

WORK SESSION

MARCH 13, 2019

A Work Session was held on the above date at 6:00 PM, at the Town Hall, 8942 Ridge Road, Gasport.

Present were: Supervisor Annable, Councilmen: Reed, Grant, Huntington, Hill.

Others present: Attorney Brian Seaman, Superintendent Hurtgam

EDF, a Brownfield group, based in Canada working on New York solar development projects is interested in building solar fields in the Town of Hartland. Grant Cushing, from EDF, gave a presentation to the Board on the projects that they would like to construct.

Their motto is “Turning innovative renewable energy ideas and long-term relationships into ethical, high-value sustainable business” The company looks for open farmlands that would be profitable to the farmers, the Town and EDF. Solar farms produce renewable and clean energy sources as well as job opportunities.

Mr. Cushing explained that the first step is to contact landowners who would like to see their land cleared and then enter into a 40 year contract with the company. The company is looking to use 2000 acres on which to construct the solar panels and underground grid lines. The application used is similar to a SEQR and encourages maximum land use for agricultural purposes. Once the fields are built, the surrounding land can be used to graze sheep and house bee hives for the collecting of honey. There is no loss of topsoil and at the end of the 40 year lease, the land is turned back over to the owners as rejuvenated fertile soil. Farmers can be paid from \$500.00 to 1,000.00 per acre per year.

The company would be eligible for a PILOT program and would negotiate the terms with the Town. A 20 year contract through NYSERTA, with an annual competitive solicitation RFP. The Town would have to modify the code as now it states a limit of 50 acres for solar projects. There would be a SEQR process to Albany and possible Article 10 through NYS. Article 10 would strip the approval from the Town, but would have to offer a financial insurance requirement in case of failure. A host agreement would be negotiated with the Town once the project is feasible.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia S. Boyler

Hartland Town Clerk