

TOWN OF CORINTH, REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
600 PALMER AVENUE CORINTH NY 12822
July 23, 2026 @ 6:00PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Supervisor Butler Called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

ROLL CALL:

Eric Butler, Supervisor
Patrick Clothier, Councilman
Kiley Crooks, Councilwoman
Melanie Denno, Councilwoman
Albert Brooks, Building/Code Officer
Anders Olsen, EMS Deputy Director
Brenda Peris, Town Clerk

EXCUSED:

Carey Mann, Councilman
Shawn Eggleston, Highway Superintendent

PLEDGE: Supervisor Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance

RESOLUTION #158

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Crooks and seconded by Councilman Clothier the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4 Butler, Clothier, Crooks, Denno
	Nays	0
	Excused	1 Mann

RESOLVED, that the Town Board Meeting Minutes dated 7/11/2026 be approved.

RESOLUTION #159

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Crooks and seconded by Councilwoman Denno the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4 Butler, Clothier, Crooks, Denno
	Nays	0
	Excused	1 Mann

RESOLVED, the abstracts of 7/23/2026, be approved as follows:

ABSTRACT
Abstracts for 07/23/2026

Voucher A –260427 - 260456

Voucher B –262265 - 262272

Voucher CM – 267165 - 267175

Voucher DB –263185 - 263199

General Fund A	\$ 36,359.59
General Fund/Outside Village – B	\$ 2,998.41
Highway/Part Town – DB	\$ 81,925.68
Medical – CM	\$ 24,798.99

Fire	\$
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SW Consolidated	\$
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Lighting

Eastern Avenue	\$
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Eggleston Street	\$
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South Corinth	\$
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TOTAL \$ 146,082.67

REPORTS: The following reports given to the Town Board for review:

Occupancy Tax

Landfill

Sales Tax

COMMUNICATION FROM SARATOGA CO. PLANNING/MORATORIUMS:

The two determinations from the county, one for the battery storage moratorium and the other one for the solar moratorium. Their decision was approval for both of them. That was the hurdle we were waiting for that held us up from voting at the last meeting.

We received the following determinations from the Saratoga County Planning Board for the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Solar Energy Systems Moratoriums.



SARATOGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

TOM L. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN
50 WEST HIGH ST, BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

JASON KEMPER, DIRECTOR
518.884.4705 (P) 518.884.4790 (F)

July 17, 2026

Brenda Peris, Town Clerk
Town of Corinth Town Hall
600 Palmer Rd
Corinth, NY 12822

Sent via email to: clerk@townofcorinthny.com

Re: SCPB Referral Review #26-132 - Moratorium - Town of Corinth

The Town proposes a 12-month moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any Battery Energy Storage System.

Location (Jurisdictional Determinant): Town-wide

Tax Map #: N/A

Received from the Town of Corinth Town Board on June 18, 2026.

Reviewed by the Saratoga County Planning Board on July 16, 2026.

Decision: Approve

Comment: The Board recognizes the importance of the moratorium and recommends setting specific benchmarks. The Board also recommends proper budgeting for the moratorium and subsequent code changes if required. This will help ensure that the moratorium is accomplished efficiently within a declared timeframe.

Please contact the Saratoga County Planning Board if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Williams, Planner
Authorized Agent for Saratoga County

DISCLAIMER: Recommendations made by the Saratoga County Planning Board on referrals and subdivisions are based upon the receipt and review of a "full statement of such proposed action" provided directly to SCPB by the municipal referring agency as stated under General Municipal Law section 239. A determination of action is rendered by the SCPB based upon the completeness and accuracy of information presented by its staff. The SCPB cannot be accountable for a decision rendered through incomplete or inaccurate information received as part of the complete statement.



SARATOGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

TOM L. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN
50 WEST HIGH ST, BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

JASON KEMPER, DIRECTOR
518.884.4705 (P) 518.884.4780 (F)

July 17, 2026

Brenda Peris, Town Clerk
Town of Corinth Town Hall
600 Palmer Rd
Corinth, NY 12822

Sent via email to: clerk@townofcorinthny.com

Re: SCPB Referral Review #26-131 - Moratorium - Town of Corinth

The Town proposes a 12-month moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any new or expanded Solar Energy System.

Location (Jurisdictional Determinant): Town-wide

Tax Map #: N/A

Received from the Town of Corinth Town Board on June 18, 2026.

Reviewed by the Saratoga County Planning Board on July 16, 2026.

Decision: Approve

Comment: The Board recognizes the importance of the moratorium and recommends setting specific benchmarks. The Board also recommends proper budgeting for the moratorium and subsequent code changes if required. This will help ensure that the moratorium is accomplished efficiently within a declared timeframe.

Please contact the Saratoga County Planning Board if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Williams, Planner
Authorized Agent for Saratoga County

DISCLAIMER: Recommendations made by the Saratoga County Planning Board on referrals and subdivisions are based upon the receipt and review of a "full statement of such proposed action" provided directly to SCPB by the municipal referring agency as stated under General Municipal Law section 239. A determination of action is rendered by the SCPB based upon the completeness and accuracy of information presented by its staff. The SCPB cannot be accountable for a decision rendered through incomplete or inaccurate information received as part of the complete statement.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Supervisor Butler: I moved communications up in the agenda this time, because the three communications are all about the moratoriums. We're not going to read the whole statement, but we received a letter from Louis Kirkpatrick & Claude Jean, Kevin and Marianne Bradt, and Susan Yancy, all in favor of the moratoriums.

MaryBeth McCue: I have a communication to submit, can I read it?

Supervisor Butler: The public hearing for the Moratorium has been closed; you may submit it during public comment. At this point we are going to move on to the BESS Moratorium vote. I will share a quick review for those who might not have been here the last time. A couple of months ago the Town Board had a discussion about starting moratoriums on both battery storage and solar. We contacted the Town Attorney to start the moratorium process. We then scheduled the public hearing which was held at our last meeting. We couldn't vote at that point due to the determination requirement from the Saratoga County Planning board. Does the Board have any questions or statements?

Councilwoman Crooks: The Board has been in support of the Moratoriums from the very beginning, so understanding that the public came to voice their support in us approving it. We have been very transparent from the beginning before the public even asked to put this in place, we initiated that, so we'll see that today, but I just wanted to make sure that it was really clear.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW#1 OF 2026 BESS MORATORIUM:

RESOLUTION NO. 160

INTRODUCED BY: Councilman Clothier

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION

SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Crooks

**CORINTH TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2026
ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, the Corinth Town Board has considered the adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2026 entitled "Establishing a Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems" pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10; and

WHEREAS, the Local Law would establish a one-year moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any Battery Energy Storage System facilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law was referred to the Saratoga County Planning Department in accordance with General Municipal Law Section 239-m; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determined that the Local Law is a Type II action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act;

WHEREAS, the Town Board commenced a duly noticed Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law on July 9, 2026, and, after hearing all interested persons, closed the Public Hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that this Local Law would best enhance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Corinth;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 1 of 2026 in the form attached to this Resolution.

2. The Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file the Local Law with the New York Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and acknowledges that the Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing by the Secretary of State.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Duly adopted this 23rd day of July 2026, by the following vote:

Councilwoman Denno	Yes
Councilman Clothier	Yes
Supervisor Butler	Yes
Councilwoman Crooks	Yes
Councilman Mann	Excused

AYES 4 NAYS 0 EXCUSED 1

**TOWN OF CORINTH
LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2026
ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CORINTH TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

1. Title and Authority – This Local Law shall be known as the Town of Corinth Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium. It is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10 and Town Law Article 16.

2. Purpose – The Town Board recognizes that Battery Energy Storage Systems facilities are a component to the promotion of renewable energy sources, however, the technology of these systems is still in its infancy. Public health, safety, and welfare are some of the highest priorities in the Town, causing the Town Board to want to have the ability to study the approach to and impacts from the development of Battery Energy Storage Systems facilities.

This Moratorium is necessary in order to temporarily restrict the development of Battery Energy Storage Systems so that the Town Board may thoroughly consider the impacts of such uses, their appropriate locations in the community and how to allow for appropriate development of such facilities within the Town's land use development and zoning objectives. The Town Board has determined that this would best enhance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Corinth.

3. Definitions – "Battery Energy Storage System" means one or more devices, assembled together, capable of storing energy derived from any source including without limitation solar or wind sources, to be stored and then released at a future time.

4. Moratorium – The Town of Corinth hereby imposes a one-year Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any Battery Energy Storage Systems after the date that this Local Law takes effect. During the pendency of this Moratorium, there shall be no construction nor permits issued nor applications considered by the Town, its Officials, Boards or Departments for the construction, installation or use of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

5. Extensions – This Moratorium may be extended for such additional periods as the Town Board may determine to be necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Corinth and accomplish the stated purposes and intent of this Local Law.

6. Variance Procedure – The Town Board shall have the power, after a Public Hearing, to vary or modify the application of any provision of this Local Law upon its determination that strict application of this Local Law would impose extraordinary hardship upon an applicant and that the variance granted would not adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the Town or significantly conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Local Law. Any request for a variance shall be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk. The Town Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the application on not less than five (5) days' public notice and shall make its decision within thirty (30) days after the close of the Public Hearing. Any project which is granted a variance from this Local Law shall be subject to all requirements under the Town Code which would have been applicable to the project if the Moratorium had not been adopted and the prohibitions set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Local law shall not apply to such project.

7. Severability – The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof.

8. Effective Date – This Local Law shall take effect upon filing by the Office of the New York Secretary of State.

Supervisor Butler: As of today, we have started a one-year moratorium on battery energy storage systems. Let's move on to the solar energy systems. Same scenario. We've been kind of running these hand and hand because they fall into the same land use section of our code. So, it made sense to do them both at the same time for us. Again, any questions from the board? Questions or statements?

Mary Beth McCue: The Community has a question about conflict of interest on the Solar

Supervisor Butler: We can circle back to that during public comment. Right now, that is not an agenda item.

RESOLUTION NO: 161
INTRODUCED BY: Councilwoman Denno
WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION
SECONDED BY: Councilwoman Crooks

**CORINTH TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026
ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON
SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF CORINTH**

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes that solar energy offers benefits for energy conservation and reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and, as such, the development of solar energy facilities continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, this Moratorium is necessary in order to temporarily restrict the development of any new commercial solar energy systems that do not yet have site plan approval so that the Town Board may consider zoning code amendments to address these systems; and

WHEREAS, The Town Board has determined that this would best enhance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Corinth; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law is a Type II Action under 22 New York Code of Rules and Regulations §§617.5, and no further action is therefore required to comply with SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, a proposed Local Law was prepared which establishes a one-year Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any new or expanded Solar Energy Systems that do not yet have site plan approval; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law was forwarded to the Saratoga County Planning Board for its recommendations pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 239-m, and the County Planning Board indicated there were no community wide impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board duly held a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law on July 11, 2026, and heard all interested persons;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 2 of 2026.
2. The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file the Local Law with the New York Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and acknowledges that the Local Law will take effect immediately upon filing by the Secretary of State.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Duly adopted this 23rd day of July 2026, by the following vote:

Councilwoman Denno	Yes
Councilman Clothier	Yes
Supervisor Butler	Yes
Councilwoman Crooks	Yes
Councilman Mann	Excused

AYES 4 NAYS 0 EXCUSED 1

**LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026
ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON
SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF CORINTH**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CORINTH TOWN BOARD AS FOLLOWS:

1. Title and Authority – This Local Law shall be known as the Town of Corinth Solar Energy System Moratorium Law. It is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §10.

2. Purpose – The Town Board recognizes that solar energy offers benefits for energy conservation and reduction of reliance on fossil fuels and, as such, the development of solar energy facilities continues to grow. However, the installation of large-scale solar energy facilities, panels, equipment and accessories may have adverse impacts on neighboring land. This Moratorium is necessary in order to temporarily restrict the development of any new solar energy systems that do not yet have site plan approval. The Town Board has determined that this would best enhance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Corinth.

3. Definitions –

Solar Energy Equipment - Solar energy equipment consists of solar photovoltaic (PV) cells, panels and/or arrays, controls, energy storage devices, heat pumps and pumps, heat exchangers, windmills, and other materials, hardware, or equipment necessary to the process by which solar radiation is: a. Collected. b. Converted into another form of energy such as thermal, electrical, mechanical, or chemical. c. Stored. d. Protected from unnecessary dissipation; and e. Distributed.

Solar Energy System - An arrangement or combination of solar energy equipment designed to provide heating, cooling, hot water, or mechanical, chemical, or electrical energy by the collection of solar energy and its conversion, storage, protection, and distribution..

4. Moratorium – The Town of Corinth hereby imposes a one-year Moratorium on the construction, establishment, installation, review or approval of any new or expanded Solar Energy System that does not yet have site plan approval from the Town of Corinth Planning Board. During the pendency of this Moratorium there shall be no permits issued nor applications considered by the Town, its Officials, Boards or Departments for the construction, installation or use of any new Solar Energy System that does not yet have site plan approval.

5. Residential Use Exception – This Moratorium shall not apply to residential Solar Panel installations, regardless of whether or not the panels are ground-mounted, so long as the total Solar Panel installation on a single residential tax map parcel is

designed to generate no more than 110% of the electricity consumed over the previous twelve-month period for the existing parcel (for new construction that does not have a twelve-month log of electricity use, a projection of electricity use over the first 12 months shall be used).

6. Extensions – This Moratorium may be extended for such additional periods as the Town Board may determine to be necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Corinth and accomplish the stated purposes and intent of this Local Law.

7. Variance Procedure – The Town Board shall have the power, after a Public Hearing, to vary or modify the application of any provision of this Local Law upon its determination that strict application of this Local Law would impose extraordinary hardship upon an applicant and that the variance granted would not adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the Town or significantly conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Local Law. Any request for a variance shall be in writing and filed with the Town Clerk. The Town Board shall conduct a Public Hearing on the application on not less than five (5) days' public notice and shall make its decision within thirty (30) days after the close of the Public Hearing. Any project which is granted a variance from this Local Law shall be subject to all requirements under the Town Code which would have been applicable to the project if the moratorium had not been adopted.

8. Severability – The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof.

9. Effective Date – This Local Law shall take effect upon filing by the Office of the New York Secretary of State.

2026 PARKS GRANT FOR THE 9N PROPERTY:

Supervisor Butler: Some of the grants that we apply for, or that we have been applying for regularly for our property out on 9N are parks grants. Part of the process with some of these CFA grants is that you are required to go through the SEQRA process in order to apply. The SEQRA process is really intended to be an environmental review. It all seems kind of silly, but the part we are reviewing is for the purpose of writing the grant, so these questions are going to seem very environmental, and the comments where we are going to make a judgment on are really just about the grant writing process. The board has already gone through the short environmental assessment form part one and it has been completed. Now on to part two. There are 11 questions, we'll need to answer. There are two options, no or small impact may occur, or there's a moderate or a large impact that may occur. The board answered as follows:

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 2 - Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	☒	☐
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	☒	☐
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	☒	☐
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	☒	☐
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	☒	☐
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	☒	☐
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:		
a. public / private water supplies?	☒	☐
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	☒	☐
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	☒	☐
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	☒	☐
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	☒	☐
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	☒	☐
12. Is the potentially affected disadvantaged community identified as having comparatively higher burdens or vulnerabilities by the Disadvantaged Community Assessment Tool?	☒	☐
13. Will the proposed action cause or increase a pollution burden within a disadvantaged community?	☒	☐

RESOLUTION#162
SEQR FOR 2026 PARKS GRANT

A motion was made by Councilman Clothier and seconded by Councilwoman Crooks the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4 Butler, Clothier, Crooks, Denno
	Nays	0
	Excused	1 Mann

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) procedures, the Town Board of the Town of Corinth hereby expresses its intent to serve as Lead Agency to comply with SEQR. In accord with the likelihood that the Town Board will serve as Lead Agent, the Board has prepared an Environmental Assessment of the significance of and potential impact of the Corinth Town Park CFA project.

The project's purpose shall be as follows:

- Continue developing the parcel at 4874 Route 9N, Corinth, NY, 12822, also known as Corinth Town Park, via the construction/installation of multi-use games area courts and other free play items, equipment, and amenities for use by Corinth residents and visitors.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts the Environmental Assessment of the project. The Town Board further declares that, based on the Environmental Assessment, it finds that the project will result in no adverse impacts to the environment. Therefore, the Town Board does not anticipate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Further, the Town Board herewith states its intent to issue a Negative Declaration under SEQR for the project, pending review by the involved agencies.

RUSTIC BARN CAMPGROUND PERMIT LETTER: Rustic Barn campground is requesting a letter that the Town Board authorizes 21 one-day alcohol event permits at their 4748 Rt 9N location. This letter is required by the State Liquor Authority in order for them to issue the permits.

RESOLUTION #163
TO APPROVE CAMPGROUND PERMIT LETTER

A motion was made by Councilwoman Crooks and seconded by Councilwoman Denno the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4 Butler, Clothier, Crooks, Denno
	Nays	0
	Excused	1 Mann

RESOLVED, to approve issuing Rustic Barn Campground the 21-one-day alcohol event permit support letter.

ATTORNEY ITEMS: None

MONEY TRANSFERS: None

SUPERVISOR ITEMS: None

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

EMS Deputy Director Anders:

*We just hired a new full-time EMT to replace the full-time EMT that moved up to Paramedic.

*Waiting on the quote from West Signs to get the used ambulance re-lettered.

*Supervisor Butler asked about staffing. It's summertime so everyone's taking vacation, but we are making it work.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Burnham: Are the Battery Storage Systems unique to each so-called solar farm? Will there be one central station, or one beside each solar farm?

Supervisor Butler: Currently there are no plans or applications submitted to the Town. We're doing the moratoriums to be preemptive so we can put some rules and regulations in place before an application comes in.

Darren Potter: I'm interested that we had a moratorium voted on tonight when we already had a solar law in place, since we have two active solar farms. Was that appealed at one point? As a follow up question, in the interest of transparency, said local laws are not accessible on your website. Your website deliberately sends it to a dead-end page, and there are no meeting minutes past 2025, so when one looked to enrich themselves to be prepared tonight they weren't able to.

Supervisor Butler: Thank you, we can answer some of the questions. Let's start them one at a time. What is your first one?

Councilman Clothier: The repeal of the solar laws that we have currently

Darren Potter: Sorry, I didn't have your attention.

Supervisor Butler: Repeal of the solar laws was that the question.

Darren Potter: We have a solar moratorium when we have an active solar law. So, I was just interested as to why we have that distinction now?

Supervisor Butler: We think that our solar law needs to be updated. The law that was created three years ago is a little outdated. We think we need to set more limits, where they go, how they go and work on how we can accomplish that.

Darren Potter: So just the active two?

Supervisor Butler: The law stays where it is and we are going to update our land use and see if we can add some more regulations.

Darren Potter: The second question was on transparency of the board and the lack of minutes and local laws being posted for the public.

Councilwoman Crooks: We will take a look at it and check with our IT dept. The Solar Law was posted originally. I had it posted when we first developed the law, but we can go back and look to see if something has changed. You can always access anything that you are asking for at the Town Hall in person as well. We will look at why you were unable to get that information online.

Councilman Clothier: You may have to go on the with the new website address.

Supervisor Butler: As far as the posting of the law, Brenda who is the company we are working with to update.

Town Clerk Peris: General Code is the company we are working with to update the laws online. It has been going on quite a while. We have posted all new laws in the General code. You can access them by clicking on the new law itself.

The meeting minutes, other than the ones you just approved should all be on the website.

Supervisor Butler: (to Darren Potter) Are you saying minutes prior to 2025?

Darren Potter: Correct. The minutes of when the first solar law would have been enacted are not present, nor is the solar law itself. Just seems a little concerning that they're being concealed.

Supervisor Butler: I wouldn't call them concealed. We updated our website about six months ago so it's possible some of the information didn't come over and we haven't noticed the old ones because we have not had a reason to use them, but we will take a look.

Councilwoman Crooks: In full transparency You can always come in person to the town and access any of the documents you're asking for.

Ed Crandall: What's the town position currently on new solar that wants to come in? Can they just apply for a permit and do it?

Supervisor Butler: Not now, not with the moratorium.

Ed Crandall: And you guys are trying to come up with some kind of regulations in the next year or so to regulate that some?

Councilwoman Crooks: We have a law already to provide guidelines, but when we first put in the law, it was what existed in the market then. In the last three years, solar has really become much larger. So, it's been determined that we need to update it again, to what, you know, maybe the state information and other towns have. So you always need to kind of look at those every so often. Typically, they don't move as fast as solar has, so that's why we're redoing them to make sure that we have a better governance on them. That's why you put a law in place.

Councilwoman Denno: Our attorney is also working on that for us, but they're working on the it for other municipalities at the same time.

Ed Crandall:

I read today that the governor wants to put in solar, she wants to cover 50 square miles of the state in solar. I'm not a big fan of the government, but we don't get that much sun here. It isn't like you're living in Colorado or Arizona.

Councilman Clothier: That's unfortunately some of the problems that we've run into is we only have so much power.

Mary Beth McCue:

So, I know some of this is just repetitive, but I just think it's all very timely.

Mary Beth McCue read the following and gave it to the Town Clerk for filing:

CORINTH Town Meeting. 7.23.26

Submitted by Mary Beth McCue 15 Dunn Ave Corinth NY 12822

Communities across the ADKs and nearby towns are fighting solar farms, lithium battery dump sites, and data centers. Many have succeeded because local leaders listened and said no to projects they believe are costly, environmentally harmful, and dangerous to wildlife, water, and human health.

These projects also drain community time and money. Local governments are not equipped to battle corporate greed, and taxpayers should not have to carry the financial burden or spend endless hours fighting and monitoring these developments. Companies often change structures, like splitting into multiple LLCs, in ways that benefit them while creating more confusion, cost, and strain for the community.

Our towns should be focused on real local needs, not cleaning up the mess these projects bring. These developments give communities little to nothing while taking valuable resources from everyone.

IT IS SIMPLE. And it is common Sense.

We are here to vote on a moratorium on solar farms and lithium battery storage sites, even though I've been told our Supervisor could simply ban these projects. Instead, he wants to spend a year researching and working with his attorney, without community involvement, saying, "You voted for me to do the job."

That is deeply concerning.

Meanwhile, many towns across upstate New York have already voted no. It is widely reported that these outside corporations burden taxpayers and harm the environment.

Factual Statements on these two issues.

*****Lithium BATTERY Storage Dumps-**

Taxpayers and local ratepayers face negative impacts from lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) primarily through public-funded subsidies, emergency service burdens, and utility cost adjustments.

Financial and Tax Subsidy Burdens - 2 points

>Subsidies and Tax Credits: Billions in federal and state taxpayer dollars fund investment tax credits (ITCs) and production tax credits (PTCs) for commercial developers, shifting capital risk to public budgets.

>Tariff and Cost Volatility: Trade restrictions and shifting import tariffs on foreign battery components can inflate capital expenses, which utilities may pass down to local ratepayers through higher electricity bills.

Local Infrastructure and Safety Costs - 2 points

>Emergency Services: Municipalities often have to fund specialized training, hazardous material standby equipment, or extra staffing for local fire departments to handle potential thermal runaway fires.

>Property and Decommissioning Risks: If a private developer goes bankrupt or abandons a site, local governments and taxpayers risk inheriting the costly environmental cleanup and safe disposal of hazardous battery materials.

*****SOLAR Farms**

#1 Corinth needs to hear from Supervisor Butler this evening if there is a "Legal Conflict of Interest" as the community has shared the past several weeks that he has corporate solar on property he is associated with.

#2 Large-scale solar farms in New York state negatively impact taxpayers through reduced local property assessments via PILOT agreements, potential shifts in the local tax burden, and risks of unfunded cleanup costs when developers go bankrupt.

Financial and Tax Concerns - 3 points

>**Tax Exemptions and PILOTs:** Under New York Real Property Tax Law § 487, solar projects can be exempt from standard property taxes, leading towns and counties to negotiate Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) that critics argue often undervalue the true commercial worth of the land.

>**Tax Burden Shifting:** When industrial or commercial solar installations receive lowered tax assessments or exemptions, local municipal leaders note that "it ends up shifting the tax burden on to everybody else unfairly" within the school district or township.

>**Decommissioning and Abandonment Risks:** Without strict state-mandated financial reclamation bonds, local taxpayers risk footing the bill to clean up or remove derelict, abandoned solar infrastructure if a developing company becomes insolvent.

Community and Infrastructure Pressures - 2 points

>**Agricultural Disruption:** Large conversions of active farmland reduce the long-term agricultural tax base and traditional economic activity in rural upstate communities.

>**Local Strains:** Communities face legal and administrative costs fighting state-level siting decisions (such as through the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, or ORES) that bypass local zoning control.

Supervisor Butler:

Thank you. You had one question on all that. That was whether I had any conflict of interest. We had this determination early on. When we wrote the original solar law, I did not take part in that just for that reason, they were putting a commercial farm on my property. I'll walk you through the process of how it happened, how I ended up with one, just so you're aware. There's a distinct line in there where things get separated. They came, they signed me, they made me this offer of whether they wanted to lease my land. They're like, okay, sure, let's talk about it. So, this corporate company comes in, we swing a deal, we sign a lease. They sell their lease off to a separate solar company. Now all of my dealings are strictly with the Solar Company. The two solar farms, mine and the solar farm you see on the corner of Stark and Main Street out there are the same Solar company. They were the same investment company. They came there together. The new one, the one that we just sent through planning and got approved, is on the IP property over here on the town end of it by the landfills. That was the same LLC company in the front part of ours. There's no solar company at the moment that's involved in that. They're still dealing with the front end of it. I do not have any financial ties to that LLC company that came in.

Mary Beth McCue:

But you do too, the ones that are on your land.

Supervisor Butler:

Not with those people. My ties to them were done and gone once they sold it off to the solar construction company.

Mary Beth McCue:

So again, just for clarification with you, Supervisor Butler, because we're wondering, you have solar on your property. Is it all disconnected? I'm trying to make sense of what you just said. Is it in operation?

Supervisor Butler:

No, it's not disconnected, it is in operation. It became active around the end of December.

Mary Beth McCue:

I don't understand how there's not a conflict. If you are the town supervisor in a town that is working on regulation or issues or if regulation is not the word issues or I mean you know what I'm saying we're working on solar issues you're leading the pack just give me a couple seconds I don't want to argue you're leading the pack and now you're part of the decision making with this how is that not a conflict of interest that's my question I think that's everybody's question.

Supervisor Butler:

Well, I am going to reassure you that and you can ask this board. The start of this solar moratorium was my idea months ago. And when this one got done, I was like, all right, we need to put one in, because now there's more solar than we need, and this is enough. A little town like ours does not need any more than what we're going to have. So now we need to figure out how to regulate it.

Mary Beth McCue:

It's still not the answer to my question. You're going to be crafting what you want to craft. You're overseeing it around solar that's here. It's a conflict of interest.

Councilwoman Crooks:

Can I answer that for you? We go by not so much the public guidance on some of these, but more of our legal guidance. We go by our town attorney, who provides guidance for us. Supervisor Butler had abstained from all of the voting when we developed the solar law, adopted the solar law and when anything was being discussed on his property. As deputy supervisor, I had to sign all the documents. He was not allowed to. Those are public knowledge; you can surely come in and see those. But in the guidance of those, where there was a conflict of interest, he absolutely excused himself, didn't vote on any of that, wasn't in the communications. I worked directly with the lawyer on some of the situations as well, directly with the board, and he abstained and wasn't even part of those conversations. So, we're

sharing when there is a conflict of interest, when it was a personal conflict of interest. There's legal documentation to show that. In this regard, putting the moratorium in. It's okay. We're just asking that we want a year to be able to update and match the regulations that are coming out faster from New York State and other areas as solar is taking a bigger and bigger space in New York. So hopefully I've reassured you there's legal documentation to support what I'm sharing, but he's abstained from all of those, the voting, anything that would impact. So really not a conflict of interest.

Mary Beth McCue:

He hasn't assured me at all, and with all due respect, you haven't assured me at all because he's a town supervisor, and it's a town project. I think the moratoriums are great to stop these projects and look at things, but now you're going to be crafting the way you want these projects to go going forward.

Councilwoman Crooks:

He didn't craft the first solar law, right?

Mary Beth McCue:

You're crafting whatever you want to craft for the next year with your attorneys, and you've said that you're not interested in sharing and listening. And the more I talk, the more you talk to him. So, you've said that you don't want to involve the town or the community in this one-year moratorium crafting when I asked you if you would share that and allow us to be part of that. So, you are going to do what you want to do, is basically what you've said in the next year while you're updating and creating however you want to create the guidelines here for these issues.

Councilwoman Crooks:

With all due respect, the first meeting you came in, we didn't give you a time limit, but you talked for several minutes on the support for putting the moratorium in, and it was after the board said we're already putting in the moratorium, we already are taking the necessary steps and already outlined for you how that happens, right? You were frustrated that we didn't vote on it that night, right? The very first meeting, excuse me, let me finish. We explained how the process actually works in implementing the moratorium, the public hearing, to be able to give the information to Saratoga County and receive their response in order to be able to move forward with it. That's why I shared in the comment section that we were for this, and we actually brought it forward before the public. It's great to see the support for it, but we were there.

Mary Beth McCue:

I'm all for stopping it. What you didn't understand is that what I just said again, is that it doesn't mean we know the outcome. The outcome right now is that they're halted. Right, and it's great

that the community could be part of the process that you're now going to go into and craft how these projects are going to roll out in the future.

Councilwoman Crooks

How these projects are going to roll out in the future?

Councilwoman Denno:

All those laws will be brought before the public. There'll be a public hearing on any law that we establish.

Mary Beth McCue:

But you'll establish it before they're decided upon. You will establish the laws, you're saying.

Councilwoman Crooks:

They'll be drafted by our attorney, then they'll come to the public and We'll vote after there's a public hearing. There will be a public hearing on them.

Mary Beth McCue:

Absolutely. However, I guess you can understand that there's towns, and there's lots of communication about these three issues. I know what a moratorium is, but I'm seeing a lot of towns immediately saying no to issues that we're now looking at, and we're going to develop whatever you're going to develop. So, I'm not sure why you're, I mean, so, you know, if there's not a no to the battery Energy storage area, if there's not a no to any of these, then you're looking at it to develop what you want to develop to maybe allow them in, right?

Councilwoman Crooks:

Not necessarily, but it's a possibility. Some of the towns aren't even looking at that. Well, I'll share with the solar, We would have liked to maybe say, well, we can't allow solar. It's illegal to do that. We have to put the law in place to provide the regulation to be able to do that. A moratorium just buys us time to be able to oversee that process and be able to make it the safest from an environment or community standpoint. There are legal things you cannot do, like saying you ban all of these things, or you like the solar. I just share that as our direction from our legal entity, a lawyer who's paid to do this, was guiding us, we have to make sure we have regulations on it, and that's why we're updating it to add additional ones.

Mary Beth McCue:

So, is it some counties or towns where it's illegal and there's some counties or towns where it's not illegal on these three issues?

Councilwoman Crooks:

I don't know the towns you're referring to. I will just say for what we're sharing here, we're sharing that we were already putting a moratorium in place, we passed it tonight.

Mary Beth McCue:

I'm not arguing about a moratorium that stops projects that we don't want to develop the law.

Councilwoman Crooks:

Pardon me, You're arguing because you want to develop the law.

Supervisor Butler:

There are options out there and we don't know all of them yet. This is why we have an attorney, this is why I had a conversation with the engineers who both are working on these projects in other municipalities. We're going to get all these answers. We're going to find out what our options are. It's not always as clean as just saying no. No might be the first step, but then there might be -- you've got to change all of your land use laws. You've got to put in other regulations.

Mary Beth McCue:

I'm not trying to develop the law. It's not my area of expertise, nor do I want to. I want the community to be part of it. That's where I've always been consistent.

Supervisor Butler:

We have a pretty good idea of what you guys are looking for. I mean, you spoke very clearly about it. We're going to give everybody the opportunity to look at it when we're done, and we'll give you some updates of where we are through the process. We're not trying to hide anything.

We're going to let everybody look at it, then we call a public hearing. We'll have a final draft, like Mel said, and we'll put it out. It'll be available at the town hall and on the website, So people can see it, and view it. We'll put a date out there, and if you have questions, kick them in. We can talk about, why we did what we did. I'm sure that we're going to have some information that maybe, you know, everybody's going to have questions because of the law.

Ed Crandall:

Have you had a bunch of people that want lithium storage here?

Supervisor Butler:

No.

Ed Crandall:

Nobody. Have you had anybody that wants more solar fields here?

Supervisor Butler:

There's mixed views. More solar fields, more is the key word there. Everybody's not against solar. Some are, some aren't. But the reality of the situation is, at this point, is my thought process, we don't need anymore. We're only so big of a community, this is plenty. What can we do now to try and stop the future development of any more, which is not as simple as it sounds. You can write your law to be a no, but I'll tell you something I've learned within the last two weeks. Solar farms above 25 megawatts are considered utilities. So solar farms really, don't quote me on all this because I'm just getting this from conversation I've had with other supervisors and people that are in this same situation. Solar farms that are over 25 megawatts controlled by ORES are in the utility status. ORES can come to your community, and go in front of the zoning board, they get much more lenient zoning rules and regulations, and they take away a lot of local rule. But that's the problem that's going on with these bigger solar farms out west and even the one in Fort Edward they're talking about that's so big over there and ORES is taking control because the home rule and home laws are very limited. The state is controlling and giving them much more leeway, which is the problem we ran into with the cell tower up here on the hill. It's the same thing but different. That cell tower over there on the end of First Street was considered a utility. It came through our process, it came through our planning board, the planning board shot it down. They appealed it. They appealed it and they went to federal court to appeal it because they knew that the feds had much more lenient zoning rules and regulations. In their eyes, we were an area that needed more cell service. Then we went to court, we fought it for four months, and we lost.

Ed Crandall:

This lady also mentioned that there's a fear that if the battery storage place comes here, and then they go bankrupt, then we're sitting with all the lithium and-- we've got to get rid of it.

Supervisor Butler:

Right, generally with these type of projects, there is a decommissioning plan. That decommissioning plan and a decommissioning bond is in place so in the case that company leaves the municipality doesn't get stuck and there is money to take care of it.

Ed Crandall:

I got a friend who's up in Maine, and he's got a beautiful place on Silver Lake, and he's had a gorgeous view. Now he looks at a bunch of windmills. And he's got a hunting cabin that's got one of these big windmills where you can hear the blade going around. And they went belly up. And you know what? The big windmill's still next to his hunting camp, and all his view is still all the windmills.

Supervisor Butler:

Yeah. That's what you're going to have to fight that cord. And I don't know whether they were doing decommissioning bonds back then. I don't know how long ago.

Councilwoman Crooks:

Our solar law does have decommissioning in it and requires a very robust bond coverage so that we protect the town and the taxpayers, so we don't get stuck. All of the recent solar farms have substantial bonds.

Supervisor Butler

These battery storage units, the lithium ions were the first ones that came out, and they are the most dangerous. Technology has forced them into a new style of batteries that aren't as toxic and terrible as the lithium ions. I'm not saying that they're not bad, but they're not as bad.

Kaylee Riece:

One of the big concerns that I've heard, and Mr. Crandall brought it up as a very real situation and you brought it up actually with your own, the solar on your property, is that there is a passing of hands a lot of times with the solar. With the decommissioning, there is the concern that as the company goes belly up, they pass it on to someone else, they pass it on to someone else and then nobody actually holds the responsibility for that decommissioning. What is in place to ensure that that doesn't occur?

Supervisor Butler:

The decommissioning bond will have the town named as the insured. If something happens on the other end of that or it doesn't get paid, the town would be first notified.

Kaylee Riece:

So, there's a trigger for that. Not to be accusatory with that, but does that indicate that the taxpayer would then meet the cost of that, or is that just still going towards that bond?

Supervisor Butler:

It would come out of that bond. That's what its intent was, so the locality, the municipality doesn't get stuck with the payment.

Brian Fox:

So, you spoke to how basically like ORES tries to go above local government's heads and, you know, pass what they want to pass. What, realistically, could you, Town of Corinth do to maybe try and combat or maybe apply some sort of a legal plan too, in case it does come to that? What preliminary steps could you guys take to maybe prepare for that?

Supervisor Butler:

Actually, That's our question. It's going to be our question for the engineers during our law creating process.

Councilwoman Denno:

I just want to say one thing. I spent a lot of years on the village board, and now I'm on this board. I can tell you from my experiences and conversations with attorneys that It's better to have a law in place, that maybe it keeps everything tight than to not have any law. If you don't have any law, you're going to get sued and they're probably going to win. It's better to have a law in place that has strict guidelines and protects your community than to not have any law at all or to have one that says no, because that one's going to be fought in the court.

James Murray Sr.:

Well over 20 years, I have attended almost every single town board meeting, including Village board meetings, including school board meetings. I'm an educated engineer, 36 years of GE. First point is, these solar farms that are going in, they were originally developed at General Electric Corporate Research and Development Center in this unit. I was on the team that did develop it. The other part is that I see a lot of people saying things like that. I don't see them at the board meetings. I was at the board meetings when they discussed the batteries, the storage, and the solar, and like that. When they had meetings that was going to be discussed, they had information packets that I took home, and I read, and I knew what was going on because of my education and work experience. Number one, any board member that was dealing with the solar and the battery storage and like that, there was absolutely no conflict of interest at all for any board, previous boards, because this is not the first board to deal with. There's absolutely no conflict of interest. As far as the development of grows, but in case the company goes belly up and like that or taking the solar farm down or down, I'll tell you, this town board, especially this town board on the solar, they have dotted their I's and crossed their T's, very, very active. There's not going to be any liability to the taxpayers because that has been dealt with. I'd like to see all these people start attending all these boards and get educated. I'm more educated, and probably something than some of the board, as far as solar, battery storage, and like that. Because I've worked on projects like that at the GE R&D Center. I had 36 years with GE. So as far as what I'm saying is, let's see more people here, get educated on, and really know what is going on. I said, there's a lot of disinformation in this community. And this is a good example of it. People don't come to the board like that, and they come and say, oh, I'm the expert on it. No, you're not. I'm more of an expert on it than-- and the town board is an expert on it, because they have the people. And when you have the public killings that bring up, I think it would be a good idea for the town to bring somebody in and that knows what they're talking about and give a presentation on this is what it is about the solars. This is what it is about the battery storage. And actually, Eric and I talked about it, and he said, Well, the state had their own agenda. And afterthought, yeah, I agree with that. But all they got to do is go 50 miles right down to Niskayuna. And they got the GE Corporate R&D, and they got some

engineers there. I can attest to that. And they can, I'm sure that they would come up and they would give a presentation and give honest, truthful, and educated answers to the question that this board has brought up. I like that so far.

John Tangora:

My question is about residential. I have them on my house. Is any of these that you're going to be working on going to affect my solar on my house?

Supervisor Butler:

No.

Councilwoman Crooks:

No, it's a small amount, right? it is covered in the solar law now, residential portion, but it's pretty small. The governance is really targeted towards larger solar farms.

John Tangora:

If I sell my house, do I have to take solar off of it? I just don't want to have somebody coming, oh, no, your town is -- you know, you can't do that. So, it's not residential.

Supervisor Butler: No.

Darren Potter:

Yes. Sorry, I have some follow-up questions that have now come up. The gentleman have a question, just as a point of order, because you restricted her from speaking to the community, and I didn't hear a question, just some rereading of us that spoke before. Point of order. My question is- Is code enforcement enforcing the fact that solar farms presently are not complying with their plans that state they cannot be visible from the roadway.

Councilwoman Crooks:

They are complying as much as that was said when they brought it in. Now you had to plant trees, they planted the trees. Where there wasn't trees, they put the green fence in. The solar law state that they can't be visible from the road.

Councilwoman Crooks:

I'm saying the law that governs it says that it has to be a certain amount back and then the trees and things set up.

For your first comment, Eric was just addressing that her back was to the board and she was facing the public. Typically, when we have a public comment, they face the board.

Louise Carney:

I was born and brought up in Corinth, as I know three of your board members are as well. I find this board one of the most aggressive, protecting of our community boards that we've had in a

long time. You had a full plate dumped on you, because we had a board that didn't take action on anything. We almost got a horrible, horrible thing that happened when the International Paper Company came out of here, and this junkyard wanted to come in here and bring truckloads of garbage. All of a sudden, we just heard, well, guess what? This company's coming down there. This room was filled. The hall was filled. They were on the streets, petitions, tickets, to try to convince that board that this wasn't what we wanted. just because they were going to give us lots of money. If anybody wants to see the results of one of those, well, we have Waterloo, where the garbage is now like this. The people are trying to do something about it. What are they going to do now? It was a horrible experience to go through. So, I commend this work. I think most of the people in this community, we voted for you. We're not afraid to vote you out. if you don't do what we like. That's right. Exactly. I personally think three Solar Farms is plenty in our small community. I'm so glad you're taking care of the battery situation. I don't even understand all that, but when I was reading up a little bit on it over the last few days, I thought, no, we don't need that. The other thing is there's a lot of talk about data centers, and I'm not sure we're even large enough for them to even think about us, but there has been some conversation of smaller ones. Federal government has said they have to provide their own water, they have to set up their own power systems. But I appreciate that you're looking ahead and that you will continue to look ahead because this world is changing so quickly. You know, I don't know how many more years I get to spend here, but I have children, relatives and friends that'll be here for a long, long time. This community has always been a community to help. When Jim said about the board meetings, I came here maybe late last fall, three of us were here. And I thought, wow, this is kind of weird. There's only three people here. I had an issue when I look back at my notes, that I came to the town board with my husband and I. 2014 with this issue that was an ordinance, but nobody ever wanted to take care of it. I brought it to this board, and I'm happy to say in two months, just two months, I got the call in two weeks and in two months, my situation was cleaned up and I'm happy, happy, happy. So that's my, that's my, little talk for tonight. And I pray you go forward and work with your attorneys, do everything that you can do to protect us from everything that could be harmful to our community. I thank you for your service.

TOWN BOARD:

Councilman Clothier:

That is our plan.

Did the governor just say something on data centers, a moratorium on data centers that I read?

Supervisor butler:

I don't think even at the county level, I understand what that means yet.

Councilman Clothier:

Thank you everybody for coming. I like it when it's full crowd.

Councilwoman Crooks:

If you ever have a concern or you want to bring something up we are reachable, whether through our town emails or through the town or in the community at lots of events. Let us know we do love hearing from the public on what you're looking for and a lot of times if one of you are looking for it maybe other people have already approached us and so typically we're either already working on that or looking at you know getting those in place, so we appreciate it.

RESOLUTION#164

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Clothier and seconded by Councilwoman Crooks the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4 Butler, Clothier, Crooks, Denno
	Nays	0
	Excused	1 Mann

RESOLVED, to Adjourn the Town Board meeting at 6:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Brenda L Peris, Town Clerk