

## **Monthly Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes Town Board of the Town of Fabius**

Monday, September 16, 2024

### Present:

Mr. Michael Vilardi – Supervisor

Mr. Craig Powers – Councilmember

Mr. Peter Schlicht – Councilmember

Mrs. Deborah Foster – Councilmember

Mr. Paul Brown – Councilmember

Mr. Dennis Bobbette – Highway Supervisor

Mrs. Peggy Riker – Town Clerk

Mr. Thomas Chartrand – Bookkeeper

Mr. Tim Bearup – Zoning/Codes Officer (*Abs*)

Mr. Robert DeMore – Attorney for Town

*Also present: Mr. Paul Sheneman, Engineer; Haley Effler (Fabius CSG), Bryan Bayor (C&S Engineers), Matthew Kerwin, Esq.*

### **Public Hearing continuation re: Berry Road Solar project**

Mr. Vilardi led in the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 PM for the continuing review of Fabius CSG, LLC's special use permit application and site plan for a solar farm on property located at 1120 Berry Road. Ms. Effler made a brief presentation and answered questions from the public. Questions from the public included where to find notification about Public Hearings, which are published in the Post Standard, the signboard at the Town Hall, the website and the Post Office. One resident inquired about the lifespan of a solar panel, battery leakage, size of the project and number of panels. Ms. Effler responded it is about 35 years, no batteries will be used, there is no cadmium in the panels but may contain trace amounts of lead. This project is about 19.2 acres and will use about 10,000-11,000 panels. One other question was about how information is recorded at Town Board meetings.

Ms. Effler proposed a standard assessment vs. a PILOT agreement for taxing purposes. She believes the standard assessment would best benefit the Town but Mr. DeMore raised some questions about that. The Board will need more time to review the options.

Motion by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Brown, to close the Public Hearing at 5:40 PM. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

Motion by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Powers, to open the regular meeting at 5:40 PM. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

Motion by Mr. Schlicht, seconded by Mrs. Foster, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

\* NYCLASS is at 5.14% and NBT is at 5.18%.

\* General spending is at 43% and revenue is at 100+%. Highway spending is at 51% and revenue is at 91%.

\* Motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Schlicht, to accept the financial report. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

\* Motion by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mrs. Foster, to approve the budget transfer from Surplus to Joint Youth (for the Tully swim program) for \$500. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

\* Motion by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Powers, to accept the bank reconciliation. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

### **HIGHWAY REPORT:**

\* Received a bill from Onondaga Soil & Water for \$1,622.50 for cutting edges installed on plow.

**ZONING REPORT:** Mr. Tim Bearup officially took over as Code Enforcement Officer on September 1, 2024.

**HISTORIAN:** No report.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** No report.

**FABIUS EVERGREEN CEMETERY:** Ms. Beglinger reported their current bank balance is \$19,288.25.

**Public Comment:**

A resident asked for a comparison in wattage between the Berry Road solar and Route 80 solar projects. One is 4 mgw and one is 5 mgw. One resident provided various names given to solar farms and wondered if the Solar Overlay District would apply town wide – it does not. There was a question whether the zoning must be changed to allow a solar project – they would need to be approved as a Solar Overlay District. As far as the Town is aware, the landing strip on Route 80 will still be in operation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

***Community Center:*** The rental agreement was updated to add a \$100 cleaning fee deposit.

***2024 Main Street Grant:*** All applicants were denied.

***2024 Community Development Grant:*** We were approved for paving the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1/2 of Shackham Road.

**Budget Workshop**

Motion by Mr. Schlicht, seconded by Mr. Powers, to enter into Executive Session at 7:07 PM to discuss an employee issue. Motion by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Brown, to close Executive Session at 7:47 PM. Motion by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Schlicht, to approve Town Officers' salaries. Lastly, a motion by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Brown, to set a public hearing for November 6, 2024 at 5:30 PM to move the preliminary budget to tentative. All motions PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

Motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Schlicht, to pay the bills on Abstract #8 in the following amounts:

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Highway Fund | Vouchers 65 through 75   |
|              | \$ 143,585.00            |
| General Fund | Vouchers 160 through 182 |
|              | \$ 10,943.68             |

Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

The next regular Town Board meeting will be held on **Monday, October 21, 2024**, at the Fabius Area Community Center, Fabius, New York at **5:30**.

Motion to adjourn at 7:49 PM made by Mrs. Foster, seconded by Mr. Vilardi. Motion PASSED – Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Voting aye – Vilardi, Schlicht, Foster, Brown, Powers.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret M. Riker  
Town Clerk