

**TOWN OF BELFAST  
MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING, JULY 29, 2019**

Present: Annette Kish, David Jennings, Mike Hillman, Josh Cole, Patty Oliver, David Pullen

Community present: Margaret Thompson

Supervisor Kish called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She stated the purpose of the meeting was to establish a local law to opt-out of the real property tax exemptions provided for certain energy systems by RPTL Section 487 in the Town of Belfast. She then turned the meeting over to Attorney David Pullen.

Mr. Pullen informed the Board that the State encouraged clean energy by offering exemption of property tax for 15 years. The opt-out would not negate further negotiations regarding tax exemption status, but would give the Town “a seat at the table” for future negotiations and the ability to recover revenue from green energy projects. Mr. Pullen also suggested a “decommission” bond be put in place and maintained for the life of the project.

The Town Board was not against development of clean air energy, but felt the need to look out for the best interests of the Town, noting that wear and tear of roads and highways were a factor. It was pointed out that an opt-out tax exemption law caused a higher rejection rate by a developer for green energy.

It was noted that the Town could not pass an opt-out Local Law until the County Planning Board meets. Mike Hillman will be in touch with Bob Jones from Angelica to pick up a brochure with detailed information. August 19, 2019, 6:30 in the Belfast Town Hall was set as the public hearing date for adoption of the Local Law No. 1.

Mike Hillman made the motion to approve Resolution 6-19 to adopt a local law to be designated as Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2019 entitled “A Local Law to opt-out of the real property tax exemptions provided for certain energy systems by RPTL Section 487 in the Town of Belfast” and that a copy of the proposed

introductory local law is annexed hereto and incorporated into this resolution as though set out in full. David Jennings seconded the motion.

Following discussion, the foregoing resolution was called to a vote which resulted as follows:           AYES – 4, NOES – 0, ABSENT – 1

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Patricia Oliver, Clerk

SEAL

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 with a motion from Councilman Hillman and a second from Councilman Cole. All in favor           Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Oliver  
Town Clerk