Energy Board.

All Voted Aye

Resolution #2014-51

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Appointment Court Clerk

Seconded by Councilman Dittus

BE IT RESOLVED to appoint Frank Fauble as the second Clerk to Justice for \$12.75 per hour for the year 2014.

All voted aye

Resolution #2014-52

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Court Clerk Salary

Seconded by Councilwoman Briggs

BE IT RESOLVED to pay the Clerk to Justice \$13.00 per hour for the year 2014.

All Voted Aye

Resolution #2014-53

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Public Hearing for Fracking Moratorium

Seconded by Councilwoman Zell

BE IT RESLVED TO hold a Public Hearing for the fracking moratorium on Wednesday March 19th at 6:30.

Resolution #2014-54

Offered by Supervisor Bellows

Hire CT Male

Seconded by Councilwoman Zell

BE IT RESOLVED TO hire CT Male for the additional four phases of the solar panel project. The development phase for \$3000. design phase for \$3,000, bid phase for \$2900. and construction for \$3000.

ALL Voted Aye

From the Departments

1. Superintendent Russell met with International and they will work up a price for a new truck. A new body for one of our older trucks would be between \$8,000. and \$9,000.
2. Councilwoman Briggs suggested that we put cancellations notice on the town website for all meetings.
3. The deadline for signing up for the star and enhanced programs is March 1

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Dittus seconded by Councilwoman Briggs and all voted aye.

Judy Mayhon, Town Clerk