

Public Hearing
October 6, 2021

A public hearing on a proposed Local Law #4 of 2021 to opt out of Section 487 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law, held in the Senior Center of the Town Hall Building on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilmember
Michael R. Park, Councilmember
Barry E. Warren, Councilmember
Kevin M. Williams, Councilmember
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Heather M. Hill, Town Clerk
Brooke L. Poli, Town Deputy Clerk
Duane Reynolds, Homer West Hill Cemetery
Victor Siegle, Homer Village Resident
Valarie Puma, Cortland Standard
Michael Barylski, Cortlandville Resident
Michael McMahon, IDA Chairman
Kevin McMahon, Code Enforcement Officer
Liz Arnold, Homer Village Resident
Don Ferris, Homer News

PLEDGE

Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., asked the public if anyone would like to speak concerning the proposed local law to opt out of section 487. Village Resident Victor Siegle, opened the discussion by handing out and sharing his updated Reasons to reject EDF's PILOT property tax proposal. He also described the new state method for assessing solar projects.

Michael Barylski asked the Town Board what problem you are trying to solve. Mr. Barylski worked for the D.E.C. for 30 – 35 years and as an environmental analyst for 25 years. Mr. Barylski touched base on the environmental impact that solar can bring to the town. Mr. Barylski stated in his opinion if the Town Board decides to opt out of section 487 that they are taking a major step in discouraging solar projects and effecting the town. Mr. Barylski suggested to rewrite the local law and negotiate adding a pilot as Solon and Cortlandville have/are. Mr. Barylski believes that most people do not understand how much money solar can bring into communities.

Michael McMahon IDA chairman shared his concerns about the town opting out. Mr. McMahon thinks the town should go back to the original number and see how it plays out. He stated that the IDA would support whatever the town decided on. The number that an agricultural study of the value of farmland came up with is \$5,400 an acre which is finally a number that he agrees on.

After much discussion Mr. Forbes suggested to recess the public hearing. The Town Board agreed that the school district and all other taxing entities should be involved with this decision. Councilmember Warren added that it would be good to have the time to process the information and make an intelligent decision.

On motion by Councilmember Park, seconded by Councilmember Warren and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: to table on whether or not the town should opt out of section 487 and reconvene.**

As there were no further questions or comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk