A joint work session of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon and the Town Board was held at the Avon Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York on Tuesday, March 26, 2013.

Present: Thomas Freeman, Mayor
Mark McKeown, Trustee
William Zhe, Trustee
Robert Hayes, Trustee
Timmy Batzel, Trustee

David LeFeber, Town Supervisor
James Blye, Councilman
Thomas Mairs, Councilman
Richard Steen, Councilman
Robert Ayers, Councilman

Visitors: Ram Shrivastava, PE, Larsen Engineer
James Harrington
Timothy Rock
Ken Ippolito
Barb Ippolito
Chris Batzel
Dick Driscoll
Dave Piampiano
Jeremy Batzel

Deputy Mayor McKeown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

An overview was presented by S. Ram Shrivastava, PE of Larsen Engineers for sustainable green communities seeking energy independence. The main message is about solar power. The incentive that NYS is offering is making a big difference. It's a grant or tax refund. The State needs to spend it on projects and municipalities need to apply and get it back. Last December five applications were submitted by municipalities' and three were awarded.

Why Energy independence?

- Dependence on foreign oil – over 50% imported.
- Billions of dollars going out
- Cost of protecting oil sources and that's why we should be thinking differently.
- Energy consumption projected to be 57% by year 2020 200% - 300% by year 2050.
- Electric power cost escalation @3% a year.

Green Benefits?

- Control the budget – energy costs of municipal operations
- Save money-avoid waste
- Improve local economy
- Conserve Natural Resources
- Improve community image with innovation and new technology

Is it feasible to have solar energy in Rochester? Germany is number 1 in the world. Solar panels work better under cold and wet conditions. The day light is sufficient to make power here. Snow melts and cleans the panels after snowfall. The cost of PV system reduced 70% in last 5 years. New York State has the best financial incentives in the Nation. Private capital is available to finance projects under power purchase agreement.

New York State is promoting solar powered public buildings and lights. In 2012, the U.S. solar industry grew 76 percent over 2011, adding 3.3 GW of new solar capacity. Total U.S. PV installed capacity approaching 10 GW. (equal to ten nuclear plants).

Steps for implementing Green Community Initiatives:

- Involve all major departments in assessment of current practices
- Hold joint meetings to brainstorm ideas for conservation and savings in operating costs
- Prepare a Work Plan with various departments involving Engineering, Environmental, Parks, Planning, highway, Building facilities, Purchasing, etc.
- Adopt Sustainable Green Plan and inform the residents
- Procure Federal & State grants or incentives for Energy Conservation/Generation
- Set up Energy Independence goals and achievement date

New York Solar Programs is supported by NY RPS with solar component now called NY-SUN.

- Program currently authorized administratively, not by legislation
- Run by **NYSERDA** with PSC oversight
- Funded by rate-payer surcharges

Two main programs

- **Direct rebates** for systems under 50 kw (could increase); currently $1.50/watt (subject to change)
- **Competitive Bids** for systems 50 kw and over

Geographic Balancing – component divides pot of money between "downstate" and "rest of state" with some flexibility based on demand.

Funds solar PV systems for public buildings. NYSERDA'S Competitive Solar Program PON 2589 funds solar PV systems for public buildings.

2,000,000 Kwh is the max the grant allows; between the Village and Town we have approximately 1.66.

Adopt vision, reduce power, produce green energy, small wind turbines, and seek grants.

There is $140 million available, and grants must be submitted by August 29, 2013.

1) Pursue NYSERDA grant via Bid process under PON 2589. Total $140M available 30% to 50%
2) Seek Letter of Interest and Qualifications from NYSERDA approved local solar system installers
3) Determine the annual Kwh per year production goal needed to serve Municipal energy requirements.
4) Establish long term power purchase agreement terms and state in the LOI solicitation
5) Solar PV generation – 940 hours per Year
6) Review LOI and select preferred vendor
7) Submit bid for NYSERDA grants by August 29, 2013
8) Install system under PPA after NYSERDA acceptance of bid.

Zero capital cost. The municipality leases the project site to the contractor for a symbolic $100/year. Under PPA municipality buys solar power for 10 – 20 years at lower cost than the current power provider. When the contract expires, the municipality buys the solar PV system back for Fair market value and gets low-cost electricity for another 20 years.

Trustee McKeown – How big of a solar farm would we need?

Mr. Shrivastava - About 4.50 acres. There has to be two locations, one for the Town and one for the Village. It has to be in an area that has a metered connection.

Councilman Ayers - What is the life expectancy of a panel?

Mr. Shrivastava - 40 years.

Councilman Blye – Who assumes liability if the panels don't produce?

Mr. Shrivastava - You only buy if it produces power. They won't give you money if it won't work. You are allowed to put in a system that is 10% larger than what your needs are.

Supervisor LeFeber – Say we decide to submit a grant application for 8/29 what kind of time frame to solicit an investor?

Mr. Shrivastava - Typically we have six weeks to do it. Our services are part of the project.

Supervisor LeFeber – We need to select an engineering firm by June 1st?

Mayor Freeman stated that this needs to be a collaborative effort; we need to hold joint meetings to brainstorm ideas for conservation and savings in operating costs and to choose a site location and agree on a consultant.

The Boards discussed different locations and will think about different sites and get the PDF from Larsen Engineer to review.

Mayor Freeman – The Trustees and I will look at different sites and review the PDF and further discuss at their April 1st meeting.

Supervisor LeFeber – The Town Board will meet on Thursday, March 28th and if there are still questions we can wait until the next meeting before making a decision.

After Mr. Shrivastava left the meeting Trustee Hayes agreed to contact Larsen Engineers asking them if the "Farm" for the panels have to be one contiguous site or could it be broke up. For instance if we have two sites each with a meter could we have some panels at each.

Mayor Freeman announced that Supervisor LeFeber has agreed that for the Village's Association Meeting on April 17th, the members will have a tour of the Opera Block. Each Village will contact their Town Supervisors and invite them to be our guest that evening.

Mayor Freeman reported that the Village held a Neighborhood Meeting last week for the Library Board. They went over their system of financials and managing of their budget. It was very impressive how they manage their affairs.

Mayor Freeman - How people manage public funds is our next topic, the AMBULANCE.

On March 14, 2013 a joint Town/Village meeting was held and a presentation was done on behalf of the Ambulance Board by Vice president Helen Zamboni.

In January of 2012 donations came in and a large part was from Lions, Rotary, Livingston County United Way and memorials. The miscellaneous income is interest on the reserves. The most costly items currently are payroll and insurance, also expenses to maintain the vehicles. ARLAS uses a billing company. The total expenses exceed revenues and have been running deficits for some time depleting the reserves. Because they will have run out of reserves by 2015, they are looking forward at alternatives and listed the pros and cons for each of the following:

- Adjust level of service to match revenue
- Continue with current operations
- Merge with another ambulance service

- Town contract with Livingston County EMS
- Ambulance District
- Annual "grant" from the Town & Village budgets

In their proposal for an annual "grant" from Town & Village budgets they suggested two options and level of funding:

- Option #1: need is $50,000 in 2015 and $100,000/year thereafter

- Option #2: need is $93,000 in 2015 and $144,000/year thereafter

Assumes ARLAS continues to charge co-pays and run fundraisers.

Supervisor LeFeber – I have worked the numbers to see what impact the proposal would have on our budget and it is fairly significant.

Trustee Batzel – Do you have percentage of increase?

Supervisor LeFeber – If we went with Option #1 there would be a 9% increase in the basic rate. We will exceed the tax cap if we take it on in the 2nd year. It's hard to justify Option 2 in 2016 we would be looking at a 15% tax increase.

Jeremy Batzel – The Community Cares Program in Henrietta takes money out of their reserve.

Trustee Batzel – My opinion is we need more options. Caledonia came to us a few years ago and asked about merging? Is that an option we should look at now? That would be a cost savings.

Trustee Batzel – Does the Town have control over a Certificate of Need?

Supervisor LeFeber – The Town has no control over that.

Trustee Batzel – We need to find out who has control over that Certificate of Need.

Ken Ippolito – Why can't the town say we need an ambulance service and put it out for bid?

David Piampiano – As a tax payer I rely on what the Village Board does, the ambulance hasn't run the business very well.

Trustee Batzel – I did some math and calculated money in revenue and the number of runs and money did not work out. I figured there were 526 calls they did 858 calls.

Christopher Batzel – The ambulance goes and many times there is no transport, but it costs the ambulance money.

Ken Ippolito – I would like to see the cost if Monroe Ambulance or Rural Metro came out.

Supervisor LeFeber – There wasn't enough volume to keep them down here that's when the Certificate of Need was put in place.

Supervisor LeFeber - The constituents want a good ambulance service here, the county could be an option.

Chris Batzel – What level of care is acceptable? There is no staffing for the 2nd ambulance.

Mayor Freeman - Neither the Town or Village can afford $100,000 in the next two years.

Trustee Batzel – One option that should be researched is why isn't a merger in the proposal? That should be the 1st option.

Jeremy Batzel – Why isn't there a representative here from the ambulance?

Supervisor LeFeber – I talked to a person on the Ambulance Board and made them aware of tonight's work session and there is no one here.

Trustee Batzel – I believe they are looking for the easy way out.

Chris Batzel – There are very few ambulance districts.

Trustee Mairs – Livonia has a Town Board member and a Village Board member on their Ambulance Board. Everyone wants it controlled by the Town and have the ambulance up there.

Trustee Batzel – The public doesn't want to see an 18% tax increase.

Councilman Blye – It would take a year and one half to set up the district and they don't have that time.

Jim Harrington – Avon missed 41 calls.

Chris Batzel – The majority of calls are always in the Village year after year because of industries, Doctor's office, nursing home, and Avon on the Green.

Ken Ippolito – We've gotten many complaints because ALS shows up and it wasn't called for and they get a bill.

Supervisor LeFeber – So our plan moving forward is to invite the Ambulance Board to another joint meeting which will be scheduled for, Monday, April 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall in Conference Room B.

Items that need to be addressed by the ambulance are:

- Consolidation, which would include a public referendum
- Would a district bill or charge a co-pay if it were formed?
- If a district is formed, can they charge individuals?
- Breakdown of calls; Town vs. Village and calls out of town as well as BLS vs. ALS costs per call
- What is a Certificate of Need, additional information is needed
- Board needs to change, adding Town & Village Board representatives as voting members
- Municipality held reserves to ensure usage
- More detailed budget breakdown
- Independent audit is needed
- Are there any other reserves other than capital?
- Solicit bids for ambulance service from outside

Jim Harrington – Invite the public, get them involved.

Trustee McKeown – I wouldn't advertise until we have things figured out. The next meeting will also be a work session.

Upon a motion the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Baker
Village Clerk