

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MARCH 12, 2019**

Present: Colleen Teal, Supervisor
Kevin Smith Sr., Councilmember
Mark Baumli, Councilmember
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember
Jesse Newton, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk

Others Present: Cissy Hernandez, CEO/ZEO/Building Dept Admin
Jeff Hattat, Deputy CEO/ZEO
Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Enviro Mgmt Council
Paul Mc Creary, Town Engineer
Tony Murad, ZBA Chair & ZRC Member
Peg Munves, CAC & ZRC Member
Jim Carroll, Planning Board Member
David Farren, CAC Member
Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Judy Zimmer, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging
Cynthia Creech, Court Clerk & CAC Member
Robert Smith, Planning Board & Ethics Board Member
Jill Falchi, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Thaddeus Flint, *The Eastwick Press*
Peter Flierl, *The Columbia Paper*
Several members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Teal.

PRESENTATION: *COLUMBIA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND, A POLICY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE:*

Bruce Shenker, the New Lebanon representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council (CCEMC), presented to the Town Board on a resolution that was passed by the CCEMC on November 26, 2018. The resolution is titled "Columbia County Environmental Management Council Resolutions on Carbon Fee and Dividend, a Policy to Address Climate Change". Bruce Shenker stated that the CCEMC passed this resolution supporting carbon fee and dividend and are requesting that local governments pass similar resolutions to let elected officials at a federal level know of local support for this policy. There is a bill called the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill that is currently in front of congress as bill HR-763.

Bruce Shenker presented the carbon fee and dividend bill with the following points:

- Carbon fee - charged to companies when coal, oil or gas are drilled or mined
- Carbon dividend – net revenue collected from carbon fee is allocated in equal shares each month to American people (minus 8-10% for administrative fees)
- Border Carbon Adjustment – an adjustment is made if you sell to countries with no carbon fee to offset your cost
- Program allows the market to decide – fossil fuel increases in cost – if you use an Electric Vehicle or lessen your carbon footprint in other ways, you will benefit – the program is revenue neutral and doesn't include government regulation
- The idea is that people will use less carbon because it is more expensive
- Exemptions for agricultural and military exist to prevent them from increased costs
- Carbon sequestration (put it back in the ground) – if you come up with innovative ways to prevent carbon from going into the atmosphere, you will get a refund on the carbon fee
- Estimated 40% reduction in emissions within 12 years
- Will create jobs and stimulate the economy because people have more money to spend
- Austerlitz and Chatham have passed similar resolutions – it is being presented to all Towns in Columbia County and the County Board of Supervisors for consideration

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Teal and seconded by Councilmember Newton to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling
New Lebanon Town Clerk