

**TOWN OF WINFIELD**  
**April 19, 2023**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting of the Town of Winfield Board was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Charles Osborn.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Charles Osborn	----	Supervisor
Michael Peo	----	Councilman
Susan Korosec	----	Councilwoman
Robert Royce	----	Councilman/Park Commissioner

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Douglas Paul Jones	----	Superintendent of Highways
Tracy Donley	----	Town Clerk
Mike Connors	---	Code/Zoning Officer
Keith Watkins	----	Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Anthony Gannon (West Winfield Star), Josh Bennett (EDF Renewables), Howie Wakefield & Georgie Bligh

General Fund claims # 68 - # 87 and Highway Fund claims # 25 - # 35 were listed on the Abstract of Voucher sheets.

- A motion was made by Councilman Peo and seconded by Councilman Royce to accept these Abstracts with the condition to remove abstract # 73 (General Acct) & # 29 (Highway Acct) both abstracts were for Broedel Fuel.
- The motion was carried unanimously.

The Supervisor's and Town Clerk's reports for March 2023 were audited by the Board Members present.

- A motion was made by Councilman Royce and seconded by Councilwoman Korosec to accept the reports as audited.
- The motion was carried unanimously.

The minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held March 15, 2023 were read and edited by each Board Member present.

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Korosec and seconded by Councilman Royce to accept these minutes as amended.
- The motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Osborn introduced Josh Bennett who is the Project Developer for EDF Renewables North America, grid-scale power. Josh and his team are in the process of developing Columbia Solar. Some points made by Josh were:

- EDF is a “grid-scale” company that has been in business for over 35 years.
- Columbia Solar Project is a proposed 350-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy generation facility which may include approximately 20 MW(80 MWhours) of energy storage in the Towns of Columbia, Winfield & Litchfield.
- System capacity 350 MW/20 MW energy storage
- 450,000 WMh(hour) - equivalent to more than 80,000 homes
- On approximately 1,800-1,900 acres
- Project operation is expected to be 39 years.
  - After 39 years, 98% of the solar modules are recyclable,
- New substation connecting to existing 345kV transmission line running through project area.
- May 9th will be a public meeting held at Francescas Banquet Hall in Ilion.
- Construction is planned for 2025 & project to be operational in 2027
- Article 10 has been replaced by 94-c, which is the permitting process, standardized conditions for solar projects to meet. Included but not limited to environmental studies, engineering & design.
- Solar energy is emissions-free power.
  - Modules are made of silicon, copper & aluminum between glass and plastic with an aluminum frame. Modules do not give off any toxins.
- Generally no pesticides or herbicides are used, possibly only around the substation. Utilization of sheep is recommended.
- Facility will be monitored 24/7 365 days per year from the NERC registered operations control center in San Diego California.
- Training of local First Responders will be prior to installation and annually thereafter.
- BESS systems are made out of the same type of batteries you find in mobile telephones, electric vehicles and portable computers.
- Visual Mitigation is typically evergreen trees.
- Decommissioning & Restoration - funds are in place through EDF to remove modules
- Agrivoltaics - examples of agriculture cohabitating with solar modules:
  - Native Vegetation
  - Sheep Grazing
  - Cattle Grazing
  - Row Cropping
- Economic Impacts
  - Lease payments

- Pilot & Other Tax - benefits county, towns, schools & special districts like fire departments.
- Jobs - Up to 300 construction jobs & 5 permanent jobs
- Local Impacts - subcontractors, equipment suppliers, local vendors, engineering, electrical work, road construction & maintenance, snow removal, beekeepers, sheep farmers.
- Share the Sun Fund - up to \$40,000 per year for initial 10 years, run by members of the community, donations chosen by local community representatives, funds distributed to local civic groups, nonprofits, projects or other beneficial community programs.
- Host Community Electricity Benefit - \$175,000 per year for the initial 10 years of the project, split between all residential electricity customers in our host towns.
- Community Partnerships & Donations - EDFR partners with the local communities to find the most impactful ways to allocate donations.
- Public Meeting May 9th, 5-8pm at Francesca's Banquets 144 E Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.
- [www.columbiasolarproject.com](http://www.columbiasolarproject.com)
- [newyorksolar@edf-re.com](mailto:newyorksolar@edf-re.com)
- [josh.bennett@edf-re.com](mailto:josh.bennett@edf-re.com)
- 833-333-7369

#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

1. Superintendent Jones stated the concrete floor was poured on April 15 in the new pavilion and back filled it with crusher-run..
2. Howard Wakefield is on payroll.
3. New pick up truck will have the town of winfield logo installed on it.
4. Truax Road will be redone this year.

#### PARK COMMISSIONER REPORT:

1. Commissioner Robert Royce stated the reservations for the park pavilions are coming in quite steadily.
  - a. June 17 - Pavilion 1 & 2 - Run Walk - Sue Will
  - b. June 18 - Pavilion 3 - party - Hannah Weller
  - c. July 16 - Pavilion 1 - Grad Party - Doremus
  - d. July 3 - Pavilion 1 & 2 - BBQ - Optimists
  - e. August 6 - Pavilion 2 - Will Family Reunion - Sue Will
  - f. August 13 - Maine Greenman - Angela Davis
  - g. August 21 - Pavilion 2 & fields - Auto Show - Jack Clark
2. Proceed with the process to get power & water to the new pavilion. Paul Jones will get quotes.
3. Howard Wakefield replaced the USA flags in the park.
4. Village would like to have a few community events in the park. Ex. - movie night, halloween trunk or treat and possibly other events with food vendors.

CODES/ZONING OFFICER WRITTEN REPORT:

1. Codes and Zoning Officer Mike Connors started his position on March 20th, 2022.
  - a. Issued 3 permits
2. Mr. Connors received a call from Gailhead Development who wants to put in a 30 acre solar farm on Burrows Road. They have requested the zoning & codes information.
3. Building Permits will now be on orange paper.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

1. Mr. Watkins stated that Jamie Christians property on Route 20 is zoned commercial. Mr. Christian is going through the process to build a convenience store.

PLANNING BOARD:

- A motion was made by Councilman Peo to proceed with the Village, working together to create a Comprehensive Plan for both the Town and the Village, seconded by Councilwoman Korosec.
  - The motion was carried unanimously.
- 1. Councilman Peo will contact Dan Sullivan in regards to finding financial aid programs to help with the cost of creating the Comprehensive Plan.
- 2. Councilman Peo stated that he wrote a letter to Legislature Raymond Donley asking for funds to help offset the cost of installing a handicap restroom in the town park.
  - a. Mr. Donley was able to secure \$5,000 to be used for the handicap restroom.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The search continues for a website designer.
2. Emails need to be run through the town's domain.
3. Jim Murphy and Sandy Smith signed the agreement between the village and the town for the firetruck. Supervisor Osborn will also sign the agreement.
4. Councilwoman Korosec will send the zoning book to Albany to be rewritten.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Supervisor Osborn met with Amanda Fetcher who emphasized the importance of paying prevailing wages to contractors who contract through the municipality.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Councilman Royce moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Korosec.

- The motion was carried unanimously.

The next Winfield Town Board Meeting will be held May 17th at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Donley  
Town of Winfield, Clerk