

At 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Carges called to order a public hearing located at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear all persons for or against the adoption of Local Law 2 of 2017 – amendments to Sweden Town Code Chapter 164 Taxation – the addition of proposed Article VII – Solar, Wind Energy and Farm Waste Energy Systems.

Town Board Members present were Supervisor Robert Carges, Councilperson Robert Muesebeck, Councilperson Mary Rich and Councilperson Lori Skoog. Also present were Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Town Attorney Jim Bell, Superintendent of Highways Brian Ingraham and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitors present were Joan Hamlin, Christine Hamlin, Don Grentzinger, Mike Cunningham, Don Pophal, Robert Connors, Susan Smith, Mark Rabjohn, Kevin Breiner, Justin Sullivan and Robert Cantwell from BME Associates.

Supervisor Carges asked Town Clerk Karen Sweeting to read the legal notice published in the Town newspaper. Notice was read.

Mr. Carges opened the floor for comments.

Resident Mark Rabjohn, also a member of the committee formed to study the solar energy local law, stated that he is somewhat in favor of keeping the exemption available. He suggested revisiting the exemption after the local law is in place. He felt that solar companies may bypass the Town if there are no exemptions in place. Mr. Rabjohn suggested adopting some other type of fee structure to offset the exemption. Discussion

Resident Robert Connors stated that Section 487 of the law did not differentiate between residential and commercial. He also felt that if the Town passed this law, then the school and county may follow and there would be no real incentive to use solar. Mr. Connors also stated that there are state and federal tax credits, why not the town. He felt that if the local law was passed it may stifle residential solar projects as well.

Resident Don Pophal, also a member of the committee formed to study the solar energy local law, questioned assessments of residential properties with solar. Discussion

No other comments.

Supervisor Carges closed the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting  
Town Clerk