

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2023**

The Town of Columbia Town Board held a regular monthly meeting February 9, 2023 at the town building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Weiss, Councilmen Doremus, Learned,
and Reed

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Cotton

OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Woytowich Town Clerk; Mark Buddle, Highway Supt.;
25 plus members of the public.

Remotely: Attorney Ben Wisniewski.

Supervisor Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Pledge of Allegiance and prayer

Councilman Ed Reed opened the **PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW 2023-#01** a "One-Year Moratorium on Consideration, Approval, and Construction of Large Solar Energy Systems in the Town of Columbia" and introduced Attorney Ben Wisniewski. Legal notice was in Times Telegram on February 3rd. Attorney Ben took questions from the Public and Town Board. He stated that this law should go from Town Board to Herkimer Oneida County Planning for their review and opinion. Attorney Ben Wisniewski spoke on Article 94-c. He stated that he has seen challenges to Article 94-c but no success. Attorney Ben stated that his recommendation is to hold hearing open until next meeting on March 9th.

**TOWN OF COLUMBIA
RESOLUTION NO. 3 of 2023
ADOPTION BY THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA
OF A RESOLUTION REQUIRING
REFERRAL OF PROPOSED MORATORIUM LAW TO
HERKIMER COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY**

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2023 the Town Board of the Town of Columbia enacted a resolution introducing Local Law 1 of 2023 entitled, "One Year Moratorium on Solar Energy Development in the Town of Columbia"; designation said law a Type II Action not requiring any additional environmental impact review pursuant to SEQRA; and opening a public hearing to be held by said Town Board on February 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Columbia Town Building, 147 Columbia Center Rd., Ilion, NY 13357, to hear all interested parties on said law

WHEREAS, a local moratorium law may be subject to review by the Herkimer County Planning Agency pursuant to New York General Municipal Law Section 239-m, for said Board's review and recommendation, and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Columbia hereby authorizes and requires referral of the proposed local law and proposed adopting resolution to the Herkimer county Planning Agency;

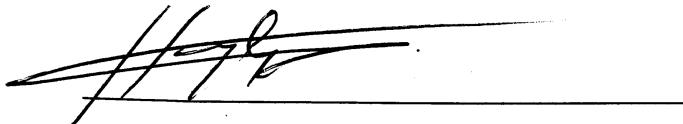
AND THEREFORE, the Town Clerk is hereby directed to enter this resolution in the minutes of this meeting.

I, H. Ed Reed, Deputy Town Supervisor of the Town of Columbia, do hereby certify that the aforementioned resolution was passed by the Town Board of the Town of Columbia on February 9, 2023, by the following vote

| Town Board Member: | Yes | No | Abstain |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Supervisor Weiss</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| <u>Council Member Doremus</u> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Council Member Cotton</u> absent | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Council Member Learned</u> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Council Member Reed</u> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Dated: February 9, 2023
Columbia, New York

By order of the Town Board of the Town of Columbia, New York.



H. Ed Reed, Deputy Town Supervisor

A **motion** was made by Councilman Learned, seconded by Councilman Doremus, to accept the minutes of 1/12/2023

VOTE: All members present voted aye

A **motion** was made by Councilman Reed, seconded by Councilman Learned, to accept the Supervisor and Town Clerk monthly reports.

VOTE: All members present voted aye

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

-**HIGHWAY:** Mark reported/discussed the following:

- N Y S E G new account - closing old one
- County Roads \$6,753 for 2023 -increase \$400 from last year
- Comp Alliance inspection- bench grinder & fire extinguishers
- Smart Board - working with Ryan Fagan
- '14 transfer case - no longer make parts for '14 truck

-**PLANNING BOARD:** Minutes of 1/18/23 distributed. Annual meeting and regular Planning Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Agriculture and Markets. Dog Control Officer Inspection Report.

SURVEY DISCUSSION:

-Councilman Cotton discussed his findings for cost of bulk mailing. Unless bulk mailing is used more than once it is financially beneficial to use regular mailing (using stamps)) to mail the survey.

-Planning Board Member Ryan Fagan suggested having Town Attorney look at solar survey before mailing and have it returned to group by April.

-**JUSTICE AUDIT:** Judge Skinner explained court financials month by month for 2021 & 2022. Judge Skinner gave case summary for Motor Vehicle, Criminal, small claims and arraignments. A motion was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Learned to accept the documents submitted by Judge Skinner for his audit.

VOTE: All members present voted aye

-**TAX COLLECTOR:** The Board audited the 2022 abstract and bank statements presented. A motion was made by Councilman Learned, seconded by Councilman Doremus to accept Tax Collector documents as presented.

VOTE: All members present voted aye

-**BOARD DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed location of Public Comments on the agenda.

BILLS: The Board audited the monthly bills. A **motion** was made by Councilman Reed, seconded by Councilman Learned, to accept the following bills:

- General Fund, #22 - #33 for \$ 2,821.91
- Trust & Agency, #2 for \$ 342.80
- Highway, Item 3, #15 - #23 for \$ 8,802.45
- Highway, Item 4, #9 - #17 for \$ 40,420.21

VOTE: All members present voted aye

PUBLIC INPUT: Wind Law questions and water supply questions/concerns

Next meeting: March 9th 7:00 P.M.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Doremus, seconded by Councilman Learned, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 at P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Supervisor

Town Clerk

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman