

Special Meeting
November 10, 2010

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer on the progress of the proposed wind farm project held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, November 10th, 2010, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 11:15 a.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Supervisor
Barry E. Warren, Councilman
Brian D. Young, Councilman
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Gareth McDonald, Development Manager, TCI Renewables
Michael Niswender, former member, Town Planning Board

Gareth McDonald of TCI Renewables was present to give Town Board members an update on the progress of the wind farm project proposed for the Towns of Homer, Cortlandville, Truxton and Solon. He said that 72% of the land had been signed to option. In 2009 the project was put on the back burner after prices went down but now he is looking to have everything in place so when the prices go up they will be ready to go. Other aspects of the project are on track. He said that there now are 5 wind towers scheduled for the Town of Homer instead of the original 3 towers. McDonald said that since new technology was coming out all the time he was not certain which wind turbines would be installed for the project. Although upstate New York has a little less wind than areas in the Midwest, the area is much closer to the more densely populated areas that consume the most power.

Board members asked questions concerning a proposed PILOT program, the possibility of selling the power created to a few high-volume users, and prices per kilowatt hour. Safety and health issues were also discussed. There was much discussion about setbacks for the towers and in particular setbacks of 1600 feet from a residence and 180 feet from a property line. McDonald handed out information from the American Wind Energy Association regarding noise guidelines for wind turbines, their effect on birds and other animals, and their effects on human health. He encouraged Board members to review this and other information regarding wind power and to contact him with any questions.

Supervisor Forbes explained that the Town of Homer already has adopted a Road Protection Law that would protect the Town during the construction phase by requiring permits for hauling heavy equipment over Town roads. Forbes said that the Board would review the information on wind farms and further discuss the proposed setback requirements at their December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk