

Minutes

Administrative Services Committee

**February 14, 2022, 5:00 p.m., Legislative Chambers**

**Livestreamed on Chautauqua County Facebook Page**

Gerace Office Building, Mayville, NY

Members Present: Scudder, Muldowney, Parker

Members Absent: Davis, Vanstrom

Others: Lee, Zink, Abdella, Dennison, Crow, Riley, Visker, Barmore, Schuyler, Sanderson, Di Blasio, DeAngelo

***Complete video of meeting can be viewed on the County's Facebook Page***

Chairman Scudder called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes (1/18/22)

MOVED by Legislator Muldowney, SECONDED by Legislator Parker.

*Unanimously Carried*

Privilege of the Floor

Karen Engstrom, Town of Chautauqua. As you all know this area is being targeted with solar – industrial solar, utility scale solar and the towns who are being targeted are being offered many riches and of course the green bragging rights that go with it but they have very little defense. Solar in this area, if it were really related to a genuine commitment to environmentalism would include the very law that sits before you which is the Niagara County Law of July of 2021. Its only page one. I put the full thing in your emails and it says – let me read a portion of it. “This legislature finds that a convenient, safe and environmentally sound system for the recycling of photovoltaic modules, minimization of hazardous waste, and recovery of commercially valuable materials must be established to a law that requires the recycling of all components of utility scale solar.” Now we have 60 of them on the (*Inaudible*) right now, 60 in our county. And that doesn’t include the 5 that I know of in the Town of Chautauqua. So if our little towns aren’t defended, then what we’re seeing is that New York State (*Inaudible*) toward an energy policy that mimics California and Texas. We will also mimic the downsides that have happened in California and Texas because the grid becomes unstable, unreliable the more this is put in play. California and Texas do not have winters like we do. They can survive. If the New York grid was improved or modernized and the electricity on it were – if it was upgraded, you

would increase the output of electricity by 30%. That much is loss on the wires today. Unless we upgrade the grid, there is no point in adding additional energy. That 30% increase is more than all of the proposed wind and solar projects in this area could ever create. This is a gold rush. This is absolutely a gold rush of subsidies for those developers and those investors who want to make money while they can before it's realized that what happened in Europe where the EU has found total failure to sustain its grid and to keep its utility rates at an optimal level where they've seen 4 times the increase in their heating bills and they've finally declared natural gas and nuclear as renewables in order to continue to have a viable system. So even if our state is making poor energy decisions, it is possible to make corrections at the local level and one of the ways is recycling solar panel components that Niagara County has put forward it's right there all we have to do it change the name at the top. Environmental concerns should include reserving these valuable, hard to mine materials and not letting them end up in landfills. We must reuse things like neodymium, dysprosium, lithium and other rare earth metals that are produced to build these components. Cobalt, megatons of copper and zinc and other metals use enormous amounts of diesel fuel and other hydrocarbons to mine them, to process them, to bring them here and to install them. The EPA already classifies solar panels as "hazardous waste" and the number 2 source of PFAS on their list of the number 2 place where you can find PFAS is in solar panels. So if we're going to put these toxic waste dumps in our county, jeopardizing our recreation, our tourism, our economic base and our agricultural farmers. We have 60 Amish families alone in the Town of Chautauqua that have objected to the one that brought my attention to it which is in my town that is not a real large one but it will displace the Amish and it will be across the street from where they use to rent land that now they can no longer use. They don't own all their land, they have to rent it and as the bidders from the large companies promise far more money than the Amish can pay, of course the Amish don't get that land rented for their use so there are other tools we can use. The strongest one is #1 on my list there on the other side of that rule on the yellow page. Number 1 is the recycling law that Niagara County provided so well but #2, any law whether its Town or County can include the requirement that the components be made in the United States. Now why would we get crucial elements from China that would jeopardize the security of our grid if we can produce them here? So that's another tool. The other ones are a property value guarantee which a lot of the towns don't recognize needs to be written into their solar laws. You can help them understand that that's necessary and of course the county can require a 1,000 foot setback for all county roads. If there's a requirement of accounting in most businesses, not so much for the county I guess but it's not a business so we could require accounting for the electricity produced wherever there is a solar array. Find out how much electricity it actually produced in a year, require that. Businesses use a cost benefit model to determine if that- which is produced exceeds that which is invested there by creating a profit. These are not competitive and the case of solar, the energy returned over the energy invested should be assessed. It has been proven that it is a net zero if not negative. So in the short term we are seeing a destruction of our tourism, our recreation, our quality of life and in the long term, our energy security and the economic liability of the state. So I think the energy realism and energy humanism can be helped. Our towns can be protected by simply putting in this, changing the title from Niagara County to Chautauqua County and saying guess what because environmentally due to the toxic nature and due to the value of the components we must recycle all parts of every solar and that's only utility scale or – not the smaller ones because the smaller ones will of course have a different fate but call it recycling not utility scale – yeah its utility scale, I keep calling it industrial scale anyway thank you for your time I hope you will consider

drafting a – what you see in a lot of the documents is reclamation, that word does not adequate – it's not reclamation, we must have recycling because reclamation simply means we're going to take it somewhere else and put it in a landfill and that's not acceptable, thank you.

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Local Law Intro 1-22 – A Local Law Amending Local Law 7-90 Providing a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees (re: Deputy Director of Community Mental Hygiene Services) – Presented by Jacqueline Visker, Department of Mental Hygiene and Jean Riley, Director of Human Resources

Local Law Intro 2-22 – A Local Law Amending Local Law 7-90 Providing for a Management Salary Plan for County Officers and Employees (re: Director of Environmental Health) – Presented by Christine Schuyler, Director of Health and Human Services and Jean Riley, Director of Human Resources

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 & 2022 Budgets for Grant Equipment/Supplies Revenue & Expenditures – BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Presented by Donna Sanderson, Board of Elections and Momina Di Blasio, Voter Registration

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Information Technology Services – Presented by Jon DeAngelo, Chief Information Officer

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Human Resources – Presented by Jean Riley, Director of Human Resources

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Law Department – Presented by Steve Abdella, County Attorney

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Unified Courts – Presented by Kathleen Dennison, Budget Director

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – County Clerk –  
Presented by Larry Barmore, County Clerk

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Finance –  
Presented by Kitty Crow, Finance Director

MOVED by Legislator Muldowney to Amend, SECONDED by Legislator Parker  
(Amended by strike through and new text shown below) *Unanimously Carried to Amend*

INCREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS:

A.1330.----.1	Personal Services - Real Property Tax		\$ 5,056
A.1330.----.2	Equipment - Real Property Tax		\$ 13,851
A.1985.----.4	Contractual - Municipal Sales Tax	<b>\$5,884,946</b>	<del>\$4,353,431</del>
A.2490.----.4	Contractual - Community College Tuition		\$ 48,532
	Total	<b>\$5,952,385</b>	<del>\$4,420,870</del>

DECREASE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS:

A.1362.----.4	Contractual - Tax Advertising & Expense		\$18,907
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INCREASE REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

A.1310.9999.R111.0000	Non Prop Tax Items-Sales Tax		\$ 48,532
A.1985.----.R111.0MUN	Non Prop Tax Items-Sales Tax-		
	MUNI Make Whole	<b>\$5,884,946</b>	<del>\$4,353,431</del>
	Total	<b>\$5,933,478</b>	<del>\$4,401,963</del>

*Unanimously Carried as Amended*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Energy Fund –  
Presented by Kitty Crow, Finance Director

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution – Amend 2021 Budget for Year End Reconciliations – Health  
Insurance Fund - Presented by Kitty Crow, Finance Director

*Unanimously Carried*

Proposed Resolution - Investment Policy for the County of Chautauqua –  
Presented by Kitty Crow, Finance Director

*Unanimously Carried*

MOVED by Legislator Muldowney, SECONDED by Legislator Parker to adjourn.

*Unanimously Carried (6:15 p.m.)*

Respectfully submitted and transcribed,  
Olivia L. Lee, Clerk of the Legislature/Kristi R. Zink, Deputy Clerk