

At the special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Elmira, Chemung County, New York held Monday March 10, 2025 at 7:00pm at Hendy Elementary School, Elmira, NY, there were present:

Supervisor Ann Gerould
Deputy Supervisor Ron Allison
Councilmember Thomas Milliken
Councilmember: Albert Lucarelli

Others present
Town Clerk- Tammy Stein
Attorney- Scott Moore

Councilmember: Scott Bush- Recused

This special meeting was approved by the Town Board to attend a Planning Board meeting for the purpose of hearing presentations from Carson Powers, LLC, Fire & Risk Alliance, and the Energy Safety Response Group regarding a proposed Solar/ Battery Storage project on West Hill Road.

Supervisor Gerould called the special meeting to order at 7:00pm and lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

Attorney Moore spoke explaining the agenda for the meeting. He also explained the Planning Board and the Town Board's roles in this project. Attorney Moore spoke about the presenters. He stated that Councilmember Bush recused himself from consideration of the Local Law regarding Battery Energy Storage as he has been approached regarding solar company's wishing to lease his land.

Nicholas Cunha, a representative from Carson Powers, LLC spoke to the Planning Board explaining the visual impact and Stormwater design. Mr. Cunha explained the difference between Community Solar and large utility scale solar. Mr. Cunha spoke about the steps they have taken to comply with the Solar Energy Local Law. He discussed the bond for decommissioning. He also shared the site plan with the board. Mr. Cunha spoke about the stormwater review that has been done for the project as well as presented a slideshow visual impact by comparing what the area looks like currently compared to what it will look like after the project is completed. He also discussed the water flow from the Stormwater plan. Mr. Cunha stated that Carson Powers would be happy to help pay for training for the Fire Departments and educate them on battery energy storage response.

Anthony Natale, Fire & Risk Alliance, LLC, an industrial firefighter who also does instructing spoke on behalf of Carson Power about battery energy storage fires generally and 2023 fires in NY and recent fire Moss Landing in California. Anthony explained if there was a fire how it will be contained and what the fire will look like if it were to happen. He also spoke about his experience with dealing with these types of fires. Anthony explained based on the information gathered following battery energy storage fires in New York that if you are less than 100 feet from the battery Storage area you will not be affected if a fire happens to occur.

Paul Rogers, (ESRG) Energy Safety Response Group was hired by the Town to oversee this project related to the battery storage component to assure that Carson Power is following guidelines put forth by the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code and proposed future amendments. He spoke about the Working Group set up following the 2023 NY battery energy storage fires and the proposed amendments to the building code. He spoke to the accuracy of the presenters and to make sure the submission is complete.

Resolution #69-25

Change date of March Regular Meeting

By Mr. Lucarelli

Seconded by Mr. Allison

Motion was made to change the regular March meeting from March 17 to March 24.

Aye- Gerould, Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli

No- None

Recused- Bush

Motion was made by Councilmember Lucarelli at 8:44pm and seconded by Councilmember Milliken to adjourn the special meeting. All in favor except Councilmember Bush whom recused himself from the meeting, Motion Carried

Tammy Stein, Town Clerk