Planning Board ★★★★★★★★

Vice Chair Donna Salamone called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Board Room at the Schuyler Town Office, 2090 State Route 5, Utica, NY.

Planning Board members present were David Fusillo and Jeanie Finster. Absent were Chairman Paul Thomas, Victor Costanza, Michael Ritter and Victor Costanza.

Others present included Codes Officer Philip Green, Town Supervisor Kenneth M. Dodge, Councilman Eric Kane, ZBA Chairman Ronald J. Beach, Jr., and nine Town residents.

Ms. Salamone stated since there is no quorum of the Planning Board, the Regular Meeting cannot be held; however, the presentation on solar farms will proceed. She introduced Peter Endres, representing RES (Renewable Energy Systems) Americas, a solar farm contactor and construction company headquartered in Broomfield, CO with regional offices in Austin, TX an Minneapolis, MN.

Mr. Endres said he was invited by Ms. Salamone to provide information to the Planning Board that will assist them in their development of an ordinance regulating Solar Farms. He said he travels all over the country sighting prospective solar farms. He stated his work also involves assisting municipalities in establishing rules and regulations for solar farms, as well as meeting with prospective lessees who are interested in leasing their property to RES, pointing out that adequate available acreage is required. He also is responsible for the development of solar farms, and oversees the construction process, from start to finish.

With regard to contractual agreements, Mr. Endres said lease payments are made to the property owner, and assessments on the solar farm portion of the landowner's property are established by the local government, which are added to the property owner's tax bill. RES then reimburses the property owner for the designated solar farm portion of the tax bill. Lease agreements can include periodic increases in rents.

Questions posed by residents, Planning Board members and other Town officials were addressed during the course of the meeting.

Mr. Endres concluded his presentation by extending an invitation to Town officials to call upon him with any further questions, also offering his assistance to the Planning Board in their development of a local ordinance addressing solar farms.

Ms. Salamone thanked Mr. Endres for his presentation and closed the meeting. Mr. Endres then conversed with interested Town residents who remained after the conclusion of his presentation.

The task of developing a Town ordinance regulating solar farms will commence at the June 1st Regular Planning Board meeting.

— *Bette Szesny, Recording Secretary*

VFW SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

At press time, this year's event was scheduled to be held at the Schuyler VFW Post on Thursday evening, May 26th at 7:00 PM. Names of the winners will be announced in next month's Newsletter.