

*A Public Hearing regarding proposed Local Law 6 of 2024 (Solar Law) was held at 6:30PM on July 22, 2024 at the Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, Saratoga County, New York.*

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The meeting was held in person. The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with an attendance roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:	Mark Stewart	Councilmember
	John Donohue, Jr.	Councilmember
	Jesse A. Fish, Jr.	Supervisor
ALSO PRESENT:	Josh Westfall	Building Department Coordinator
	Maria Jennings	Deputy Clerk
	Elizabeth Bennett	Confidential Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nick Schupp, Chris Barden, Mike Shaver, Dave Byrne, Dan Cahalane, Vincent Sporrer, Ed Smith, Olivia Feldman, Jackie and Nick Basile, Robert Vittengl, Alex Portal, Guy Swears, Tom Hanlon

Supervisor Fish addressed the room with the proposal of Local Law 6 asking for phones to be silenced allowing individuals to keep their thoughts and comments to be five minutes per person. He asked Councilmember John Donohue to say a few words about the Public Hearing. He said this process began four years ago. The collaboration included the Town Attorney, NYSERDA, Josh Westfall--Building & Planning Coordinator, The Department of Agriculture and Markets, as well as other towns.

Councilmember Donohue said that the previous Board decided not to move forward with the solar draft. He explained that the current Board expanded on the previous draft with the help of now-retired Jim Martin and Josh Westfall, who has prior experience, and that the solar law draft now includes a zoning overlay. He said public comment is welcome but the Board will not engage in a debate, and the hearing will remain open for future emails and communications. Councilmember Donohue also mentioned that two of the absent Board members would be listening to this meeting to keep up to date on proposed Local Law 6.

Supervisor Fish asked Councilmember Stewart if he had anything to add and Councilmember Stewart reiterated what Councilmember Donohue had stated, adding that this was his first meeting as a Board member but that he was familiar with the Solar Law as he had attended meetings in the past.

**Resolution 258-2024** A motion was made by Councilmember Donohue, seconded by Councilmember Stewart, to open the public comment session.

Asked if all were in favor, the responses were as follows:

Councilmember Stewart	Aye
Councilmember Donohue	Aye
Supervisor Fish	Aye

The motion passed 3:0

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Guy Swears was the first speaker to come forward, beginning with his opinion that the board should receive a round of applause. He said he felt the proposed was fair and workable, and mentioned the timeframe when the land would be returned to agriculture. He said liked the three small remote property locations and felt that they were well hidden.

Ed Smith said he farms with his son, owning and renting multiple properties across the Town of Moreau and Town of Northumberland. He said is the only dairy shipper in the Town of Moreau. He expressed concern about the terminology of solar being a farm entity. He said he felt it was not short-term and mentioned that the

land is tied up for 20 years with solar before it is returned to agricultural use. He said wants to see the farms thrive and would like to see buffers so solar arrays remain out of site. he said, “not in my backyard”.

Chris Barden said his family has 200 plus years of farming history, with generations in all sorts of farming. He said has been the steward of the land over the past 30 years. At one point, he said, they were the only farm with a topsoil permit in the Town of Moreau. And he said he is no longer an active farmer but a hobby farmer at best. He said he looks at energy needs for technology not diminishing, believes in solar, and feels his property is a viable site for this project. Chris said that he felt he was well buffered on all sides to not be seen easily. Lastly, he thanked all but one board member for taking the time to visit the site and ask questions.

Nick Schupp introduced himself as a project manager for Renewal Energy, and assured the board that arrays will be built as the project stated in three locations, stating they will not be popping up everywhere. He handed out attachments (inserted at the end of these minutes) for review and for the record. At the very most, he said a half to one mile extension outside of the proposed map would be sought out if additional capacity was needed.

Olivia Feldman spoke about natural resources with community solar being very beneficial to the land with long term care to ensure at the end of the 25–35-year life of the solar farm, preserving soils as they plant both native and pollinated seeds. She said that the solar farm protects the land from commercial development, further ensuring the property remains agricultural. She also brought up the savings to subscribers toward their utility bills. She thanked the board for bringing responsible solar to our area.

Dave Byrne said he is a local resident with Renewal Energy and told the board that the proposed law was beneficial to the community and mentioned five objectives, beginning with solar being safe and renewable energy with nontoxic materials and technologies. He said solar would decrease electricity costs as well as bring more jobs to the area. He said they would be working with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets as well as the Department of Environmental Conservation to protect the land and stay in compliance with local code. Lastly, he said decreased fossil fuel use would be environmentally beneficial with cleaner air and less carbon.

Daniel Cahalane said he was with Renewal energy, thanked the Board for working with them over the past five years as he felt the proposed ordinance was balanced. He said he looked forward to working together and that he would set the bar high.

Councilmember Stewart said there were fewer people with concerns about large scale solar in the community than in the past, adding that since there is not a Solar Law in Moreau, small-scale homes, rooftops, and stand-alone units are also of concern. He said the proposed law should consider each project individually moving forward. He then thanked all who spoke.

Councilmember Donohue reiterated what Councilmen Stewart mentioned and added that he also felt the property owner’s decision should be respected. He then thanked Josh Westfall and the prior Board for all their hard work.

Supervisor Fish said the hearing would be kept open to welcome others that were not present at the hearing to come forward.

**Resolution 259-2024** A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Donohue, to go into Executive session.

Asked if all were in favor, the responses were as follows:

Councilmember Stewart     Aye

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Councilmember Donohue	Aye
Supervisor Fish	Aye

The motion carried 3:0 and the Board went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. No action was taken in the executive session, which lasted 12 minutes.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution 260-2024** A motion was made by Councilmember Stewart, seconded by Councilmember Donohue, to adjourn the meeting.

Asked if all were in favor, the responses were as follows:

Councilmember Stewart	Aye
Councilmember Donohue	Aye
Supervisor Fish	Aye

The motion carried 3:0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maria Jennings*

Maria Jennings, Deputy Town Clerk II

*(attachments to follow)*

The following attachments were submitted by Nick Schupp:

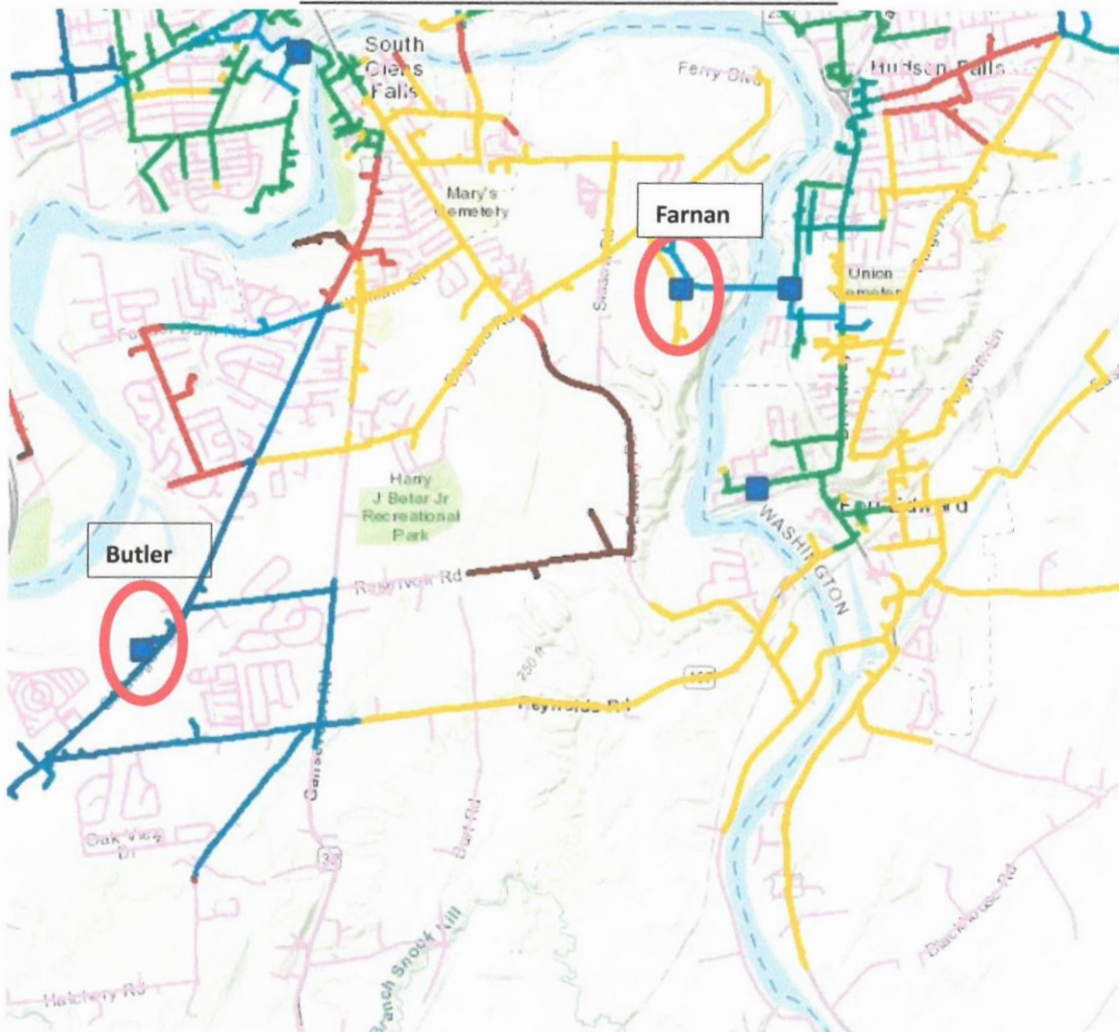
Submission 1

Substations in or adjacent to Moreau (with associated available capacities):

- Butler Road (7.1 MW AC)
- Farnan Rd (370 kW AC)
- Wilton (12.61 MW AC)

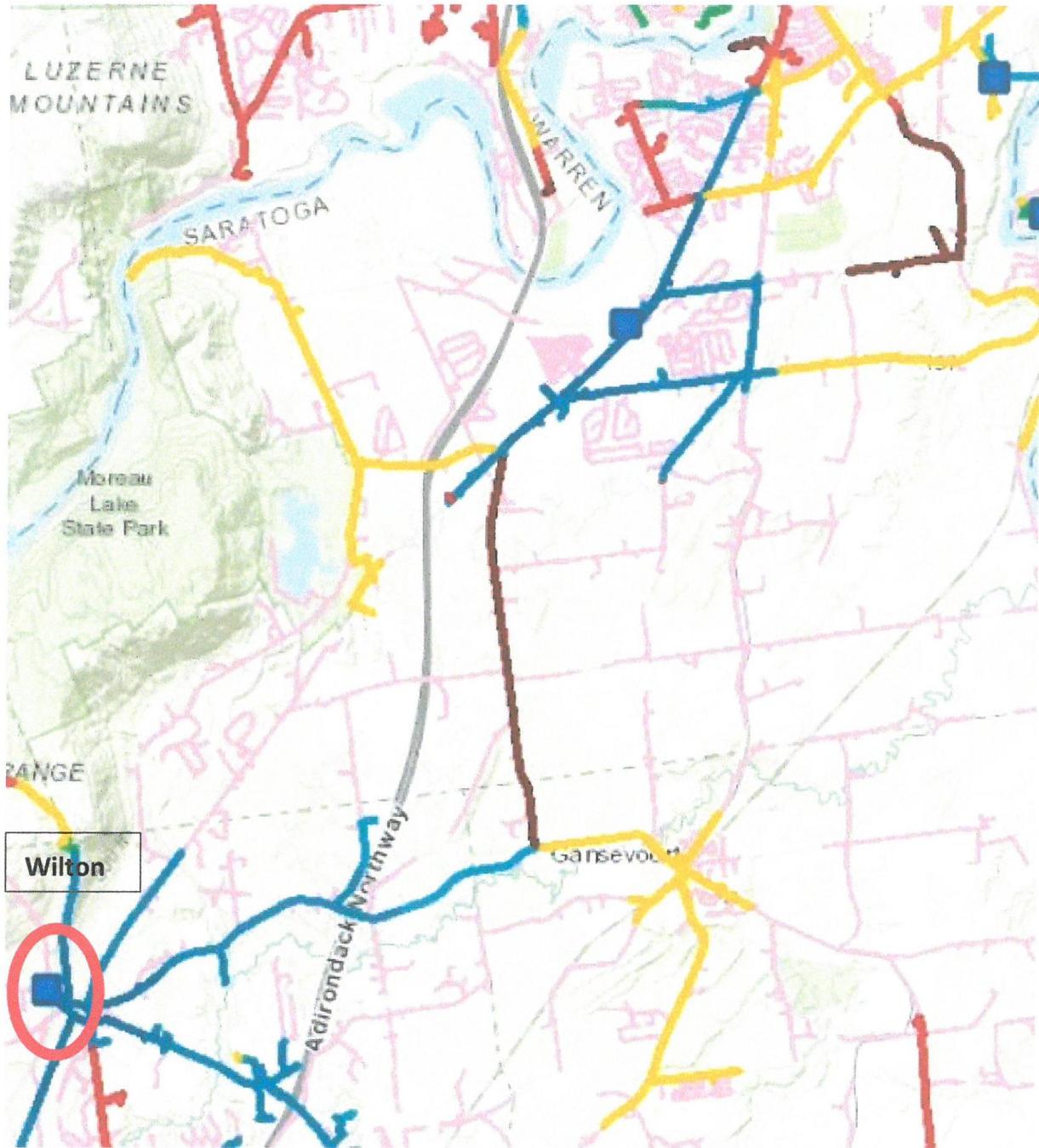
Total Available Capacity: 20.08 MW AC (5MW AC max per system, so equates to ~4 systems)

Overview of Three Relevant Substations



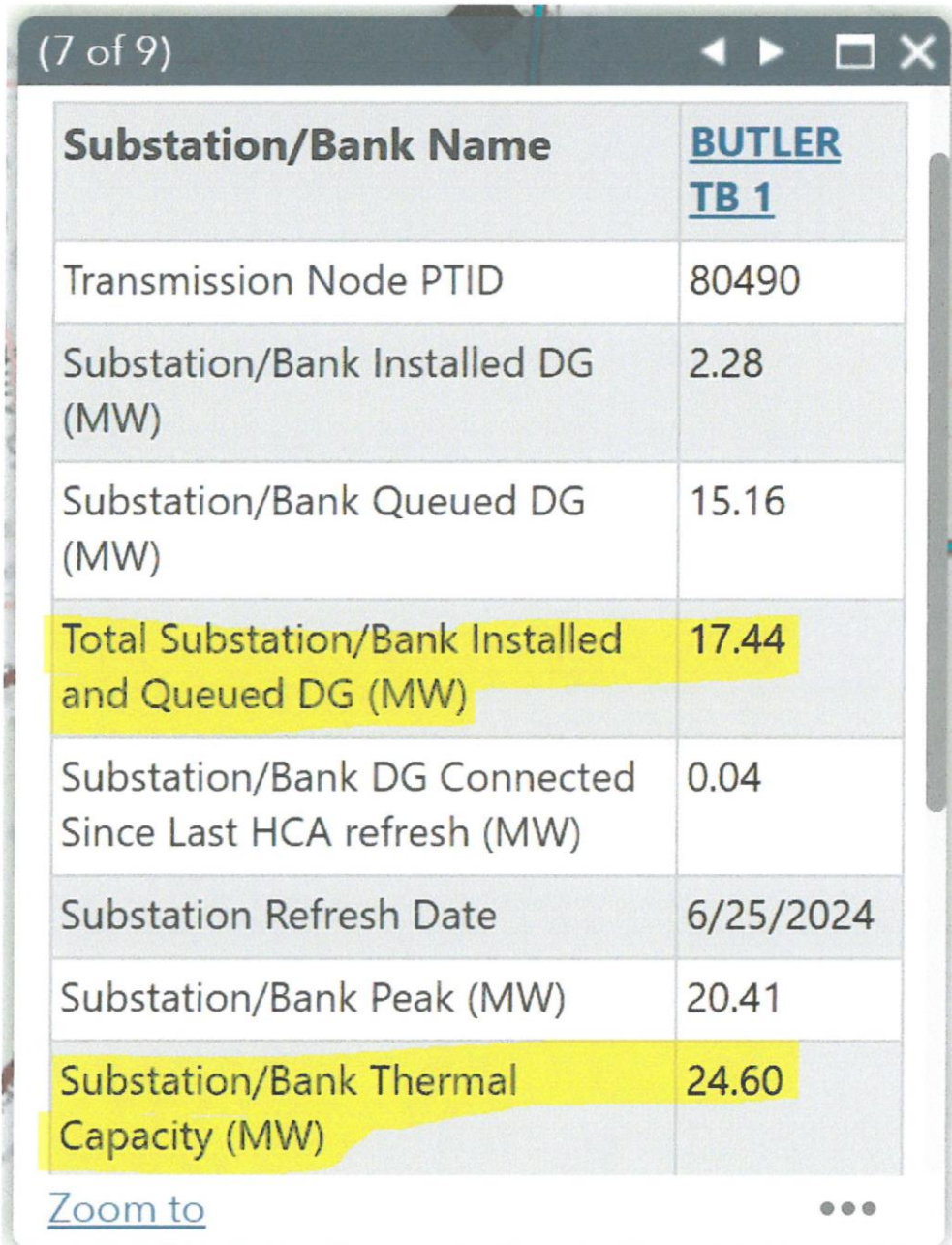
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Submission 2



Submission 3

**Butler Substation:** Capacity for one 5 MWAC project and a 2 MWAC project.



(7 of 9)

Substation/Bank Name	<u>BUTLER</u> <u>TB 1</u>
Transmission Node PTID	80490
Substation/Bank Installed DG (MW)	2.28
Substation/Bank Queued DG (MW)	15.16
Total Substation/Bank Installed and Queued DG (MW)	17.44
Substation/Bank DG Connected Since Last HCA refresh (MW)	0.04
Substation Refresh Date	6/25/2024
Substation/Bank Peak (MW)	20.41
Substation/Bank Thermal Capacity (MW)	24.60

[Zoom to](#) ...

Submission 4

**Farnan Rd Substation**: There is only room for a 370 kW system

(4 of 4)

Substation/Bank Name	<u>FARNAN RD</u> <u>Mini TB 1</u>
Transmission Node PTID	80490
Substation/Bank Installed DG (MW)	0.12
Substation/Bank Queued DG (MW)	5.03
Total Substation/Bank Installed and Queued DG (MW)	5.15
Substation/Bank DG Connected Since Last HCA refresh (MW)	0.00
Substation Refresh Date	6/25/2024
Substation/Bank Peak (MW)	3.60
Substation/Bank Thermal	5.40

[Zoom to](#) ...

Submission 5

**Wilton Substation:** Located outside of Moreau and feeders stop short of town boundary with Wilton, except for one line that has limited capacity (shown in Maroon below). Can safely assume that, based upon costs of extending three phase lines, only two (2) projects in Moreau (totaling 9MW AC)

