

A Regular Town Board meeting was held on February 16, 2017 at the Lysander Town Building, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Saraceni, Supervisor
Robert Ellis, Councilor
Peter Moore, Councilor
Robert Geraci, Councilor
Roman Diamond, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney; Town Engineer Al Yager, Town Comptroller David Rahrle; Theresa Golden, Assessor; Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; Parks and Recreation Supervisor Tony Burkinshaw; Gene Dinsmore, Highway Superintendent; PAC-B, and several residents.

Supervisor Saraceni called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1:
INCENTIVE ZONING MAP CHANGE APPLICATION

RES#44/2017

Supervisor Saraceni moved to open the public hearing at 7:02 pm.

Town Clerk Dina Falcone read the proof: "PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York 13027, regarding the Incentive Zoning Map Change Application (hereinafter "Incentive Zoning Application"). PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the environmental significance of said proposed Incentive Zoning Application Map Change will be reviewed by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander incident to and as a part of said public hearing. Copies of said proposed Incentive Zoning Map Change Application are available for review at the office of the Town Clerk. By order of the Town Board of the Town of Lysander, dated January 19, 2017. Town of Lysander Dina Falcone, Town Clerk."

Town Engineer Al Yager referred to the map on the bulletin board and explained the proposed change as follows: He stated that the existing zoning map has the parcels north of what is Whispering Oaks IV, which was already approved, wrapping around the north side of Whispering Oaks and the north side of Paul Hafner's property [included in the Incentive Zoning overlay]. He stated that the proposed map takes those out, and takes out small residential parcels and the Village DPW parcel to the southeast of Whispering Oaks along 370 [which have been taken out of the Incentive Zoning overlay].

Referring to the map, he pointed to the piece which has already been approved for a project. Keeping it in allows the goal of making sewers as close as possible to the Seneca Estates and Riverbend neighborhoods, and if there is ever an issue with the septic systems near the river that results in a Consent Order from the DEC. This area would be able to be serviced by gravity sewers to the existing pump station in the Whispering Oaks Development.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO
INCENTIVE ZONING MAP CHANGE APPLICATION**

Andy Reeves of Reeves Road stated that he has a problem where the Town is leaving the Incentive Zoning. He would eliminate that also. He said that it is good farmland but he [Hafner] put deep irrigation in there last year, if [the Town] took that and left everything as a cluster development, he could still farm that, and if someone upstream wanted to run sewers, he said to let them negotiate that with the land owner. Mr. Reeves said it makes no sense to put Incentive Zoning right now in the most valuable farmland. He said irrigation is quite expensive and deep and it works with fruit and vegetables. As far as Seneca Estates, he said that the Town never complied with County and/or took a survey. (He asked someone from the audience about sewers). He asked if the Town is not going to put public sewers in, why is the Town setting land aside. He said it's not going to happen, and if it does happen he suggested letting the developers down the road do it with cluster housing.

Kevin Rode of Greymoor Way stated his concern with cutting off the north part of the Incentive Zoning on Emerick Road. He said that if there is going to be possibly up to 34 homes built that it could connect to that. He asked if the Town did a soil study to see if it is good farmland.

Supervisor Saraceni said yes. Mr. Rode said it was mostly stone. He spoke regarding the idea of preservation of good farmland and greenspace, and looking at the map he sees "a whole lot of green" that isn't going to be developed. He said there is no water and no sewer. He doesn't see the change, and he asked why just change one part of it, as it would have to be brought before County Planning, and ask them what their thoughts are on changing the map. If 'we' [meaning the Town] are going to talk to those land owners why didn't 'we' talk to the others east of 370 and change the map all at once? If we want to revisit it maybe 'we' should look at doing everything at one time. Mr. Rode said he is against it; to take that part of Emerick Road off. He thinks the Town is taking an opportunity away from a land owner that could possibly be his retirement. He thinks it is as good idea to leave it there; at least that part. He said he understands Mr. Reeve's concern regarding irrigation. He thinks the north part of Emerick should be left in.

RES#45/2017

Hearing all comments, **Supervisor Saraceni** closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm. The motion was made by **Councilor Moore** and seconded by **Councilor Ellis**.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

PUBLIC HEARING NO. 2

**A LOCAL LAW OPTING OUT OF THE TAX EXEMPTION PROVIDED FOR IN
SECTION 487 OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

RES#46/2017

Supervisor Saraceni opened the public hearing at 7:10 pm.

Town Clerk Dina Falcone read the proof of publication as follows: "PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York 13027, regarding a local law opting out of the tax exemption provided for in Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the environmental significance of said proposed local law will be reviewed by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander incident to and as a part of said public hearing. Copies of said proposed local law are available for review at the office of the Town Clerk. By order of the Town Board of the Town of Lysander, dated February 2, 2017."

Supervisor Saraceni stated that he is proposing denying the solar complex. It is as opt out. In order for the Board to deny the automatic tax incentive, the Board has to take action. That is what proposing denying the tax incentive for solar complexes is. The Public Hearing is the opportunity for the Board to hear from the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO OPT OUT PUBLIC HEARING

Victoria Shires of Van Wie Drive West stated that according to her understanding of Section 487 it allows for any individual, resident or business that puts up a solar system to be exempt from property taxes of only any assessments attributed to the addition for 15 years. She said, "You can't opt out of part of just part of it; you have to opt out of all of it." She gave an example, "We can't say it's just for big solar farms, you would be telling individual residents that you and the Board are in favor of raising their property taxes after they are spending potentially tens of thousands of dollars on improvements to their home in order to gain back energy savings, in order to help the environment, as well as businesses." Ms. Shires stated that she is in favor of keeping people's taxes lower, and that for the residents investing a significant amount of money, the Town should look into entering PILOT agreements as opposed to removing property exemption for all.

Jamie Bodenlos of Afternoon Drive in Lysander Preserve said she does not want to opt out of this [tax exemption] for several reasons. She began by asking the Supervisor if he believes in climate change and global warming. **Supervisor Saraceni** told her that it isn't the time for the Board to speak, but to hear public comments. She stated that she thinks it's important for [the Board] or their constituents "because some of 'you' are coming up for re-election soon". She said she has small children and is worried about the climate. She went into lecture about behavioral principals, and mentioned that she is a scientist who studies behavioral principles. She said she knows that people's behavior depends on whether it's reinforced or punished, and the tax exemption serves as a reinforcer, so positive reinforcement means you give a reward or money or something to increase a behavior. Negative reinforcement is when you take away something aversive, and that increases a behavior. Ms. Bodenlos continued by stating that if we want our community to increase environmentally friendly practices we need to keep this in place. She says that will drive behavior. She asked Supervisor Saraceni what his plans are to help the environment. She asked him if he has thought about what he wants to do on Earth Day; plant trees, or encourage constituents to plant them. She asked if there are electric car stations in Lysander. She said if Lysander can get some stations maybe people will buy some cars. She added that she drives a hybrid. She told the Board that they should start to be role models for the environment.

Gail Tosh of Emerick Road stated that she was thinking about herself and five of her neighbors who have solar. She asked how many people and businesses may not get solar. She said [we] are cutting into people helping the environment and people doing something good for their homes and cutting into people salaries. She said it is expensive to put solar in and to make it more expensive is doing everyone a disservice.

Jim Stirushnik of Dinglehole Road stated that he is in favor of going forward with what the Town is proposing [regarding the opt out]. He referred to the people with electric cars issue: "have you tried a horse? Manure is usable, horses can be used for meat, and it provides transportation and is ecologically friendly.

Jamie Bodenlos referenced a fact sheet from *New York Sun* which reflects activity as to what other states suggest there is less solar development in jurisdictions that opt out of the property tax exemption with little to no additional tax revenue collected.

Victoria Shires said that it is important for what she says to be recorded into the minutes, that if we [the Town] decide to opt out of this statute, you [the Board] are essentially saying that they are more than happy to raise property taxes on a very small number of homeowners in the district. She said she would be happy to peruse the streets of Lysander and knock on doors to let them know that come election time. She said it is awful to deliberately raise taxes for people and it is completely unnecessary. She said if it is looking for money from businesses, the Town can enter into a PILOT program. She said that to tell someone that just spent \$30K on a solar system, it is going to change the assessment on their home and raise taxes by not giving the exemption people need to know why it happened and who made it happen.

RES#47/2017

Hearing all comments, **Supervisor Saraceni** closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm. The motion was made by **Councilor Geraci** and seconded by **Councilor Diamond**.

Supervisor Saraceni Aye Councilor Ellis Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Diamond Aye

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Continuation of Public Hearing: “Adoption of a Local Law of the Town of Lysander for the year 2016” Regarding On-Site Use Solar Energy Systems

RES#48/2017

Supervisor Saraceni opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO ON-SITE USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

Brian Reeves of Wheaton Road had previously submitted comments to the Board regarding the public hearing. He stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone heard what when on. He looked through the draft and outlined several sections. He noted that if the Board had any questions or comments, he would welcome them. Mr. Reeves stated that in the draft, he commented that the farm buildings are exempt from the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention Code and the proposed law talks about walkways and panels in the roof which might be considered overly restrictive in an Ag district. He said that it says if the local law is more restrictive than the Fire Code law, they would be considered as guidelines only, and the Fire Code Law would apply, which he interpreted as, “Your building doesn’t qualify for the Fire Code Law then an impediment to your roof.” He asked if we had an opinion on that.

Town Attorney Tony Rivizzigno stated it would be overwritten by the State law. Mr. Reeves said there is basically free standing ground mounted solar collection systems are prohibited in one that says AR40 land that is zoned AR40. When he spoke with Ag and Markets that would be considered overly restrictive if the land was in an Ag district, which he believes much of the AR40 is an Ag district at the moment.

Supervisor Saraceni said it was amended to allow for solar complexes in AR40. **Town Engineer Yager** checked the section and said it’s only prohibited in AR40 on lots less than 80,000 square feet, so if you have a one acre lot then no, but if you have a 2 acre lot yes. **Mr. Yager** concurred with the grammatical change.

Supervisor Saraceni thanked the residents for their helpful comments, but he had to remind the audience that that it is difficult for the Town Clerk to get all the comments when they are voiced from the seats. He mentioned there was a helpful comment from a seat. He said that if someone wishes to make a comment they need to come to the microphone.

Mr. Reeves referred to Section 130-93 D10 about fencing for security, and said there is no number 10 in the revision. **Mr. Yager** said that was taken out. He said we were talking about a minimum lot size of 20 acres, but it is not a minimum of 20 parcels. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that it comes down to a minimum of coverage. Mr. Reeves said he understands why there would be a minimum amount of land to work with and referred to Section 139 93 D5 requiring berms or

landscaping, as it may be considered overly restrictive. He said that Ag and Markets might say ‘this is natural surroundings’ and to landscape or make berms, it could be left in and there would be a chance to challenge it.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that he talked to Mr. Bowers at Ag and Markets, and said he was surprised at how little Ag and Markets had to say about solar, especially when it came to commercial solar, because it’s not a farming operation. He said he would be curious as well, as that hadn’t come up. Mr. (Brian) Reeves said that the Town had done its due diligence with the law, and addressed most of the comments. He appreciated that Ag and Markets was contacted directly by the Town.

RES#49/2017

Hearing all comments, **Supervisor Saraceni** closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 pm. The motion was made by **Councilor Geraci** and seconded by **Councilor Diamond**.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Continuation of Public Hearing: "Collington Pointe Incentive Zoning Application"

RES#50/2017

Supervisor Saraceni opened the Public Hearing at 7:29 pm.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that the Board has kept this Public Hearing open for some time, and they are trying to avoid duplicate comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATED TO COLLINGTON POINTE PUBLIC HEARING

Jeffrey Ting of Collington Pointe said he had made comments previously, and asked about the impact on Patchett Road residents, and why is this not a vote for the public and just the Board.

Town Attorney Rivizzigno stated that under the State and Town Law there are certain things that are authorized to be voted on by the public, it's called Mandatory Referendum. There are other things that are authorized to be voted on by the public called Permissive Referendum. Everything else is not given to the public to vote on. Similar to the State Legislature and Federal Government, the public doesn't vote on those things unless the law provides for it. This is one of those specific things. It's by State law.

Mr. Ting stated that if the studies are paid for by the proposed agency, then the results would always favor the funding source. He said there are a lot of questions but not a lot of answers. One question he asked is what is going to be done to fill the swamp land, as he heard two weeks ago it was not going to be filled, and there is a high chance there will be no homes there. He said if you read the updated plan, it still mentions about 122 homes. It seems to him that there's not a feedback loop as far as the points that have been talked about in the plan, or changes in the plan.

Brian Bouchard from CHA Consulting said that the proposed plan is a lot layout, and he has been through what Incentive Zoning is, and this is a layout and not fully detailed instructions. The incentive package is a package for maximum density and providing a benefit package. CHA has a lot layout plan that provides for a full buildout of 122 lots. It does not say on the plan where the home will be or how grading will take place. It says that it is an opportunity for the developer to fully buildout 120 lots. **Mr. Bouchard** said it is likely that they will be deleted as CHA goes through the remainder of the process with the Planning Board. He said that just because the lot is shown within a property with a pond and wetlands, does not mean it will be disturbed. This is density related discussion not specific to where houses will be placed and roads developed.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that to be clear, it is not the intention of the builder to build on a wetland or disturb a wetland. **Mr. Bouchard** said the pond will not be filled in, and wetlands cannot be filled in because they are NYS wetlands; the pond could be filled in but would be preserved. There is a buffer zone that can't be developed, but these are detailed things that don't have to do with density is being discussed with the Incentive Zoning.

Mr. Ting stated that if there is such a high likelihood that wetlands would not be developed on it, it would be reflected in the plan as a matter of typical adjustments that are normally made to a plan. He said it would help add creditability when one does that to a plan. He stated that after listening to all the points that have been made by the Board members and attendees two and four weeks ago, he did not hear one individual in favor of the plan. He said the Town should take heed of the reasons it was rejected.

Gail Tosh of Emerick Road said she is affected by what goes on Collington Pointe. She talked about where traffic is going, she said it is going down the 31 corridor and out to Clay, down 370 to John Glenn Boulevard, and travelling into the city, going to Liverpool and to the mall. She said that when people go there, they are taking their money with them. She said people are going to spend money [elsewhere] but not creating businesses here, and they are not going to be hiring our [Baldwinsville] citizens, or bringing tourism dollars to this town. She said there are problems at the stop signs, and people are taking their lives into their own hands with those stop signs. [At Patchett/370 corners].

Ms. Tosh stated that she is scared on a national level regarding schools. She has two kids who rely on the Special Education Department in the Baldwinsville School District. She is worried about the influx of children coming into the district, and worries about what is going to happen to her children; however she said she is an 'inclusionist' and wants everyone to have the best. She said she believes that people are going to bring their kids to Baldwinsville, and they are going to leave their kids with "us" and spend their money elsewhere. She said that frightens her. She said her kids will not make it without the Baldwinsville Central School District Special Education Department. Ms. Tosh stated that she cannot be in competition with other families for special education dollars.

Ms. Tosh asked about the incentives. **Supervisor Saraceni** said that the incentives are for higher density in targeted areas in the Town. Ms. Tosh said she is looking at money for the Town, as she is interested in the dollar amount. She said it may seem like a lot of money for people, but then she talked about her house being worth \$180K, what kind of value that would be if she gave the town her house. She said very little. As to the stone dust path, she asked if there were endangered species. **Supervisor Saraceni** said he did not believe so. She asked about the stone path as an incentive. She asked if it is preserved wetlands. She said there should be something interesting to see there, and people should learn something. She asked if there are going to be exercise stations. She said she doesn't live in Radisson but she has used the basketball courts and tennis courts and they have improved the life of her family. These incentives are nothing. She said she cannot think of a positive thing for increasing density. She hasn't heard anyone say anything good about the proposal. She is unclear as to why it is still in discussion if the County denied it.

Jamie Bodenlos asked if the Town has completed the sewer expansion for Whispering Oaks. **Supervisor Saraceni** asked for clarification and asked if she meant across the street. He said no, but there are bid documents. **Mr. Yager** said that it is west of the Village. Ms. Bodenlos said then that her question would be "Why are we setting aside money for a new property if we have other projects that are not finished in other areas?" **Mr. Yager** said that project is already funded through another grant. He said he didn't have the exact figures at that time, but that project is funded through another grant.

Ms. Bodenlos asked if there are there any campaign contributions coming from the developers, the builders, the owners, or the engineers coming their way [meaning to the Board members] as part of this [project]. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that is not happening.

Casey Ostrander of Echodale Avenue stated that he is against the Incentive Zoning application in that he puts a lot of faith in the zoning in this town. He said that this is a community he would like his kids to be a part of when they get older and would like to see responsible growth. He said he thinks that is why the zoning was put into place and to cut that down to a quarter of the

existing square footage in lot size, he is not in favor of. As for the incentives, he said he does not think they are significant.

Jon Roppel of Patchett Road stated that he is following up with the comments that were made in the last meeting, and **Supervisor Saraceni** asked if they are new comments and new questions. Mr. Roppel said they are just questions and he asked how to get feedback on his questions. There wasn't an opportunity that he saw to get feedback. He asked what the opportunity is for him to get answers to questions or to answer the community. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that at some point the public hearing will be closed. He said that the Board will have to take action on either this proposal or a modified proposal, and at that point he would expect that usually before there's a vote there's a discussion period, and the Board will have had time to absorb all of the feedback from the public and weigh it on the merits of the project and how it impacts not a specific area, but the whole Town in general.

Mr. Roppel asked if there is any information available about the proposed improvements to Patchett Road itself, or if that is down the road for future discussion. **Supervisor Saraceni** said the Board can speak to what it is thinking as far as cost estimates on the improvements that are being discussed and the length of the road, and how the Town would improve that road.

Mr. Bouchard said this was provided in CHA's Incentive Zoning request. The improvements would be a two foot wide gravel shoulder from River Road to Collington Pointe Way, it's approximately 4,900 linear feet, this would be a box out of the shoulder two foot wide six inches deep to provide a sub base within that shoulder section and would also include re-grading the extension of shoulders to be safer, and then topsoil and seed of the disturbance, and there would also be a few drainage improvements. This will be done only with the existing roadway; it's purely to establish a well-defined shoulder which is needed out there.

Tom Quinn of Collington Pointe (has a letter on the record) asked if this project is discussed at work sessions at 5:30 pm. **Supervisor Saraceni** said it can be. Mr. Quinn asked to let the public know that there may be discussion at a work session. **Supervisor Saraceni** said when the agenda is released to the best of the Town Board's ability it tries to include everything in that is going to be talked about that night, so if there's an interest to the public they can attend. He would invite anyone in the public to come to work sessions. He said the Board talks about a number of issues that may or may not be acted upon at the Board meeting. The Board takes questions from the audience, and they try to move along. It is an excellent opportunity for the public to come and engage on some topics as action items on the agenda.

Andy Reeves of Reeves Road said he was going to say what he did last meeting and the meeting before and "get away with it". He said that last week the engineer came in, the Board received a copy of the new proposal and 'we' [the public] didn't see the proposal until the next day online. He said that two meetings ago he brought up the legality of using money for sewers down in Red Rock. After reviewing the new proposal Red Rock is still in it. **Supervisor Saraceni** interjected and said it's not a new proposal. Mr. Reeves said it's an updated one with a January 30, 2017 date on it. They showed where they are giving us [meaning the Town] \$50K more incentive. The walk is still in there. Mr. Reeves said that if you look at CLUP, it says any walk is to come under a homeowner's association or [paid for] by the developer. He still questions Cabbage Patch and asked if it was a done deal. He doesn't agree with that. He said that Incentive Zoning says the money has to be paid before any issue of permits or anything else; and that's a progressive payment deal. He said the same thing with this [proposal] the law says payment has to be made up front. He said either the (map) has to change or the law has to change and there are other issues in there that need to be addressed. He said the Board either has to change its

Incentive Zoning law, or this [project] has to wait. Mr. Reeves asked how long a public hearing can remain open.

Town Attorney Tony Rivizzigno said with regard to a public hearing as long as it is open it does not have to be acted on. He also stated that the law does not require the payment up front but before permits are issued. Mr. Reeves asked if this was under Incentive Zone. Mr. Reeves He said payment is a cash incentive and has to be paid up front, as when the previous Board wrote it, that is how it was done; any monies up front. Mr. Reeves told the Board they need to go back and look at the law.

Jim Stirushnik had questions about the Town Park (spray park) that was discussed in the work session. He asked what the cost estimates were. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated the quotes ranged from \$260K to \$282K. The \$400K was Town of Camillus. Strusnik said this is a feature if installed would serve all of the citizens of the Town, and this is the type of incentive he would look for as a developer. It would be welcome. He also said that he does not agree that the Town is getting enough incentives from the developer.

Joe Alfieri of Patchett Road said the CLUP is great document and he is proud of how it defines how the Town is to be developed in a logical planned out way for the future. He said this document is referenced by Town Zoning and Planning Law, with the purpose of the Incentive Zone is to specifically enhance social cultural and social policies in accordance with CLUP. He said the proposal as is has fallen flat as it doesn't meet any of the requirements of the plan people worked so hard to develop. On legal grounds, the applicant owes the town a revision in addressing these items.

Mr. Reeves spoke from the audience with permission from **Supervisor Saraceni**. He said in the Incentive Zoning regarding Collington, "Nowhere in there does it mention affordable housing". He referenced Hayes Road, and said that Town Law is what Incentive Zoning is set up for, to have affordable housing for seniors who want to downsize or [have] starter homes, it is nowhere in the project and it is in the State Law. He said the School District has had no contact with the developer, and 'we' [the public and/or the Board] have no idea how this is going to impact the school. Mr. Reeves said the school has never been talked to about regarding this development. Mr. Reeves said that is a big tax bite for all of us. He says the proposal is lacking an 'awful lot' for being ready for a vote.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that he wanted to comment as he did look into it regarding affordable housing. He said that when it was developed, Incentive Zoning had been used an awful lot downstate, and a concern when Incentive Zoning was established is that affordable housing would be displaced especially in high density areas; gentrification where you come into an area where there is low income housing and build high rises with \$2M condos. That is one of the considerations that a community should take, it's not a mandatory consideration. It was mentioned in another proposal and had nothing to do with this proposal. Mr. Reeves began to interrupt and **Mr. Saraceni** thanked him for his comments.

Supervisor Saraceni moved to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:56 pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

Supervisor Saraceni reiterated that there is a five minute clock on comments, and in order to keep things moving comments need to be agenda related. He asked residents to please refrain from making comments from their seats.

Melinda Shimer of Elizabeth Street asked about the attachments as she could not find them online. The Board said they believed they were online. She asked around the audience and Mr. Quinn said he saw them online. Mr. Quinn said he found the attachments, but noted that the website can be confusing as to where to find attachments; they could be under different headings. Discussion ensued between people, and she said she couldn't find them anywhere. **Supervisor Saraceni** said it is noted and the Board will look into it.

Victoria Shires made a comment in regard to the Section 487 agenda item. She said the record in Onondaga County shows there is no other municipality who voted to remove this tax exemption. She said the only school district shown on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance website is Cazenovia. **Supervisor Saraceni** said that Baldwinsville should be on there as well. Ms. Shires said it was not. **Supervisor Saraceni** said it should be.

Gail Tosh spoke about security personnel. She said she was at the meeting the first night security was present. She asked if the security guard was hired before the Board voted. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated the hiring was done. He said the person who was interviewed was previously an employee who was brought on by the previous Board, and the hourly rate was actually \$62 an hour at that time. What the Board did was re-hire this person for security as an employee for the Town for Board meetings. She asked if paperwork was done by the employee and **Supervisor Saraceni** confirmed same with **Comptroller David Rahrle**.

Ms. Tosh asked how the Town is utilizing our security. **Supervisor Saraceni** advised her this isn't an agenda item. She had issues with how the Town is utilizing the security guard as she watched a previous Board meeting. She said it was uncomfortable to watch, and there were a lot of charged emotions. She said that it seemed that people were looking for answers. She is not against the security guard and would prefer there were two. She discussed where they should be placed in the auditorium. She said to place them where they are useful. She reiterated that she would prefer two security guards. Ms. Tosh stated that if the Town is going to have security the Board should use it efficiently. She doesn't think this was thought out well and that it was a knee jerk reaction. **Supervisor Saraceni** said this is not about one particular person as Ms. Tosh alluded to, and she said it would be hard to believe that from watching the video.

Victoria Shires followed up on her point and questions regarding Section 487 with regard to the Solar Law and the posting of the opt out on the NYS website. She asked Supervisor Saraceni what the date was that Baldwinsville opted out and asked what date that was done. She said she didn't see anything and is trying to find out when it was done. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that he was notified that they had been given the motion. **Town Attorney Rivizzigno** stated that School Districts and the Town are separate municipalities and one can opt out and the other can choose not to. Mr. Reeves yelled something about the opt out from the audience thereby

interrupting Supervisor Saraceni and Town Attorney Rivizzigno. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that comments should be made from the microphone. **Supervisor Saraceni** told Ms. Shires he can provide the motion she was looking for after the meeting.

Andy Reeves came to the microphone and asked if the School Board opts out, and the Town doesn't, what happens? **Town Attorney Tony Rivizzigno** said it is the same as the 485(b) exemption, if a School District opts out, the town can do the opposite; it depends on the school taxes or the town taxes. If the School District opts out, the school taxes apply, if they don't opt out it's just the opposite.

Jamie Bodenlos brought with her facts on Global Warming (attached as part of these minutes). **Supervisor Saraceni** said he plans on making comments about same. Ms. Bodenlos asked Supervisor Saraceni how does the public have a chance to say anything before an issue is voted on? **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that this (now) is the chance. Ms. Bodenlos stated that we have a Federal Government that wants to destroy the Environmental Protection Agency; they want to eliminate that whole agency. She said that as individuals 'we' have the opportunity to do things in our homes, like composting, or adding solar panels. She said these things that are important to her, as we are cutting down trees all the time. She said this plan is going to reduce trees. If the [Board goes forward for the vote], and opts out, she said there are less incentives for people to make these changes. She said 'we' don't want to deter people from making improvements to their homes and helping the environment. She said solar energy is a leading [industry] of job growth. She said that she was listening to a story on NPR and it stated that [solar] is providing more jobs and this area is a leading area to provide jobs in renewable energy. Ms. Bodenlos stated that it's important to leave it in place. She continued by stating that we are living in a time of mass extinction: in order to keep this in place, and do better and help our children have a planet to live on and enjoy, it is the small things we can do as citizens.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Councilor Diamond said this is the second meeting where there has been a public hearing for the Collington Pointe Incentive Zoning Application. He said the great thing about public hearings is that they give the public plenty of time to be able to voice their concerns and express questions and bring them to the Board. What a lot of people don't realize is that it limits the Board's opportunity to respond to the questions, as the Board wants to make sure it's doing its due diligence. He thanked everyone for coming to the meetings, and he doesn't want people to feel that their questions or concerns haven't been properly listened to; the Board just wants to do its due diligence.

Councilor Moore stated that the Board looks forward to hearing from everyone and he is glad to see all of the seats filled.

Councilor Geraci said he thinks it is an important point that the Colling Pointe public hearing wasn't closed. He said that he felt as though the inference was that the Board has decided this was a good proposal. The whole point of a public hearing is to put it out into the public and get public comments. He asked for people to please not infer that any of the Board members are in support of, or against anything. It is the Board's job to listen to people who want to propose a development and put a development in front of people. He said that when he hears about political campaign contributions, he said, "You have got to be kidding me. That is an insult - that is not going to happen with this Board". **Councilor Geraci** said the whole point of leaving the public hearing open is because the Board needs to hear and make a decision, and listen to

what everyone in the Town of Lysander who has something to say. There is a specific decision to be made on Collington Pointe and a bigger picture is development in the Town in general. He said it is maintaining balance, preserving the character of this Town, which is near and dear to him, and it is maintaining that balance of the rights of private land owners, and at the same time is the Town doing everything it can to preserve the character that we are blessed with.

Councilor Ellis said that he appreciates everyone coming to the meeting to voice their concerns.

Supervisor Saraceni stated he hears the concern in the residents' voices when they are making their comments regarding the public hearings. He said he wants to answer as many questions as he can immediately, but it is the residents' time to speak, and the audience will get feedback, but maybe not on every question that is asked, but there will be a time when this application is voted up or down, or modified. He said there will be an action, and when this Board does take action, he assumes each Board member will make a comment related to their position. He said, "Don't take our 'what appears to be nonchalant' attitude as the Board is used to having a dialogue or conversation with people." When people ask a question, they are used to getting a direct response, but that is not the process with a public hearing. In order for the process to play out, the Board tries to stick to the rules. When there is a question that can be answered immediately from a developer the Board tries try to take care of it right away. If there's a general question on philosophy, people are not going to get that kind of engagement from this Board during a public hearing. He said he appreciates everyone coming.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that he likes to see people in the audience. He said his position can be a difficult spot, and he is honored and the Board is too. He said that the Board is trying to be as open and transparent as possible in the process. He said that some great exchanges happen during the work sessions and they have fun. He said the Board invites comments at that time.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that one positive thing the Board discussed in the work session was about getting some nice grants for the community. He said that Mr. Yager did a great job of securing \$440K grant for drainage projects in Radisson, and a \$100K grant is on its way to help the Town put up a cold storage facility and DPW facility off of Elizabeth Street, which will help, hopefully there will be a day we can sell that property. He stated that \$50K was found and the Town is going to apply it to next year's roadwork. His personal goal is to acquire over \$1M, for our community, and the Town is applying for a tree grant as well. This is positive for our community.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

RES#52/2017

Motion by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Geraci to adopt the February 2, 2017 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Supervisor Saraceni stated that the minutes were 14 pages long. He told the Town Clerk she did a good job.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent Gene Dinsmore said that he keeps a log. This date was the 65th snow event we have had this season. He said that they have had more than last season. He said HW purchased 1300 tons of salt which is more than what was used last year. Although the winter hasn't been severe we have had consistent snow and sleet and ice events that are costing the HW Department in time and salt. He said that is our job and he likes taking care of the people and most of the comments from people in the community are mostly favorable. He said that occasionally there is a troubled person, but that hurts because it's not the case. He mentioned that the HW Department has GPS instruments on all of its plows, so that he can produce a report. He said the HW Department is generally out twice before school buses and once after school buses. He asked that if there is an issue to let him know the name and address of the resident so he can help them.

Parks and Recreation Supervisor Tony Burkinshaw stated that the Father Daughter Dance sold out for Saturday night but they opened another night, Friday (tomorrow), and tickets will be sold at the door. He said they sell out of tickets within the first week after flyers are passed out in the schools. He said they worked with Mohegan Manor for both nights.

Mr. Burkinshaw thanked the kids from BOCES, as they were able to make 9 picnic tables with materials the Town provided for them. He said that the HW Department was able to pick them up and now there will be 9 brand new tables for the park that were made by the kids from BOCES. **Mr. Burkinshaw** mentioned the annual Junk in the Trunk Sale on Mother's Day weekend, and food and restrooms will be available for people. He said there are thirteen vendors in one location.

Mr. Burkinshaw said that in mid-May the Classic Car Cruising in the Park will commence by bringing in classic cars at 5:00 pm at the north end of the Lysander Town Park on Thursdays.

Mr. Burkinshaw stated that Parks is going to apply for a grant for the ash tree program by the DEC to plant trees at the park. One of the things the Board felt would be proactive for the tree program, is to work with the DEC and the Town Engineer to apply for the grant in March to double the funds to support the program.

A resident from the audience asked about the Town Park sign being broken. **Mr. Burkinshaw** advised that the park is closed, and it will be addressed. He only has seasonal staff at this point.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE 2017 AGREEMENT WITH CANTON WOODS

RES#53/2017

Motion made by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Geraci to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the 2017 agreement with Canton Woods Senior Center along with the Village of Baldwinsville and the Town of Van Buren.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Supervisor Saraceni stated that this is an inter-municipal agreement which is funding the Canton Woods Senior Center. It is a recreation facility for seniors over 50, and it has been a great collaboration between the greater Baldwinsville municipalities. There are no changes from last year. Attorney Rivizzigno reviewed the contract.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFER

RES#54/2017

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Ellis to authorize a budget transfer regarding security personnel to cover Town Board Meetings to account 01010-101 security from account 01990-400, the Contingency Account, per the attached Budget Modification Request form.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION FOR PUNCH LIST SECURITY FOR THE ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE UTILITIES INCLUDED IN RIVER POINTE SUBDIVISION IN RE SALVATORE AVE AND CARMELLAS CIRCLE

RES#55/2017

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Moore that the punch list security for the roadway and drainage utilities included in River Pointe subdivision be set at \$76,500 for the following roadways:

<u>Street</u>	<u>Length</u>
Salvatore Ave	0.231 miles
Carmellas Circle	0.143 miles

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION FOR PUNCH LIST SECURITY FOR THE ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE UTILITIES INCLUDED IN RIVER POINTE SUBDIVISION

RES#56/2017

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Diamond that the maintenance guarantee security for the roadway, sanitary sewer and drainage utilities within the River Pointe Subdivision is set at \$130,996 for a period of three (3) years.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AND ADVERTISE FOR SAME
REGARDING PLACEMENT OF STOP SIGNS AT RIVER POINTE INTERSECTIONS**

RES#57/2017

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore to hold a Public Hearing Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium to amend the Town of Lysander Vehicle and Traffic Law and hear all persons for or against placement of traffic "Stop" signs at the below mentioned intersections, and to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for said Public Hearing.

Intersections:

Salvatore Ave (South Entrance Point) entering Drakes Landing Road
Salvatore Ave (North Entrance Point) entering Drakes Landing Road
Carmellas Circle entering Glacier Ridge Road

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE LOCAL LAW OPTING OUT OF THE TAX EXEMPTION
PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 487 OF THE RPTL OF THE STATE OF NY**

RES#58/2017

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore to adopt the Local Law opting out of the tax exemption provided for in Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York. (As per the Public Hearing held this date regarding same.)

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Councilor Moore stated that earlier in the comments it was said that this particular motion would be a vote to raise taxes. This is not how he sees this. He says the Board is not voting to raise people's taxes. He didn't want it to be misconstrued in that way. He said if he makes an improvement on his house he can assume that his taxes will probably go up, whether it's a swimming pool or solar panels. In regard to the environment, he has planted a lot of trees. He doesn't want there to be a generalization in that everybody is either 'here' or everybody is either over 'here'. He said that he is an outdoorsman, and views us as "first environmentalists". He is an outdoorsman, he spends a lot of time in the woods, and a lot of time outdoors. He does what he can to keep his carbon footprint down. And he does what he can fiscally in that regard. He plants a lot of trees in his yard and other properties he has. What he is saying is that he doesn't want a big generalization to be made, and it's okay to disagree with him as he welcomes that discussion; but one way or another there is a balance that Councilor Geraci mentioned before and what we are trying to do is find that balance.

Councilor Geraci stated that he doesn't think it's the government's place to pick winners and losers. He said that in terms of tax breaks or just allowing someone not to pay taxes for 'x' number of years because it sounds like a good thing, but we do lots of things and his goal is to treat everyone fairly and equitably and equally, and that's why he is voting in favor of opting out. He is not against solar energy, as he heats his home with firewood and cuts his own trees for firewood. He stated that where he comes from regarding solar and wind is, "What does the landscape look like when you have these things on them", and that is a concern of his, in terms of what you see. What he sees today is what he likes – "green", and that concern of what solar panels can do especially on a commercial level changes that. He said he is not at all against what people do on the roofs of their own houses. He is trying to treat everyone fairly and not pick winners and losers.

Councilor Diamond stated that his focus is isn't so much the residential impact, but his concern is more the commercial solar farms, and what that impact is going to have, and 15 years is a long time. He said what Councilor Geraci said, he doesn't know if it's appropriate for the government whether local, federal or state, to pick who should be a winner and who should be a loser. He said he loves the outdoors, as he hikes and camps and his family spends time outdoors. He doesn't think it is fair to categorize the Board as not being sensitive to the environment.

Supervisor Saraceni said he believes the climate is changing. How much of an impact man has on it, he doesn't know. He said there are scientists who say we need to make changes right now, or else bad things are going to happen sooner rather than later. When he looks at this, he says he is not the President, he is not the Commission of the UN championing climate change issues. He needs to look at how this issue impacts his local community. He said he did some research on the impact this would have specifically on residents. He said for example, "You put a solar panel on your roof, there are some municipalities who have determined it hasn't added a lot of assessed value to the home and if you take that and apply a rate; if you put in a \$30K system and you do get some subsidies, you get help putting it up there, but just because it's a 30K system doesn't mean it's going to add 30K value to your home." He said there is another thing that needs to be mentioned regarding research which has shown there is not real energy savings with solar panels. Actually people who put solar panels up tend to use more energy as they are not drawing off the grid as much. As far as energy conservation, that's not a huge consideration for him. Anybody that had solar panels in the past is grandfathered, so if you have them installed prior to a change that's coming this date, what he took into account it's not so much the residential it's the commercial, and how much subsidies impact the community. He doesn't think that any particular energy industry should be incentivized. That has gone into his decision and he is in favor of the opt out. Supervisor Saraceni continued by saying that members of the Board spent a fair amount of time at the Association of Towns meetings in Solar [related] classes. He even thought there was an opportunity to put one on the dump but it is too far from phase 3 power, so that is not an opportunity for us right now. He is in favor of green energy when it makes sense, but not in favor at this time of the incentives that go along with these large solar projects; they should stand alone.

Mr. Reeves attempted to interrupt the discussion with a comment, and **Supervisor Saraceni** had to remind him that it is not the public comment period.

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW
FOR ON SITE USE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS**

RES#59/2017

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Diamond to adopt the proposed local law for On-Site Use Solar Energy Systems.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Councilor Geraci stated that the Board worked really hard on working to make sure this regulation was going to protect the Town of Lysander now and into the future, and allowing and permitting commercial and solar to take place. He said if you are going to put one in commercially, there has to be a set back and screening, and they won't likely be seen from the road if done correctly. He said he is appreciative of the Planning Board and Jack Corey, for pointing out that we need to protect the Town if someone that puts one in says "bye-bye" to the Town of Lysander, and there are acres of solar panels left sitting there. We are requiring that the dollar amount stays relevant to the cost of taking the system down, not what you see but what is underground as well. This is about protecting the Town of Lysander, and he said he doesn't want the Town Board 25 years down the road saying "What were those Board members thinking" and then there is no money to take it down when someone abandons it.

Supervisor Saraceni thanked all who made comments. He said he kept the public hearing open for comments as long as possible, and he hopes that regardless, people understand that this board gave everyone ample time to make comments. He said the Board did a lot of research. He thanked Brian Reeves, who he met for coffee and discussion, and for putting his thoughts to paper. Supervisor Saraceni said the Board took his thoughts into consideration. (The notes from Mr. Brian Reeves will be included in the minutes). Supervisor Saraceni stated that he thought that land owners that had land tracks big enough shouldn't be discriminated against if they were in AR40, and the Board acknowledged that. He said the Board has some really good restrictions in the Town. He hopes that everybody in the Town has an opportunity to explore solar, and he thinks they have a really good law in place.

Supervisor Saraceni advised the audience that an item "H" was being added to the agenda regarding bringing on an insurance company by the name of Trident and Allianz to provide coverage. He said the Board was given a presentation which resulted in a good discussion and it was recommended the Town sign on and move from NYMER to Trident and Allianz coverage.

**MOTION TO ALLOW SUPERVISOR TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR
TRIDENT AND ALLIANZ**

RES#60/2017

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Geraci to allow the Supervisor to sign the contract for Trident and Allianz for liability coverage for the Town of Lysander in the amount of \$46,807.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Supervisor Saraceni stated that it is important to note that during the work session it was discussed that the Town will be saving 21.8% on the cost, and it is spending \$59,871 and the amount being proposed now is \$46,807.

Supervisor Saraceni added that the Board added Agenda Item "I", which goes along with comments made earlier regarding grant opportunities. He said that so far the Town has commandeered \$650K and will be applying for approximately \$250K from Onondaga County for infrastructure help. He stated that in October, Onondaga County passed a motion allowing for \$750K in funding be available to towns for infrastructure. This is a motion to show the County and the state that this Board is serious and available for this.

MOTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM ONONDAGA COUNTY

RES#61/2017

Motion made by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Ellis to apply for funding from the Onondaga County infrastructure improvement for capital projects within the Town.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

CITIZENS COMMENTS REGARDING TOWN RELATED BUSINESS

Andy Reeves asked a question regarding the two solar farms proposed for River Road, and asked if they had their applications in. **Supervisor Saraceni** said no. Mr. Reeves and the Town Attorney had a discussion with regarding up-front payments. **Attorney Rivizzigno** stated that it says, "Payment shall be made by the application prior to the issue of any permit." Mr. Reeves said the whole sum has to be paid. **Attorney Rivizzigno** said no, he doesn't read it that way. **Attorney Rivizzigno** said this is how the law is in interpreted by him. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated to Mr. Reeves, that the Town has an attorney, Tony Rivizzigno, whose advice they follow. He advised Mr. Reeves that if he has an attorney who is advising him, he would be happy to talk to him. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that it is a phase project. He said the Town is following the legal advice of the Town Attorney.

Victoria Shires said that she wanted to address some comments that were made by Councilor Moore. She said Councilor Moore said he didn't feel this was a tax raised on residents. She said she begs to differ. She said in the past residents [with solar] did so knowing they were going to be exempt. **Councilor Moore** said they were grandfathered, but she did not see anywhere in Section 487 where it is. She said the Town would have to offer an amendment. **Attorney Tony Rivizzigno** anything installed after tonight would follow the exemption. Discussion ensued between the Board and Ms. Shires regarding the exemption and assessed values for property taxes. She would like to see where Baldwinsville Central School District opted out, and said she feels that this was a grave error, but if new officials are elected 'you' can opt back in. She spoke about the environment, and resources. She said regarding tax revenue on large projects, the Board could have worked with large commercial projects with PILOT plans. **Supervisor Saraceni** said they will pay taxes. She said before they still could have.

Councilor Geraci told Ms. Shires that becomes arbitrary. He said you never know from one day to the next what a PILOT award is going to do, as this [opt out] sets the playing field even and there is no negotiation and you pay taxes. (Discussion/interruptions occurred at this point). **Councilor Geraci** said that when 'you' talk about negotiating with a PILOT back and forth, PILOT is on a case by case basis. The law needs to be consistent and equitable so there are no misunderstandings. Ms. Shires said that the Board wants to blanket that some get exemptions and some don't. She was told by Board members that it is the law. She mentioned STAR and Veterans exemptions. She said she doesn't see why 'we' have to keep it fair across the board, as there's lot of exemptions that are not fair that apply to some and not to others.

After Ms. Shires' comments, Mr. Reeves angrily made statements from the audience regarding the comments on the opt out, and **Supervisor Saraceni** told him he was disrupting the meeting.

Gail Tosh said climate change is a hard thing to understand, and she thought burning wood was a good thing and it doesn't affect us, but it is carbon based but that's a problem in Africa and China and that we are citizens of the world and we are citizens of our country and she can't separate Town from Country. She stated that energy equals power, not just energy powers things, but if we don't have to buy power, why should we should demand the Federal Government to make sacrifices for all of us. Ms. Tosh said we need to find alternate ways to that start at the grass roots level. She said we need to start taking responsibility to ourselves. This is something the entire nation needs to get behind.

Ms. Tosh thanked the Board for the improvements that were made on Emerick Road. There was a berm placed which made the snow cause traffic problems and it has helped. The berm does

need to be extended. **HW Superintendent Gene Dinsmore** said the developer did it and she thanked the developer and wanted to ask him to extend the berm.

Ms. Tosh addressed some items regarding Patchett Road, as she said the neighbors seem to suggest there are some real traffic problems on that road. She said she doesn't understand the organization of certain things. She asked if there was a speed trap placed there who is responsible for it. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that the Trooper's or Sheriff's Department would be responsible. She asked if the Town gets money back for tickets, and **Supervisor Saraceni** said we give between 65 and 70% of the money to the State. She asked if the county might be able to put up a roadblock, maybe the Town could raise some money and it would slow down traffic off of Patchett Road and bring money into the town and have lines placed on road, and guardrails to keep people off the road.

Ms. Tosh stated that a lot of people have said that they have submitted questions and asked for responses and are not getting it from the Board. He asked if 'we' could do a review of the communication process so that people feel their issues are being addressed.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that the Board has taken meticulous notes of all comments as they relate to Collington Pointe and they have a running sheet, so at some point, those questions will be answered. Some of them are more Planning Board questions, because we are not looking at the final site plan for the project, we are looking at a project as it relates to the area.

Kevin Rode asked for an amount regarding the Association of Town's Training. **Supervisor Saraceni** stated that there was \$3,900 budgeted and the estimate came in at \$2,950. What is budgeted is \$3,700. He said he believes it to be \$2,950. Mr. Rode suggested that when agenda items are added, the Board let people know what's added so people can be prepared (before the meeting). He also asked about the Codes reports and how they would be posted on the website. **Town Clerk Dina Falcone** suggested they be done monthly and she would check with the Codes Clerk. Mr. Rode asked Attorney Rivizzigno what the process would be if someone wants to make a solar farm, and if that is something they can go to OCIDA for and ask for tax breaks. **Attorney Rivizzigno** said it is authorized by statute per say but if it is determined a commercial development it would come to OCIDA.

Jamie Bodenlos asked how she could get agenda items onto the work session. **Supervisor Saraceni** told her that she could call him or email him. She asked if it would be possible to get together and do something for Earth Day, something that the Town and the community could possibly do. **Supervisor Saraceni** asked Ms. Bodenlos if she would help and she agreed.

HW Superintendent Gene Dinsmore said that the HW Department participates in Earth Day activities in cooperation with OCCRA; one of the things it does is adopt a road with for garbage pick-up.

Jim Stirushnik said he is pleased with the character of the Town as it is. He mentioned that Councilor Geraci's comments were appropriate and to maintain that type of theme in the Town. He stated that with regard to the HW Department, one of his neighbors had a unique problem along the highway, and he contacted the HW Department and the HW Superintendent was out there that night and informed him it was a County issue and contacted County so that the problem would be resolved. It speaks highly of the department. As for the water park feature, he said it would be better featured by a developer rather than use Town funds.

Supervisor Saraceni stated that the funds that may be utilized for the spray park have been funded by developers. The Town has an account called 'In Lieu of Parks' where every development pays \$350 and \$250; that is an account that hasn't been used in decades. They have contributed exclusively and said it is worth noting, but he understands what Mr. Stirushnik is saying and what he said would be considered. Mr. Stirushnik thought the fund was for major acquisition of land or new facilities which will be very expensive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SUPERVISOR SARACENI

1. **Town Board Meeting:** Thursday, March 2, 2017, 7:00 pm, Work Session begins at 5:30 pm in the Auditorium.
2. **Town Board Meeting:** Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, Work Session begins at 5:30 pm in the Auditorium.
3. **Planning Board Meeting:** Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7:00 pm, in the Auditorium.
4. **Father/Daughter Dance:** Tickets still available for February 18, 2017 at Mohegan Manor. (Sold out as of 2/8/17)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Ellis and seconded by Councilor Diamond to adjourn the regular Town Board Meeting at 9:14 pm and enter into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilor Moore and seconded by Councilor Diamond to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:05 pm.

This is a true and complete recording
of the action taken at this meeting.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk

Local Law Filing – Town of Lysander

Local Law No. 3 of the year 2017

A local law opting out of the tax exemption provided for in Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander as follows:

§ 1. Title.

A local law opting out of the tax exemption provided for in Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York

§ 2. Opt Out.

No tax exemption provided pursuant to Section 487 of the Real Property Tax Law shall be applicable within the Town of Lysander with respect to any solar powered energy systems, as defined in Section 487.1 and constructed after the effective date of this Local Law.

§ 3. Filing.

A copy of this Local Law shall be filed with the Commissioner and the President of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

§ 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

§ 5. Effective date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

Local Law No. 2 of 2017

A Local Law amending Chapter Section 139, The “Zoning Law of the Town of Lysander, New York”.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Lysander, Onondaga County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. That Chapter 139, The “Zoning Law of the Town of Lysander, as amended, is further amended to add the following new Article 30, as follows:

**ARTICLE 30
On-Site Use Solar Energy Systems**

Section 139-90. Purpose.

The Town of Lysander, through these regulations, seeks to promote the safe, effective, and efficient use of on-site-use solar energy systems in order to reduce on-site and off-site consumption of utility-supplied energy, and to balance the use of such solar energy systems with potential impacts on the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town of Lysander and to preserve and protect the aesthetic qualities of the Town of Lysander.

Section 139-91. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated, unless the context or subject matter requires otherwise. The definitions contained in this Article 30 are intended specifically for this Article and not any other section of the Lysander Code.

BUILDING-INTEGRATED PHOTOVOLTAIC (BIPV) SYSTEMS – a solar energy system that consists of integrating photovoltaic modules into the building structure such as the roof or the façade and which does not alter the relief of the roof.

COLLECTIVE SOLAR – Solar installations owned collectively through subdivision homeowner associations, college student groups, “adopt-a-solar-panel” programs, or other similar arrangements.

FLUSH MOUNTED SOLAR PANEL – A photovoltaic panel or tile that is installed flush to the surface of a roof and which cannot be angled or raised.

FREESTANDING OR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM – a solar energy system that is directly installed in the ground and is not attached or affixed to an existing structure. Pole mounted solar energy systems shall be considered Freestanding or Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems for purposes of this Local Law.

PERMIT GRANTING AUTHORITY – The Town Code Enforcement Office, which is charged with granting permits for the operation of solar energy systems.

PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS – A solar energy system that produces electricity by the use of semiconductor devices, called photovoltaic cells that generate electricity whenever light touches them.

QUALIFIED SOLAR INSTALLER – A person who has skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of solar electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training on the hazards involved. Persons who are on the list of eligible photovoltaic installers maintained by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), or who are certified as a solar installer by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP), shall be deemed to be qualified solar installers for the purposes of this definition. Persons who are not NYSEERDA's list of eligible installers or NABCEP's list of certified installers may be deemed to be qualified solar installers if the Town Code Enforcement Officer or such other Town officer or employee as the Town Board designates determines such persons have had adequate training to determine the degree and extent of the hazard and the personal protective equipment and job planning necessary to perform the installation safely. Such training shall include the proper use of special precautionary techniques and personal protective equipment, as well as the skills and techniques necessary to distinguish exposed energized parts from other parts of electrical equipment and to determine the nominal voltage of exposed live parts.

ROOFTOP OR BUILDING MOUNTED SOLAR SYSTEM – A solar power system in which solar panels are mounted on top of the structure of a roof either as a flush-mounted system or as modules fixed to frames which can be tilted toward the south at an optimal angle.

SETBACK – The distance from a front lot line, side lot line or rear lot line of a parcel within which a free standing or ground mounted solar energy system is installed.

SMALL-SCALE SOLAR – For purposes of this Chapter, the term "small-scale solar" refers to solar photovoltaic systems that produce up to ten kilowatts (kW) per hour of energy or solar thermal systems which serve the building to which they are attached, and do not provide energy for any other buildings.

SOLAR COLLECTOR – A solar photovoltaic cell, panel, or array, or solar hot air or water collector device, which relies upon solar radiation as an energy source for the generation of electricity or transfer of stored heat.

SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT/SYSTEM – Solar collectors, controls, energy storage devices, heat pumps, heat exchangers, and other materials, hardware or equipment necessary to the process by which solar radiation is collected, converted into another form of energy, stored, protected from unnecessary dissipation and distributed. Solar systems include solar thermal, photovoltaic and concentrated solar.

SOLAR FARM OR SOLAR POWER PLANT – Energy generation facility or area of land principally used to convert solar energy to electricity, whether by photovoltaics, concentrating solar thermal devices or various experimental solar technologies, with the primary purpose of wholesale or retail sales of electricity.

SOLAR PANEL - A device for the direct conversion of solar energy into electricity.

SOLAR –THERMAL SYSTEMS – Solar thermal systems directly heat water or other liquid using sunlight. The heated liquid is used for such purposes as space heating and cooling, domestic hot water, and heating pool water.

Section 139-92 APPLICABILITY.

- A. All requirements of this local law shall apply to all solar energy systems and equipment installations modified or installed after the effective date of this local law.
- B. Solar energy system installations for which a valid building permit has been issued or, if no building permit was required when the installation has commenced before the effective date of this local law shall not be required to meet the requirements of this local law.
- C. All solar energy systems shall be designed, erected and installed in accordance with applicable codes, regulation and industry standards as referenced in the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the "State Code"), as amended from time to time, and the Town Code.
- D. Solar collectors, unless part of a Solar Farm or Solar Power Plant, shall be permitted only to provide power for use by owners, lessees, tenants, residents, or other occupants of the premises on which they are erected, but nothing contained in this Article shall prohibit "collective solar" installations or the sale of excess power through a "net billing" or "net-metering" arrangement in accordance with New York Public Service Law Section 66-j or similar state and federal statute.

Section 139-93 PERMITS.

- A. No Small Scale solar energy system or device shall be installed or operated in the Town except in compliance with this Article, and the New York State Unified Solar Permit for small scale solar systems, which is hereby adopted and made part of the Code of the Town of Lysander.
- B. Rooftop and Building-Mounted Solar Collectors: Rooftop and building mounted solar collectors are permitted in all zoning districts in the Town subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. Building permits shall be required for installation of all rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors.
 - 2. Rooftop and Building-Mounted Solar Collectors shall not exceed the height of the structure in any zoning district on pitched roofs. Building mounted solar collectors on flat roofs shall not exceed the height of the structure by more than 15'.
 - 3. In order to ensure firefighter and other emergency responder safety, there shall be a minimum perimeter area around the edge of the roof and structurally supported pathways to provide space on the roof for walking around all Rooftop and Building-Mounted Solar Collectors. Additionally, installations shall provide for adequate access and spacing in order to:

- i. Ensure access to the roof
- ii. Provide pathways to specific areas of the roof
- iii. Provide smoke ventilation opportunity areas
- iv. Provide emergency egress from the roof

In the event any of the standards in this subsection 139-___ are more stringent than the "State Code"), they shall be deemed to be installation guidelines only and the standards of the State Code shall apply.

C. Building-Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) Systems: BIPV systems are permitted in all zoning districts and shall be shown on the plans submitted for the building permit application for the building containing the system.

D. Freestanding and ground mounted solar collectors: Free standing or ground mounted solar collectors are prohibited in the following residential zoning districts: Residential-10,000 (R-10), Residential-12,500 (R-12.5), Residential-20,000 (R-20), Agricultural-Residential (AR-40) lots less than 80,000 square feet, or residential portions of Planned Unit Development (PUD's).

In all other zoning districts, free standing or ground mounted solar collectors are considered accessory structures and are allowed under the following conditions:

1. Building permits are required for the installation of all ground-mounted and free standing solar collectors.
2. In the AR-40,000 (AR-40) Agricultural (A), Industrial (I), General Commercial (GC) or General Business (GB) Districts, a lot must have a minimum size of 80,000 square feet in order for a ground mounted or free standing solar collector to be permitted.
3. The location of the ground mounted or free standing solar collector shall meet the setback requirements for Accessory Buildings, L.L. No. 2-1995.
4. The height of the solar collector and any mounts shall not exceed 20 feet when oriented at a maximum tilt.
5. Ground mounted and freestanding solar collectors shall be screened to the greatest extent practicable from adjoining lots and street rights-of-way through the use of architectural features, earth berms, landscaping, fencing or other screening which will harmonize with the character of the property and surrounding areas and at the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer. The proposed screening shall not interfere with normal operation of the solar collectors.
6. Solar energy equipment shall be located in a manner to reasonable minimize view blockage for surrounding properties and shading of property to the north, while still providing adequate solar access for collectors.
7. Solar energy equipment shall not be located within any required buffer area or public easement.

8. The total surface area of all ground-mounted and free standing solar collectors on a lot shall not exceed the area of the ground covered by the building structure of the largest building on the lot measured from the exterior walls, excluding patios, decks, balconies, screened and open porches and attached garages, provided that non-residential placements exceeding this size may be approved by the Planning Board, subject to site plan review.
 9. The area beneath ground mounted and free standing solar collectors shall be included in calculating whether the lot meets maximum permitted Lot Coverage requirements for the applicable zoning district, notwithstanding that the collectors are not "buildings."
- E. Solar-Thermal Systems: Solar-thermal systems are permitted in all zoning districts subject to the following conditions:
1. Building permits are required for the installation of all solar-thermal systems.
 2. Ground mounted and free standing solar-thermal systems shall be subject to the same requirements set forth in Subsection D above as for Ground Mounted and Free standing Solar Collectors.
- F. Solar energy systems and equipment shall be permitted only if they are determined by the Town to not present any unreasonable safety risks, including, but not limited to, the following:
1. Weight load
 2. Wind resistance
 3. Ingress or egress in the event of fire or other emergency
- G. Solar energy systems and related equipment shall be surfaced, designed and sited so as not to reflect glare onto adjacent properties and roadways.

Section 139-94 Safety.

- A. All solar collector installations must be performed by a qualified solar installer, as defined in section 139-93.
- B. Prior to operation, electrical connections must be inspected by a Town code Enforcement Officer and by an appropriate electrical inspection person or agency, as determined by the Town.
- C. Any connection to the public utility grid must be inspected by the appropriate public utility.
- D. Solar energy systems shall be maintained in good working order.
- E. Rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors shall meet the State Code.
- F. If solar storage batteries are included as part of the solar collector system, they must be placed in a secure container or enclosure meeting the requirements of the State Code when in use and when no longer used shall be disposed of in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Town and other applicable laws and regulations.
- G. If a solar collector ceases to perform its originally intended function for more than twelve (12) consecutive months, the property owner shall remove the collector,

mount and associated equipment by no later than ninety (90) days after the end of the twelve-month period.

- H. Solar Energy Systems and Equipment shall be marked in order to provide emergency responders with appropriate warning and guidance with respect to isolating the solar electric system. Materials used for marking shall be weather resistant. For a residential application, the marking may be placed with the main service disconnect. If the main service disconnect is operable with the service panel closed, then the marking should be placed on the outside cover. For commercial application, the marking shall be placed adjacent to the main service disconnect in a location clearly visible from the location where the lever is operated. In the event any of the standards in this subsection H for markings are more stringent than applicable provisions of the State Code, they shall be deemed to be guidelines only and the standards of the State Code shall apply.

Section 139-95 Solar Farms and Solar Power Plants.

Solar Farms and Solar Power Plants shall be permitted in the Agricultural (A) and AR-40 Districts exclusive of Incentive Zoning Overlay areas as an "Electric Generating" use subject to site plan review by the Planning Board, subject to the following supplementary regulations:

- A. Solar Farms and Solar Power Plants in Agricultural Districts can only be located on lots of twenty (20) acres or larger with a maximum coverage of 50% of the lot. Solar Farms and Solar Power Plants in AR-40 Zones can only be located on lots of thirty (30) acres or larger with a maximum coverage of 30% of the lot.
- B. All solar farms and solar power plants shall comply with all setbacks within the zoning district. However, in addition, all solar panels and related equipment shall be setback at least two-hundred (200) feet from all property lines, public roads, power lines and preexisting and future structures, unless full visual screening is provided. Additional setbacks may be required by the Planning Board in order to provide for the public's safety, health and welfare.
- C. Solar farms and solar power plants shall be enclosed by perimeter fencing to restrict unauthorized access at a height of not less than 8 feet.
- D. The solar manufacturer's or installer's identification and appropriate warning signage shall be posted on the perimeter of the security fence every 100' and clearly visible.
- E. Solar farm and solar power plant buildings and accessory structures shall, to the extent reasonably possible, use materials, colors, and textures that will blend the facility into the existing environment.
- F. Appropriate landscaping and/or screening materials may be required to help screen the solar farm or solar power plant and accessory structure from major roads and neighboring residences.
- G. The average height of the solar panel arrays on any given lot shall not exceed twenty (20) feet.

- H. Solar Farm and Solar Power Plant panels and equipment shall be surfaced, designed and located so as not to reflect glare onto adjacent properties and roadways.
- I. On-site power lines shall be placed underground.
- J. The following requirements shall be met for decommissioning:
 - 1. A reclamation bond in an amount to be determined by a local third party demolition contractor at prevailing wage rates shall be filed with the Town Clerk to cover the costs of reclamation of any and all solar system installation components whether above or below ground. In addition, should the solar system be nonoperational for any continuous six-month period or if the bond expires and is not renewed, the approvals granted shall be deemed void and the solar system shall be decommissioned subject to a new approval under this section. Such bond shall be in place prior to the issuance of a building permit. The Codes Office shall review the bonding requirement to obtain an updated demolition estimate from a local third party demolition contractor at prevailing wage rates every 5 years after issuance of site plan approval to establish an updated bonding requirement.
 - 2. Solar Farms and Solar Power Plants which have not been active and in continuous service for a period of one (1) year shall be removed at the owner or operator of the solar farms expense.
 - 3. The site shall be restored to as natural a condition as possible within six (6) months of removal.

Section 139-96 Appeals.

- A. If a person is found to be in violation of the provisions of this Local Law, the permit may be revoked if violations are not cured within thirty days (30) of notice of violation.
- B. If a building permit for a solar energy device is denied based upon a failure to meet the requirements of this Local Law, the applicant may seek relief from the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with the established procedures and time limits of the Lysander Code and New York State Town Law.

Section 139-97 Building Permit Fees.

The fees for all building permits required pursuant to this Local Law as required by Chapter Section 139, Article, shall be paid at the time each building permit application is submitted in such reasonable amount as the Town Board may by resolution establish and amend from time to time.

Section 139-98 Severability.

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this Law or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, then such word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this Law, and all applications thereof, not having been declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 139-99 Conflict with Other Laws.

Where this law differs or conflicts with other Laws, rules and regulations, unless the right to do so is preempted or prohibited by the County, State or Federal government, the more restrictive or protective of the Town and the public shall apply.

Section 139-100 Effective Date.

This Law shall become effective upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

Section 139-101 Authority.

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law. This Local Law is intended to supersede any inconsistent provisions of Town Law to the extent permitted by the New York State Constitution, the Municipal Home Rule Law, or any other applicable statute.



Quality Fruit and Vegetables • Wholesale/Retail
1100 Reeves Road • Baldwinsville, NY 13027
Phone: 315-635-3357 • Fax 315-638-0894
www.reevesfarms.net

Brian Reeves comments on draft of law amending section 139 regarding on site solar systems

Section 139-93 B3

Farm buildings are exempt from the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention Code and leaving walkways around the panels on a roof may be overly restrictive.

Section 139-93 D

Preventing free standing and ground mounted solar collectors from Agricultural districts may be overly restrictive to agriculture.

Section 139-93 D5

Requiring berms or landscaping may be considered overly restrictive in Agricultural districts.

Section 130-93 D10

"Fencing for security" may be considered overly restrictive in an agricultural district.

Section 139-93 E2

See comments for section D above.

Section 139-95 A and B

Minimum lot sizes and large setbacks result in more land being taken out of agricultural production.

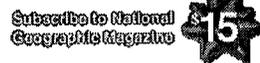
Variations from these requirements should be considered if the location is on poorer soils. Any soils in groups 1-4 should be discouraged from use for solar installations. Lower quality soils in areas surrounded by other agricultural district lands should have relaxed setbacks and less minimum lot sizes so less Ag land is used up. It is possible, for example, that a solar installation can be as small as 10 acres and with a 20 foot border on the sides and rear of the array and adequate road setback could fit on 12

acres. While I can appreciate the town wanting initial parcels to be 20 acres or greater, it would be counterproductive to lease more farm land than the minimum necessary for the array. For example, a 50 acre parcel wants to put a 10 acre array on some poorer soils and continue to farm the better soils, why require them to double the lot size and lease out 20 acres?



SEARCH

Site Index Subscriptions Shop Newsletters About the Society



- HOME
- ANIMALS
- DAILY NEWS
- ENVIRONMENT
- GAMES
- GREEN GUIDE
- HISTORY
- KIDS
- MAPS
- MUSIC
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- SCIENCE & SPACE
- TRAVEL & CULTURES
- VIDEO

MAIN ANIMAL NEWS ANCIENT WORLD ENVIRONMENT NEWS CULTURES NEWS SPACE/TECH NEWS WEIRD PHOTOS VIDEO

Global Warming Fast Facts

National Geographic News
Updated June 14, 2007

Global warming, or climate change, is a subject that shows no sign of cooling down.

Here's the lowdown on why it's happening, what's causing it, and how it might change the planet.

- Printer Friendly
- Email to a Friend

SHARE What's This?

Digg

StumbleUpon

Reddit

RELATED

- Global Warming: How Hot? How Soon?
- Global Warming Can Be Stopped, World Climate Experts Say
- Global Warming Interactive: Learn About Its Causes and Effects

Is It Happening?

Yes. Earth is already showing many signs of worldwide climate change.

- Average temperatures have climbed 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 degree Celsius) around the world since 1880, much of this in recent decades, according to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.
- The rate of warming is increasing. The 20th century's last two decades were the hottest in 400 years and possibly the warmest for several millennia, according to a number of climate studies. And the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that 11 of the past 12 years are among the dozen warmest since 1850.
- The Arctic is feeling the effects the most. Average temperatures in Alaska, western

Canada, and eastern Russia have risen at twice the global average, according to the multinational Arctic Climate Impact Assessment report compiled between 2000 and 2004.

- Arctic ice is rapidly disappearing, and the region may have its first completely ice-free summer by 2040 or earlier. Polar bears and indigenous cultures are already suffering from the sea-ice loss.
- Glaciers and mountain snows are rapidly melting—for example, Montana's Glacier National Park now has only 27 glaciers, versus 150 in 1910. In the Northern Hemisphere, thaws also come a week earlier in spring and freezes begin a week later.
- Coral reefs, which are highly sensitive to small changes in water temperature, suffered the worst bleaching—or die-off in response to stress—ever recorded in 1998, with some areas seeing bleach rates of 70 percent. Experts expect these sorts of events to increase in frequency and intensity in the next 50 years as sea temperatures rise.

• An upsurge in the amount of extreme weather events, such as wildfires, heat waves, and strong tropical storms, is also attributed in part to climate change by some experts.

Are Humans Causing It?

Continued on Next Page >>



LATEST PHOTO NEWS

SPACE PHOTOS THIS WEEK: Tiny Galaxy, Sun's Iron, More



LATEST VIDEO NEWS

Stuck Mars Rover About to Die?

Most Viewed News

ADVERTISEMENT

	\$27.99	

LATEST PHOTOS IN THE NEWS



SPACE PHOTOS THIS WEEK: Tiny Galaxy, Sun's Iron, More

SPACE PHOTOS THIS WEEK: Tiny Galaxy, Sun's Iron, More



SPACE PHOTOS THIS WEEK: Star Birth, Active Sun, More

More Photos in the News

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S PHOTO OF THE DAY



- Today's Photo
- Download as Wallpaper

NEWS FEEDS

Get our news delivered directly to your desktop—free. How to Use XML or RSS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DAILY NEWS TO-GO

Listen to your favorite National Geographic news daily.

LATEST NEWS VIDEOS

PROVIDED BY J. BODENLOS 2.16.17

-  [Stuck Mars Rover About to Die?](#)
-  [Giant Salamanders Helped to Spawn](#)
-  [Rare Gorillas Spied Feasting on Figs](#)
- [More Videos in the News](#)

SOURCES AND RELATED WEB SITES

- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)
- [Arctic Climate Impact Assessment](#)
- [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)
- [U.S. Global Change Research System](#)



Sponsored Links

Get a Free Pocket Constitution

Claim your free copy of America's most important documents now.

hillsdale.edu

[Email the News Staff](#) [Contact Other Staff](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



[Home](#) | [Animals](#) | [Daily News](#) | [Environment](#) | [Green Guide](#) | [History](#) | [Kids](#) | [Maps](#) | [Music](#) | [Photography](#) | [Science & Space](#) | [Travel & Cultures](#) | [Video](#)

[Mobile](#) | [Magazines](#) | [Shop](#) | [Subscriptions](#) | [TV & Film](#) | [Stock Photography Sales](#) | [Stock Footage Sales](#) | [Travel With Us](#) | [About the Society](#) | [Educators](#)

[Give to NGS](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Press Room](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Global Sites](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

© 1996- National Geographic Society. All rights reserved.