

The first regular meeting of the Kingsbury Town Board was conducted virtually on February 1, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dana Hogan, Supervisor
Richard Doyle, Councilman
William Haessly, Councilman
Jane Havens, Councilwoman
Dan Washburn, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Todd Humiston, Enforcement & Dog Control Officer
Jeffrey Meyer, Town Attorney
Town Residents: Anne Brancati, Lorraine Forcier,
Tim LaSarso, Steve & Debbie Call, Chip Doty,
Dan Colomb, Jessica Stevens, Chuck Friedman,
Amy Catellier
Bill Nikas & Rob Panasci: Attorneys associated
with Projects in the Town of Kingsbury

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Supervisor Hogan and opened for the order of business with the Flag Salute led by Councilman Haessly.

The minutes of the January 19, 2021 Town Board Meeting were accepted as submitted by the Town Clerk with a **motion** by Councilman Haessly seconded by Councilman Doyle and carried by a vote of 5 ayes. The Town Clerk will review and re-submit the minutes for the December 7, 2020 Town Board Meeting.

Supervisor Hogan opened a discussion pertaining to Public Hearings. Supervisor Hogan has received a lot of commentary about recent meetings that had been conducted virtually; one being Town Board Meeting on January 19, 2021 and a Planning Board Meeting conducted on January 20, 2021. It has become clear that virtual Public Meetings are ineffective in allowing Public Comments. There are a lot of variables in the Town of Kingsbury; internet speed, access to the internet for some residents, and technical know how and virtual meeting etiquette. Due to these concerns, Supervisor Hogan recommends effective immediately pausing all Public Hearings until further notice when in person meetings can safely be resumed.

Councilman Doyle concurs with Supervisor Hogan.

Councilman Haessly agrees.

Councilman Washburn stated his business recently did two projects in the Town of Kingsbury and both the Public Hearings were conducted during COVID with no objections. He is concerned it will decrease a lot of projects in Kingsbury.

Supervisor Hogan agrees but stated the Boards could not pick and choose projects, all Public Hearings should be paused.

Councilwoman Havens agrees the Public Hearings should be paused.

The Board continued to discuss pausing Public Hearings.

A **motion** by Supervisor Hogan seconded by Councilman Haessly and carried by 5 ayes to pause all Public Hearings until they can be conducted in person.

Supervisor Hogan announced the Public Hearings for the Agreement with Spectrum, LLC and the Variance Application from Kingsbury Solar, LLC will be tabled until further notice.

LEGAL UPDATE:

Attorney Meyer stated the draft of the franchise agreement between the Town of Kingsbury and Spectrum Northeast, LLC is available for public review if anyone is interested. The specific question as it relates to Geer Road; the termination of the cable on Geer Road is around 58 Geer Road; Kevin Egan of Spectrum encourages residents who do not have cable to call 855 243-8892 and request service. Spectrum will then perform a survey which is the protocol for getting cable to underserved areas.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

Town Clerk reported \$250.00 was saved in postage fees by combining multiple 2021 County/Town Tax Bills with the same owner.

The Deputy Town Clerk is working on updating the dog licenses and has reviewed approximately 1,000 records at this time including deceased dogs, owners that have moved and renewed licenses for dog owners that have been delinquent for 2 years or longer.

The speed limit reduction request for Deer Run Drive and Queen's Drive as requested by Highway Superintendent Michael Graham has been sent to Washington Public Works and will then be forwarded to the NYS DOT.

Town Clerk received a FOIL Request for information about the Sewer Districts of the Town of Kingsbury.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Todd Humiston stated the Deputy Town Clerk has brought in approximately \$2,000.00 in dog licenses. Waste Solutions has purchased the transfer station and will be bringing in the updates for the Junkyard Permit. They will be doing single stream recycling (no sorting) and will not be burying glass as the previous owner had done.

Supervisor Hogan and Enforcement Officer will have a meeting with the DA, Tony Jordan, in regard to dogs being seized during an arrest; there is still some back and forth with the police departments.

COUNCIL REPORT:

Councilwoman Havens gave an update on the new Comprehensive Plan; the core members have been picked. The Town Board members are Councilwoman Havens and Councilman Doyle. Karen LaRose, Scott Winchell, Greg Smith, Lorraine Forcier and Tim Havens, Jr. are core members who are making great contributions to our community. Councilwoman Havens will reach out to Village Trustees and others.

There will be many opportunities for public communication and participation. Copies of the current Comprehensive Plan were given to the committee members which the members will look over and become familiar with. Possibly there will be an Organizational Meeting of the group on February 23rd. Councilwoman Havens will reach out to the LaBerge Group before February 23rd. It is a small group, and they will try to meet in person with social distancing respected and keep the meetings at an hour.

Councilwoman Havens requested an executive session with a personnel question.

Councilman Doyle reported there was a call with himself, Supervisor Hogan, Attorney Meyer and Mark Gregor and he is hoping to have the second pass of the RFP for solar on the Kingsbury Landfill complete to distribute to the Board for review. The timeline for putting out the RFP is April with an onsite visit by any of the interested developers in early May, co-ordinate with the DEC; with the developer's submissions being due in the middle of May. Hopefully, a developer will be selected by the end of the year.

Councilman Haessly stated the Town could save money in postage fees by requesting the taxpayers include a self-addressed stamped envelope with their tax payment.

Town Clerk responded the postage fees for this tax collection will be higher than normal due to the office being closed to the public; receipts will be mailed to taxpayers for any payments received in the drop box.

Councilman Washburn will send maps of the Kingsbury Sewer District which are necessary for the Town Clerk to complete a FOIL Request.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Supervisor Hogan has received inquiries about the pop-up vaccine clinics in Washington County conducted by Public Safety. Public Safety Officer Tim Hardy suggested that anyone interested in getting updates could go to washingcountyny.gov/coronavirus. The County is having these events as vaccine supplies arrive.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lorraine Forcier stated she had contacted Spectrum and requested a survey and provided information to her neighbors in regard to requesting a survey. She asked for a contact person so she could track the progress of the survey. Attorney Meyer will try to get contact information for her.

Rob Panasci, Attorney for Kingsbury Solar, LLC, understands the Board's decision to pause Public Hearings until further notice and asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the information he had submitted. Mr. Panasci was hoping to hear comments from the Board regarding the application. Supervisor Hogan stated it would not be fair to the general public at this time; the Board will wait and withhold any comments for a Public Hearing date.

A **motion** by Councilman Washburn seconded by Councilwoman Havens and carried by a vote of 5 ayes to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter regarding a specific employee.

A **motion** by Councilman Haessly seconded by Councilman Washburn and carried by a vote of 5 ayes to exit the executive session at 8:21 PM. No action was taken.

There being no further business before the Board a **motion** by Councilman Doyle seconded by Councilman Washburn and carried by a vote of 5 ayes to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Bardin, Town Clerk