

MOTION BY: KIDNEY

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

Minutes of the **November 13th, 2023, Town Board Special Meeting ADOPTING the 2024 Town Budget** were approved by the Town Board as written.

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: KIDNEY

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: The Town Clerk turned over the sum of **\$865.13** to the Supervisor for the month of **OCTOBER 2023**.

JUSTICE COURT REPORT: The distribution from the office of the State Comptroller, Justice Court Fund to the Town of Stephentown for the month of **JULY 2023 was \$683.00 and SEPTEMBER 2023 was \$309.00.**

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: The Transfer Station deposited a total of **\$7,211.00** for the month of **OCTOBER 2023**. (*October 2022 income was \$7,583.00*)

Bags: **\$3,759**

C&D & Metal: **\$2,121**

Tires: **\$56**

Stickers: **\$1,210**

Appl. & Electronics: **\$65**

Propane Tanks: **\$0**

ACCOUNT TOTALS:

GENERAL \$955,174.00

HIGHWAY \$905,000.09 (portion of this is ARPA funds)

GENERAL RESERVE FUND \$859,481.02

HIGHWAY RESERVE FUND \$655,384.29

BEACON ESCROW \$ 885.19

BEACON ESCROW FOR PLANT (BOND) \$5,000 & \$70,000.

ARPA ACCOUNT: \$246,285.71

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT :

J. Peabody provided an update on the library and youth commission. Halloween party was a success 50 more attendees than those who registered. 112 Adults, 17 teens and 90 kids, over 50 pumpkins on display. There was 25 teens for teen night. The library is hosting a lot of programs in December, please look at the website for more information. Report on Food pantry, served 45 families for Thanksgiving. Had a local anonymous donor who was very generous and donated turkeys, pies and other great items. Fire department had 20 incidents: 12 EMS calls. 5 students have registered for the EMS class. The Medicare billing has been approved. The light parade will be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It will kick off at 5:30, route 43 and 22 will be closed. Fire Station invites folks to come have Hot dogs, burgers and food prior from 4 to 5:30pm. There will be hot chocolate after the parade.

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD AND TOWN OFFICES:

Supervisor Roder reported that Bert Hager bridge has been repaired and the weight limit went from 5 ton to 20 ton. Rensselaer County and Executive Steve McLaughlin are going to provide the Town with \$100,000.00 to help with the Madden Road Bridge. Very thankful for their support. Highway Superintendent is going to try for another grant to replace more bridges, Supervisor Roder gave the approval to move forward.

RESOLUTION # 55-2023

ADOPTING LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2023 - PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

WHEREAS: the Town Board held a required public hearing for public input on October 30th, 2023, to discuss the proposed Local Law 3 of 2023, "PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW", now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby adopts said Local Law as Local Law No. 3 of the 2023, titled " PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIOS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW, and be it further,

RESOLVED: that the Town Board resolves to enact said local law and waives the reading of the attached Local Law and the Town Clerk is authorized to file with the appropriate agencies.

MOTION BY: CLARK

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

RESOLUTION #56-23

2024 MATERIALS BID TO COMPLETE ROAD WORK AND MAINTENANCE OF TOWN ROADS

WHEREAS: there is a need to purchase materials to complete the Town Road work, and

WHEREAS: the Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for such bids, now therefore be it,

RESOLVED: that the Town requests sealed bids on these materials. Bid specs will be available at the Town Clerk's Office beginning Monday, November 27th, 2023, be it further,

RESOLVED: that all sealed bids with a non-collusion form are due to the Town Clerk's Office by 7:00PM on Monday, December 18, 2023. Mailed or delivered to the Town Clerk at 26 Grange Hall Road in Stephentown, NY 12168.

MOTION BY: KIDNEY

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

RESOLUTION #57-23

ADVERTISE FOR ANNUAL APPOINTED POSITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS: the Town Clerk is authorized to advertise for all appointed positions with their salary, that are expiring or vacant on December 31, 2023, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk advertise requesting applications for appointed positions for 2024, with a deadline of Friday, December 8, 2023, at 11:00 AM.

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: KIDNEY

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

RESOLUTION #58-23

ADVERTISE 2024 CLEANING SERVICES FOR TOWN HALL AND OFFICES

WHEREAS: there is a need to advertise for Town Hall cleaning, with present term to expire on December 31, 2023, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk is authorized to advertise for this position for the year 2024. Resumes and letters of interest due to the Town Clerk by Monday, December 18, 2023, at 7:00 PM. Delivered to the Town Hall or mailed to 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY

MOTION BY: RODER

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

RESOLUTION #59-23

ADVERTISE FOR THE 2024 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

WHEREAS: the Town Board would like to hold an Organizational Meeting to establish the Town's Annual Business for 2024, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk is authorized to advertise for the 2024 Organizational Meeting to be held on Monday, January 1st, 2024 at 7:00pm.

MOTION BY: CLARK

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

RESOLUTION # 60 -23

PRICES CHANGES AT THE TRANSFER STATION

WHEREAS: The Stephentown Town Board from time to time makes price changes for products at the Stephentown Transfer Station in order to more appropriately balance revenue and expenses AND

WHEREAS: Tipping Fees and Hauling Fees at the Transfer Station continue to increase each year, NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED: That the following prices will go into effect at the Stephentown Transfer Station as of January 1, 2024:

30 Gallon Purple Bags:	\$4 each
Tires: Up to 16 inches:	\$6
17-19 inches :	\$8
20-24 inches:	\$12
Rims: All rims:	\$5
C&D: Small pickup load:	\$40
Medium pickup load:	\$55
Large pickup load:	\$70
Shingles pickup load:	\$70

Televisions: All TV's and Monitors: \$10

All other prices will remain unchanged.

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 61 FOR THE 2023

THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN AUTHORIZING THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR THE DISPERSAL OF 2019 F350 4 WHEEL DRIVE PICKUP WITH STAINLESS STEEL V PLOW

WHERE AS; THE TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT HAS REQUESTED THE TOWN BOARD APPROVE THE DISPERSAL OF THE 2019 F350 4 WHEEL DRIVE PICKUP WHICH WAS REPLACED BY 2023 PICKUP AND

WHERE AS; THE TOWN BOARD HAS REVIEWED THE REQUEST AND WISH TO GO FORWARD ON THE DISPERSAL OF SAID ITEM AND

WHERE AS; THE TOWN BOARD HEARBY CALLS FOR BIDS WITH A MINIMUM OF (\$12,000.00) DOLLARS THE TRUCK IS SOLD AS IS WHERE IS. THE PERSON AWARDED HAS 5 BUSINESS DAYS TO PAY FOR VEHICLE OR FORFEIT THE AWARD OF SAID VEHICLE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT; THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TOWN CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR SEALED BIDS FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED DISPERSAL OF 2019 F350 PICKUP WITH STAINLESS STEEL V PLOW BIDS ARE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A NONCOLLUSION FORM AVAILABLE AT TOWN CLERK OFFICE BIDS TO BE RECIEVEDED UP TO 12/18 AT THE TOWN CLERK OFFICE TO BE AWARDED AT REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 18,2023 AT 7:00PM THE TIME AND PLACE TO Specified IN PUBLIC NOTICE.

MOTIONBY KIDNEY

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTE OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”), dated [date] is made and entered into by and between the Town of Stephentown, a municipal corporation of the State of New York, having its principal offices at [address] (the “Town of Stephentown”); and ProjectEconomics, Inc. d/b/a PowerMarket, a corporation having its principal offices 335 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10017 (“PowerMarket”) (each a “Party,” together, “the Parties”) with regard to the specific roles and responsibilities of a community solar campaign, a targeted initiative that encourages residents to consider enrolling in a community solar program, offering both cost savings and environmental benefits.

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Stephentown is concerned about the economic impact of rising energy costs on households and businesses, as well as the environmental impact of conventional energy sources on the environment, and views community solar as a solution to help address these dual concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stephentown is aware that successful completion of a community solar campaign through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Clean Energy Communities Program could make it eligible for specific grants; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stephentown has the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive community solar campaign administered in partnership with Solarize Albany and PowerMarket, and supported by the Capital Region Clean Energy Hub, a NYSERDA-funded initiative designed to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy across the Capital Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by and between the Parties as follows:

T. POWERMARKET RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Campaign Implementation. PowerMarket shall oversee community outreach, manage the enrollment process for community solar subscribers, and handle all aspects of program administration in collaboration with the Town of Stephentown on a 12-week community outreach and engagement campaign starting in September 2023 (the “Campaign”).
- B. Outreach and Engagement. PowerMarket shall assist the Town of Stephentown with the Campaign to encourage residents to consider enrolling in a community solar program. PowerMarket agrees to the following terms:
 1. PowerMarket shall set up a landing page for the Campaign where residents can go to sign up for community solar for their home or small business.
 2. PowerMarket shall pay the cost to send a mailer to targeted households and small businesses in the Town of Stephentown.
 3. PowerMarket shall provide continuous customer service support, including but not limited to answering questions, troubleshooting issues, and offering guidance, to both prospective and currently enrolled participants in the community solar program.
 4. PowerMarket shall be available to present at informational webinar sessions in support of the Campaign.
 5. PowerMarket shall request approval from the Town of Stephentown for all promotional content and activities related to the Campaign in advance of distribution.
 6. PowerMarket shall include any community logos deemed necessary by the Town of Stephentown on any promotional content used in the Campaign.
 7. PowerMarket shall make best efforts to enroll a minimum of fifty (50) participants in community solar as part of the campaign.

II. TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. The Town of Stephentown agrees to publicly endorse and support the Campaign including, but not limited to, in public announcements and events, press releases, social media, website postings, municipal outreach, and other miscellaneous forms of community outreach.
- B. The Town of Stephentown shall permit the use of the municipal seal on approved promotional content submitted by PowerMarket.

III. REPORTING AND SHARING

- A. The Parties shall participate on a kick-off call with PowerMarket to clarify objectives, timelines, points of contact, and more
- B. The Parties shall participate in regular video or phone conferences to discuss campaign progress
- C. The Parties shall participate in additional meetings, email, or phone communication, as needed
- D. PowerMarket shall provide the Town of Stephentown with summary reports of customer sign-ups and progress upon request by the Town of Stephentown. These reports shall be formatted to align with the requirements of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program.

This MOU shall be in effect upon the signature of PowerMarket and the Town of Stephentown. It shall be in force from the date of signature until the completion of the campaign. Either PowerMarket or the Town of Stephentown may terminate participation in the Campaign at any time with written notice to the other Party.

TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN

POWERMARKET

By: _____
 Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Date: _____

By: _____
 Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Date: _____

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE MOU MADE BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

Discussion regarding MOU. Council Jennings reported that the committee is working on getting programs to help get energy grants for the Town. NYSERDA provides funding. People who are interested can sign up and participate in the campaign at no cost or fees and you can opt out at any time. There will be an annual reduction in your bill approximately 8-10%. It's on a monthly basis however, it depends on the sun and the credits applied. People can leave from the program at any time they are not tied to a contract. NYSERDA encourages the Town to campaign. If you are interested you can not have solar panels. The end result is to encourage folks to use renewable energy. Power Market will create a landing page for residents to sign up. If 10 residents sign up the Town will get a \$5,000 grant. If 50 sign up the Town will get \$10,000 grant and if there are 150 the Town can get a \$20,000 grant. New Lebanon is currently doing this. We have approximately 1000 residents that may be eligible, 5% of that would be 50 residents. Nothing will start until 2024, there will be 3 months of campaigning and informational meetings.

Supervisor Roder compares this to a franchise, reported that if the Town doesn't sign on then the Town is out and cannot participate. He expressed concern that the town wouldn't typically partner with a power market there is never a guarantee that you will get the services. Worried that if it does not work and it falls through that residents will come to the Town Board and blame the Town.

Council Jennings explained that a franchise is when someone is receiving funds. NYSERDA is providing the funding for this.

T. Dormady asked if Power Market owns any solar farms.

Council Jennings reported that they are subscribers, and do not have ownership of the farms.

T. Dormady reported are they consultants. When January comes and there isn't enough power then they would have to get their power from the grid?

Council Jennings reported again that they are service providers, and that you will always get your power from the grid. It is a simple but complicated process. Simple in that you simply subscribe and what happens behind the scenes is very complicated. It is delivered by NYSEG and you can have an ESCO if you choose.

Supervisor Roder reported without signing up the residents won't have the opportunity to participate. With signing up it appears that the Board is advertising and promoting it. We are not a promotional board. It's up for the residents to decide if this is something they would like to participate in.

Council Jennings reported it is a 3 month campaign, there is a 3month sign up period after 3 months you missed the cut off. The Town can request to extend if they choose, however other Towns have done three months and then got out.

Supervisor Roder asked if the draft letter was here?

Council Jennings that was the draft letter, but nothing official with your signature on it. There will be a flyer/mailed signed by the local government and Power Market would mail it out and pay for it. Kingston, Bethlehem and New Lebanon worked with a different group and it was a bad decision, people are still waiting. Power Market has promised the Town 50 NYSEG slots and are holding them for Stephentown.

Town Clerk Hoffman asked if New Lebanon can go with someone else or if their hands are now tied?

Council Jennings reported that New Lebanon can go with someone else if they choose to go through the process again, their hands are not tied to the company.

Supervisor Roder reported that he is not opposed, he just wants people to know the board is not promoting they are simply supporting their choice if they choose to sign up. The residents will be required to do their own homework and understand what they are signing up for.

Council Clark asked if the supervisor has spoke to the attorney about the language in the letter being more supportive and not promotional.

Supervisor Roder reported that he would speak to the attorney. And provided an example of his concern. "say in a year from now John Doe doesn't get what he wants. They are going to find the Town Board to complain to not Power Market."

Town Boar agrees to give the residents the opportunity to sign up if they choose in the understanding that they are not promoting, but simply supporting their decision.

Supervisor Roder announcing that Councilman William Jennings has served on the Town Board for 13 years and 2 months, he will be leaving the board at the end of next month and invites folks to come honor Council Jennings at our December 18th regular town board meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:37 PM

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: CLARK

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY 0 ABSTAINED

****A Workshop Meeting** is held every second Monday of every month at the Town Hall. The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 11th, 2023, at the Town Hall.

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, December 18th, 2023**, at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, NY 12168.

Stephanie M. Hoffman

Town Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Local Law # 3 of 2023 PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIOS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Purpose.

- a. The Town of Stephentown Town Board finds and determines that attracting and retaining quality volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is one of the most critical problems facing the Town of Stephentown and that maintaining effective emergency protection depends on the ability to train and retain volunteers.
- b. The Town Board finds and determines that it is essential for the municipality to provide real property tax exemptions as an incentive to attract new volunteers and help combat a persistent and alarming decline in the number of volunteers serving as active responders to fire and medical emergencies and unless recruits are found to replace retiring volunteers and seasoned members are encouraged to continue their volunteer service, the health and safety of citizens served by the volunteer firefighter and emergency medical personnel corps may be jeopardized.
- c. The Town Board further finds and determines that real property tax exemptions are an appropriate way to recognize the personal sacrifices and dedication of these community-spirited men and women who unselfishly give their time and risk their safety to protect

their neighbors without compensation.

- d. The purpose of this Local Law is to adopt the real property tax exemptions provided for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in accordance with Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law to read as follows.

Section 2. Real Property Tax Exemption.

Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the County of Rensselaer shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10 percent of the assessed value of such property for County purposes, exclusive of special assessments.

Section 3. Qualifications

- Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance services if:
- a. the applicant resides in the County of Rensselaer and is a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service which provides service within the city, village, town or school district;
 - b. the real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant;
 - c. the real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law; and
 - d. the applicant has obtained and displayed a certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department indicating that the applicant has been an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least two years or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least two years.

Section 4. Twenty-year active members.

Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Stephentown.

Section 5. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers killed in the line of duty.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and
3. Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

Section 6. Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers with at least Twenty Years of Service.

An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers with twenty years of service may receive the real property tax exemption if:

1. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty.
2. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years.
3. Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such volunteer.

Section 7. Application process.

1. Applications for such an exemption shall be filed with the assessor of the town on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
2. The assessor of the town shall have the duty and responsibility of procuring and filing a copy of such certification prior to granting the exemption provided for by this Local Law.

Section 8. No diminution of current benefits.

No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this Local Law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Local Law.

Section 9. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect on January 1, 2024, and shall apply to taxable status dates occurring on or after such date.