**Village Of Chaumont**

**Minutes of Public Hearing**

**Proposed Local Law to Opt Out of RPTL 487**

**Proposed Budget Work Session**

**February 15, 2022**

**6:00 PM**

**Location of Meeting:**

Village Office

12175 State Route 12E

Chaumont, New York 13622

**Present at Meeting:** Valerie Rust, James Morrow, Michael Nichols, Jose Sosa, Dori-Ann Froelich, Karen Fitzgerald, Erin Fulton

The Public Hearing of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:00 PM on February 15, 2022 at Village Office by Mayor Valerie Rust.

**Proposed Local Law to Opt Out of RPTL 487**

Mayor Rust informed the Board of Trustees that Convergent allegedly has secured their tax exempt status utilizing a 60 day limit [for response to their notification]. After talking with the Village’s attorney, Jim Burrows, she contacted the attorney for the solar farm, Dan Spitzer, and requested a copy of the notification that the Village and Town had allegedly received in 2020. We are waiting on response to this request from Convergent at this time.

The Village of Chaumont’s attorney, Jim Burrows, has suggested we opt out of RPTL 487. Doing so before March 1st would be aggressive, but better for the Village. Dave Paulson, Jefferson County attorney, agrees.

Mayor Rust read the public notice that had been supplied to the Village Clerk’s office by our attorney, that Clerk Fitzgerald had published in the Watertown Daily Times leading up to the meeting. An opportunity to be heard in regard to opting out of RPTL 487 was given, but no residents were in attendance.

* A Seeker was executed
* An intent to adopt a resolution for a negative declaration in our Regular Board Meeting was proposed by Mayor Rust

Mayor Rust had previously told our attorney and Dave Paulson of Jefferson County that we were naïvely confident in the agencies who were working with us to know the solar regulations (JCIDA, NYSERDA) and it didn’t work [in our favor].

Mayor Rust read through the seeker for opting out of RPTL 487. The Village Board of Trustees is issuing a negative declaration on the seeker, stating that there is no significant impact on the environment based on the adoption of this proposed legislation.

The seeker, negative declaration, copy of resolution, and all supporting documents can be found in the Village Clerk’s office. Attorney Burrows will be handling the filing of this local law, sending copies to NYSERDA and the Office of Real Property Services.

**Proposed Budget Work Session**

Mayor Rust had Clerk Fitzgerald hand out printed copies of the proposed 2022-2023 budget to each Trustee. She went over some details with them and asked them to delve further into it before the next meeting.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:30 PM by Trustee Morrow, and seconded by Trustee Sosa.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

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Village Clerk/Treasurer