

1 VILLAGE OF GREENPORT
 2 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK : STATE OF NEW YORK
 -----x
 3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 4 PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED
 5 ADDITION OF PROVISIONS REGARDING
 6 NET METERING TO THE VILLAGE OF GREENPORT
 7 ELECTRIC SERVICE TARIFF
 -----x

8 Station One Firehouse
 9 Third and South Streets
 10 Greenport, New York 11944
 11 April 27, 2023
 12 7:00 p.m.
 13

- 14 B E F O R E:
 15 KEVIN STUESSI - MAYOR
 16 MARY BESS PHILLIPS - DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE
 17 PATRICK BRENNAN - TRUSTEE
 18 LILY DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON - TRUSTEE
 19 JULIA ROBINS - TRUSTEE
 20
 21
 22 JOSEPH PROKOP - VILLAGE ATTORNEY
 23 JEANMARIE ODDON - VILLAGE DEPUTY CLERK
 24 STEPHEN GAFFGA - VILLAGE TREASURER
 25

1 (The Public Hearing was Called to Order at 7 p.m.)

2 MAYOR STUESSI: I'd like to open the public
3 hearing regarding the proposed addition of
4 provisions regarding net metering to the Village of
5 Greenport electric service tariff, with any
6 approved changes to be filed with the New York
7 State Power Authority, as it remains open.

8 Before we have the audience, Jeanmarie, I
9 believe you have one letter to read into the
10 record.

11 DEPUTY CLERK ODDON: Yes, I to. This letter
12 is from Lorenzo Heit at 235 Linnet Street,
13 Greenport, New York 11944.

14 "Dear Mayor and Trustees,

15 I am writing to urge you to pass the Net
16 Metering Resolution currently before the Board. I
17 would like to thank the Board and Paul Pallas for
18 pushing this environmentally important resolution
19 forward.

20 I first spoke to the Board two years ago
21 detailing how the current billing procedure
22 combined with Greenport's low cost per kilowatt
23 discouraged solar generation installation. As
24 environmental science tells us, it is critical for
25 all of us to do all we can to reduce our carbon

1 footprint immediately. The current proposal will
2 maintain Greenport's low cost electricity rate,
3 while allowing solar producers to gain the benefit
4 of using all the energy they produce in a year.

5 By enacting policies that encourage
6 carbon-free electricity production, Greenport is
7 also looking to the future of higher electricity
8 demand that will inevitably occur with the increase
9 in electric cars, heat pump usage and population
10 growth. These local solar producers will lessen
11 Greenport's reliance on outside sources for its
12 energy needs.

13 I would like to suggest changing the
14 reconciliation date stated in the current policy to
15 April 1st rather than January 1st, if this could be
16 done without requiring another delay for public
17 comment. This very small change will significantly
18 reduce the number of checks back and forth between
19 Greenport Utilities and solar producers.

20 By using January 1st, the Village is zeroing
21 the annual electric at the very time that the
22 monthly solar production will be the lowest.
23 Therefore, most solar producers will have a
24 negative balance for the next few months, requiring
25 them to pay for their usage above their production

1 for the month. The solar producers will then
2 produce excess electricity during the longer days
3 in the spring, summer and fall. Greenport will
4 then have to pay those producers for those extra
5 kilowatt come December 31st. This increased
6 administrative time could be greatly reduced by
7 changing the zero date to April 1st.

8 Thank you for your support of the green
9 energy production."

10 MAYOR STUESSI: Thank you. Anybody else want
11 to speak?

12 BETH HASKELL: Beth Haskell, 59 Washington
13 Avenue. I will reiterate exactly what Lorenzo
14 said. We produce as solar producers a great deal
15 of electricity once we get past the darker months
16 of the year. I have just over the winter completed
17 my project to make my house totally electric, so
18 including my electric car. I am not producing very
19 much carbon, or using very much carbon, and that
20 was a goal of mine in moving to Greenport. I'm
21 very happy that we're considering net metering,
22 because that just makes it work really well.

23 The way I sized my solar installation was so
24 that it basically covered everything in my house as
25 an electric house. So if you were to move this

1 reconciliation date to April 1st, April is the
2 first month that I start being in a positive. I
3 just checked my record, and this month in March, I
4 used twice as much electricity than I produced. In
5 April, I produced twice as much electricity than I
6 used. And so I will continue to produce through
7 the months to November, about midway through
8 November, usually, given average sunshine and
9 averages over the years.

10 In the summer -- and what I want to stress is
11 in the summer months, that electricity is being
12 sold by Greenport at retail to my neighbors.
13 You're getting the benefit of it. You don't have
14 to buy from an outside source at a high price and
15 you get to pass it on to our neighbors.

16 In the -- if we were to reconcile this at
17 December 31st, which is the way the proposal is
18 now, you would pay me back in a couple of cents per
19 kilowatt. It would be probably some nominal amount
20 that I would get a check for, and then I would be
21 paying for electric in January, February and March,
22 when I'm not producing as much as I use.

23 It just makes sense across the board, both
24 for the Village from an accounting point of view,
25 and for the solar users to get it reconciled in a

1 more favorable time, April 1st, May 1st, whatever
2 works for the Village.

3 MAYOR STUESSI: I was going to ask you if
4 May 1st might be acceptable over April 1st, because
5 that presents some challenges, at least relative to
6 what's happening in the Village.

7 BETH HASKELL: I really don't think it makes
8 a difference, because the credits will start coming
9 up during the month of April. I mean, I think most
10 people's systems, starting in April, they start
11 gaining. So I don't think it -- yeah, I think it
12 would work out fine any time in the spring,
13 basically, so.

14 MAYOR STUESSI: Stephen, can you speak to the
15 conversation that was had with Paul regarding
16 potentially moving this from December 31st to
17 May 1st?

18 TREASURER GAFFGA: Yeah, we had a -- we had a
19 couple of conversations and a conversation with
20 Trustee Dougherty-Johnson about it, and when you
21 run the numbers, it actually -- it's correct. If
22 you -- if you zero it out at the end of December
23 and start in January, you know, the total net --
24 the total amount of kilowatts, the credit at the
25 end of the year is the same. However, what we're

1 doing is we're requiring them to pay us, and then
2 we end up paying them back at the end of the year.

3 So I don't think it makes a big difference
4 one way or the other to us. I think we could zero
5 it out at the end of March to start on April 1st,
6 or we could zero it out at the end of April to
7 start on May 1st. I don't think it makes a
8 difference. I think it would ultimately probably
9 make more sense, but I don't want to speak for the
10 Board, to do it in the spring and to carry it
11 forward, so that we're -- it's just less, and
12 it's -- and we're not burdening the solar customers
13 with having to pay us and then having to write a
14 check at the end of the year as well, so it is less
15 transactions.

16 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Stephen, I have a
17 question. Our budget year ends May 31st, so
18 May 1st would be --

19 TREASURER GAFFGA: No, budget ends at the end
20 of May.

21 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Right, it ends May --
22 yeah, end in May, but the checks would -- you're
23 stating that May 1st would be the cutoff for
24 zero -- going book to zero on that?

25 TREASURER GAFFGA: It depends. Whatever --

1 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: And then would their
2 checks be issued in May?

3 TREASURER GAFFGA: We would do it from that
4 month that they're billed in, because not everybody
5 that has solar is all in the same sector. The way
6 the Village bills, we have -- we bill one sector.
7 I mean, so --

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: That -- okay, that's what
9 I was going to ask.

10 TREASURER GAFFGA: -- depending on when their
11 bill ends, that's when we would zero it out for
12 that month.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: That's what I thought,
14 okay.

15 TREASURER GAFFGA: And we would run it, we
16 would run the check or issue, you know, a credit --

17 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Credit.

18 TREASURER GAFFGA: -- at that month, right
19 after that. And I don't think it would be too
20 burdensome administratively to do that.

21 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

22 TREASURER GAFFGA: So it doesn't make a
23 difference if we do it for the March -- it seems
24 like April might be the target date that we want to
25 do this.

1 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

2 TREASURER GAFFGA: So the suggestion would be
3 for the April bills, that we would then zero it
4 out.

5 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay, and that would carry
6 through to May.

7 TREASURER GAFFGA: And see what -- you know,
8 and start from there.

9 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: You know, we're getting
10 close. Okay. That's what I was wondering, because
11 we're not -- not everybody is on the same cycle.

12 TREASURER GAFFGA: Correct.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

14 MAYOR STUESSI: Anything else you'd like to
15 add, Ms. Haskell?

16 BETH HASKELL: Thank you.

17 POPPY JOHNSON: Poppy Johnson, 130 Ludlam Place.
18 I just want to echo really what Lawrenzo said and
19 what Beth said. And I do think the idea of doing
20 it in the spring, I don't care whether it's April
21 or May, makes more sense, because I really think,
22 you know, the idea is to make it as easy as
23 possible, because what we want is more people to
24 use more solar power and less dirty stuff polluting
25 the atmosphere and things. So I'm all for anything

1 that will move us forward into the future.

2 MAYOR STUESSI: Thank you. Would anybody
3 else like to be heard? Ms. Rivera.

4 DEBORAH RIVERA PITTORINO: Hi.

5 MAYOR STUESSI: Hello.

6 DEBORAH RIVERA PITTORINO: Deborah Rivera
7 Pittorino, 310 North Street. So a couple of things
8 that I wanted to point out.

9 This has been a long discussion. I've been
10 talking to the Village probably for the last seven
11 years about solar and net metering. So this has
12 been something I've been researching for a very
13 long time, and that I feel very, very strongly
14 about.

15 I know that there's a concern about fires
16 from solar panels. And I was doing some research
17 and I found that every year in the United States
18 there's -- there are 125,000 fires from natural gas
19 leaks, and then there are significantly more from
20 what they call oil burner backfiring. So I think
21 that -- I don't know how -- if anyone here belongs
22 to the Fire Department, but does anyone know how
23 many fires we've put out from solar in Greenport?

24 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: If I may, I think the
25 issue, my understanding is the issue is not about

1 the solar panels creating fires, I think it's about
2 the firefighting. There's some risk in
3 firefighting, like operations on a roof where
4 there's a panel over the roof shingles. I think
5 that's the concern. And I could be wrong, but I
6 don't think there is a concern about the panels
7 themselves.

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: No, I --

9 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Battery storage is a
10 different issue, which has its own hazards, but --

11 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I think most of the
12 concern has been with the, you know, training and
13 understanding how to safely protect the firemen to
14 put out that type of a situation, similar to the
15 situation that happened with the battery cars in
16 the recent situation on the causeway.

17 DEBORAH RIVERA PITTORINO: Sure.

18 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I think it's been more
19 that issue than the actual panels itself. I think
20 it's been dealing with protection for the Electric
21 Department, when it has to deal with something in
22 cutting it off for other operations that are going
23 on in the area. I think it's dealing with how to
24 set a process to fight a fire that's dealing with
25 solar panels. I think that that's been primarily

1 most of the Fire Department's concern. I think
2 that that's pretty -- Patrick, I think, had pretty
3 much hit that one. It's a process of how to safely
4 protect not only the firefighter, but the homeowner
5 as well.

6 DEBORAH RIVERA PITTORINO: Sure. Okay. So
7 it's about, then, training, education and training,
8 which is something we should definitely make sure
9 that happens.

10 And last, but not least, I find it
11 interesting that two of the largest solar parks in
12 the world are in the Middle East, Abu Dhabi and
13 Dubai. And I went for a tour of the solar park
14 in Dubai a few months ago, and I asked the lady, I
15 said, "Don't you find it ironic that two of the
16 largest solar parks in the world are in the
17 Middle East in oil-based economies?" She said, "We
18 understand as oil-based economies that our
19 resources are finite, and we don't want to be
20 oil-based economies, we want to be knowledge-based
21 economies." So they have built an entire
22 technological infrastructures around their
23 renewable energy.

24 And I think that as educated people, we have
25 to look at the future and realize that oil won't

1 last forever, the fossil fuels won't last forever,
2 and we need to be prepared, and we need to prepare
3 our young people for this. So in light of this, I
4 really hope that you support it and that this gets
5 passed. Thank you.

6 MAYOR STUESSI: Thank you. Would anybody
7 else like to speak this evening?

8 (No Response)

9 MAYOR STUESSI: No? Are there any other
10 discussion points from the Board or questions for
11 Stephen?

12 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: I have a question for --
13 for the Village Attorney. The date changing, is
14 that a major change or a minor change?

15 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I think it's a substantive
16 change. So what -- if you wanted to do that, what
17 I would recommend you do is to adjourn the meeting
18 to a specific -- adjourn the public hearing to a
19 specific date, and -- and then, at least 10 days
20 before that date, make the change and adopt it on
21 that date. If you wanted to do -- you could do
22 that, for instance, at the work session, we could
23 schedule a meeting at the work session.

24 MAYOR STUESSI: But even the date change on
25 the true-up is substantive enough that we couldn't

1 vote on it tonight?

2 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I think it is, yes.

3 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay.

4 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: I think Paul --

5 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I'm sorry.

6 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: -- had a
7 different opinion, but I know he's not a lawyer.

8 TREASURER GAFFGA: Paul didn't -- Paul
9 didn't believe it to be a material change. That
10 was his opinion, but, you know.

11 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Well --

12 MAYOR STUESSI: We have the Attorney.

13 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Yeah.

14 (Laughter)

15 ATTORNEY PROKOP: So the -- actually, the way
16 it works is that the Mayor -- if the Mayor thinks
17 it's a matter of public -- public interest and
18 there's safety concerns, then you could adopt it
19 with the change the same night that the change is
20 made. So that the Mayor has that discretion, if
21 you wanted to exercise that.

22 MAYOR STUESSI: If I wanted to exercise my
23 right to suggest we needed to immediately implement
24 this?

25 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Yes, because what's going

1 to happen -- the problem is if we put it over to
2 comply with the local Home Rule Law to -- with the
3 operation of law having to do with adopting it with
4 the change at a subsequent date, that has the
5 potential of moving the whole thing back a year,
6 actually. So what I -- because -- and there will
7 be safety -- there will be public concerns by doing
8 that, if the Board wants to move ahead with this.

9 So I -- so I recommend that the Board -- that
10 the Mayor makes that -- the resolution will make --
11 reflect that the Mayor makes that determination,
12 and that for that reason, you're adopting it with
13 that change tonight, if that's what you want to do.

14 MAYOR STUESSI: I'm sorry you have me
15 confused.

16 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Confused.

17 MAYOR STUESSI: Are you suggesting that it's
18 better for me to do it tonight, or better for us to
19 take the 10 days?

20 ATTORNEY PROKOP: If you believe that it's a
21 matter of public interest to adopt it tonight --

22 MAYOR STUESSI: Well, it's a matter of public
23 interest, but I don't think it's a matter of public
24 safety, really.

25 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Then I think you should

1 take the 10 --

2 MAYOR STUESSI: So I'd rather take the 10
3 days. I would hope the audience would understand
4 that as well. Better to be safe than sorry and
5 take the 10 days and then vote on it.

6 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay. So let's -- Joe,
7 let's walk this through again, okay, because we've
8 had different versions of everything, okay?
9 Regardless of what the Village Administrator says,
10 we have to make sure that we have a record of doing
11 this the right way so it's never challenged, okay?
12 So you're suggesting that we close this public
13 hearing --

14 ATTORNEY PROKOP: No.

15 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: -- or leave the public
16 hearing open?

17 ATTORNEY PROKOP: You'll adjourn it to a
18 specific date.

19 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

20 ATTORNEY PROKOP: And then you do not need
21 another public notice.

22 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

23 ATTORNEY PROKOP: If you adjourn it to a
24 specific date tonight, you do not need another
25 public notice. But, however, the --

1 MAYOR STUESSI: But we need 10 days --

2 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Of it being --

3 MAYOR STUESSI: -- before we can do that.

4 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Can --

5 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Yeah, the law has to be out
6 for 10 days.

7 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Can I --

8 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Yes.

9 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: -- inter -- say a
10 couple of things? One, I think this public hearing
11 has been open since February, I believe, so I think
12 there's been quite a bit of time. I also think
13 that when it was decided that it would be a public
14 hearing, there was discussion that it didn't
15 actually have to be a public hearing, which the
16 Board then chose to make it a public hearing, which
17 I think was a good thing to get public input. But
18 it's been a long time. It's also -- the people who
19 have had solar and have solar now have been now for
20 almost a year not being credited for their extra
21 production, even though they've -- they were
22 before, although I guess that was not legal, but it
23 was the way the Village was doing things and was
24 telling people they were doing things. So I think
25 there is some urgency, and I understand things take

1 a little time.

2 I also would say that even when and if this
3 is passed, it still has to go to the New York Power
4 Authority, which is going to take, I think
5 Mr. Pallas said, probably a couple -- three or four
6 months, he thinks, but that's not for sure, also.
7 So I would encourage us to move ahead in whatever
8 way makes the most sense. But those are -- those
9 are my comments.

10 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: And my concern is when it
11 gets to the New York Power Authority, they'll be
12 looking for a resolution from us that have -- we've
13 had the public hearing, and we have come to an
14 agreement, because we've had several changes from
15 the suggestions from the audience.

16 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Right. Actually,
17 that was -- if you're finished.

18 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay. So --

19 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Just one other
20 point is that we have -- we made a few other
21 changes that I don't know if they were substantive.
22 I know we made the change of -- from 100% to 110%.
23 So anything -- we should make sure we're doing it
24 the same way for every -- everything. And I
25 understand that some changes may be substantive and

1 some may not, but --

2 ATTORNEY PROKOP: But do we have a final
3 version that reflects those changes?

4 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: I don't think we
5 have a written one, no, no.

6 TREASURER GAFFGA: I think, I think all of
7 the challenge that were made previously, from my
8 understanding from my conversation with
9 Administrator Pallas is correct, is that all of the
10 changes were then put into the document that was
11 posted online, but it was of the --

12 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Not the date, the
13 date changed, is all -- is the only thing that's --

14 TREASURER GAFFGA: But the only thing we're
15 talking -- the only additional change now we're
16 talking about would be moving the reconciliation
17 date for the actual bills and customers themselves.

18 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Well, is this -- this isn't
19 a change in the code, right, this is a change in
20 our tariff?

21 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

22 TREASURER GAFFGA: This is -- well, it's not
23 in a -- this is the proposed tariff. NYPA would
24 still have to approve it after the Board approves
25 this.

1 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: That's why I
2 think it was originally said that we didn't
3 actually have to have a public hearing about it.

4 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Then I think what -- I
5 think what I would recommend, since -- since the
6 agency has to sign off on this, is I think that
7 what you should -- you -- I recommend that you
8 approve it with that change, and to send the
9 language -- to send the language to the State to
10 get their approval on it and move it along that
11 way. I think that that would be okay to do.

12 MAYOR STUESSI: So you're entirely
13 comfortable with us approving that tonight,
14 contrary to what you said just a minute ago?

15 ATTORNEY PROKOP: No, it's not a change in
16 the code.

17 MAYOR STUESSI: I don't need to remedy this
18 as a public emergency?

19 ATTORNEY PROKOP: No, it's okay, I don't
20 think you have to do that. It's not a change --
21 it's not going to be a change in our code, it's
22 going to be a change in this proposed tariff. And
23 because of that, and because it's subject to
24 further -- excuse me, further subject to State
25 approval, what I recommend you do is to approve it

1 with that change, if that's what the Board would
2 like, and then -- and to move it ahead for review
3 and approval by NYPA.

4 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Joe, I have a question.

5 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Yeah, so do I.

6 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Having read the tariff today
7 and going over it with Paul Pallas, I don't
8 understand how this date, this date has any effect
9 on the tariff. It's not really in the language of
10 the tariff, is it --

11 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: That's what I just -- I
12 have --

13 TRUSTEE ROBINS: -- in terms of when the
14 credit is paid to the consumers? Is it in it, the
15 date?

16 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: It's in the
17 language of the proposed policy change, yeah. I
18 mean, I'm not -- I would assume it will be added to
19 the tariff.

20 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: If the credit remains at
21 the end of any calendar year. If -- okay. Under
22 the customer credit --

23 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Do you have that document
24 that she's reading?

25 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: It said --

1 DEPUTY CLERK ODDON: No.

2 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Here. You want to
3 hear it?

4 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Can I see the copy?

5 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Here, you take it, okay.

6 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: All we're
7 changing in that is the -- from the calendar year
8 to April 1st.

9 MAYOR STUESSI: Going to be changing the
10 calender hear to whatever the date --

11 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: April 1st.

12 TREASURER GAFFGA: Yeah, to April to March.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Right, that's why saying
14 the 31st.

15 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Yeah.

16 ATTORNEY PROKOP: All right. So this is --
17 Mr. Pallas has been spearheading this, and what
18 it -- what it ends up is this is a -- this
19 is basically -- the tariff is basically in the form
20 of a contract. So what I -- for that reason, what
21 I think we could do -- what I recommend you do once
22 again is if you wanted to approve it tonight, I
23 think you could approve it with that change in the
24 date, and the resolution would be with that change,
25 and also subject to final approval by NYPA.

1 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay. Okay. So then let
2 me ask you a question. That -- and, Stephen, maybe
3 you can answer this. That proposed tariff that we
4 have attached that was for the public hearing, NYPA
5 reviewed that before it came back to us?

6 TREASURER GAFFGA: Well, they've been -- I
7 mean, they were --

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: They've made recommendations,
9 correct?

10 TREASURER GAFFGA: Correct, yeah. And Paul
11 is -- I mean, his work --

12 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Look, I'm not trying to
13 put this off. I just want to make sure --

14 TREASURER GAFFGA: No, yes.

15 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: -- that it's done the
16 right way, because I don't want it floating back,
17 because we've had those experiences because we
18 didn't follow a process.

19 TREASURER GAFFGA: I understand completely.
20 And Administrator Pallas, you know, he was -- in
21 all of his conversations with New York Power
22 Authority, and creating and drafting this tariff,
23 that this is really not -- this, this particular
24 change makes no difference one way or the other to
25 the actual substantive meat and potatoes of the

1 tariff, so to speak. This is just when do you
2 issue the credit, and it's -- and it seems -- and I
3 agree with the solar customers, that it would make
4 more sense to begin in the spring and run it
5 through, through the end of the spring.

6 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

7 TREASURER GAFFGA: So the end of the winter.

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Right, and I agree with
9 you on that, okay? But what I'm saying is reading
10 the tariff, where it says the customer credits, it
11 says --

12 MAYOR STUESSI: Calendar year.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Calendar year. So, you
14 know, does that have to be put into the tariff that
15 it's the specific date? That's where I'm coming
16 from.

17 TREASURER GAFFGA: It would -- what we would
18 need to do is move it from calendar year to April
19 to March, and that gives us the leeway that the
20 bills in April will be -- that's when they start,
21 and that's when, you know --

22 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: And the tariff has to
23 reflect that?

24 TREASURER GAFFGA: It will, yes. That's --
25 you just need to change that date in the tariff.

1 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: All right.

2 ATTORNEY PROKOP: So one of the issues is
3 we -- and thank you, Stephen, for bringing that up.
4 So one of the issues is I think our customer -- we
5 have different cycles of customers --

6 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Right.

7 ATTORNEY PROKOP: -- and not everybody has
8 the same date, so people are going to be truing up
9 at different times. I mean, we're not picking --
10 it's actually their April bill, not their -- not a
11 March 31st date.

12 TREASURER GAFFGA: That's correct, because --

13 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Yeah, so it's a little bit
14 different, because otherwise we have to change our
15 whole accounting system for this.

16 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Well, no, I'm just -- but
17 what the question is, is if we could go ahead and
18 pass this, that document that we showed to the
19 public and to NYPA, okay, they're not going to come
20 back with us and say it's not acceptable.

21 TREASURER GAFFGA: They're not -- I'm
22 comfortable in saying they're not going to care
23 which --

24 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

25 TREASURER GAFFGA: -- where we -- what are

1 the dates for this.

2 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay.

3 TREASURER GAFFGA: That's really going to be
4 up to us and how -- and it seems to -- I believe
5 that they would agree that most of the other
6 electric producing companies, that there -- they
7 would start in the spring. They kind of -- I
8 believe in my conversations with Trustee
9 Dougherty-Johnson and others, that they kind of
10 give it to the customer, you can start when you
11 want, but most of -- most people start in the
12 spring.

13 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay. So now I'm going to
14 ask, Joe, is that the first time you've been really
15 seeing any of this?

16 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I saw it when it first came
17 out. I haven't seen it --

18 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Seen any continuation of it?

19 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I haven't seen the updates.
20 This is the -- I saw it when it first came out.

21 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: I think the only
22 other change was the 100 to 110%.

23 TREASURER GAFFGA: Yes.

24 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: That's the only
25 change that's been made.

1 TREASURER GAFFGA: As far as I know.

2 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Okay. Well, then --

3 ATTORNEY PROKOP: So with the language, we
4 have to be careful with the language because of
5 this -- what I'm discussing now with what I brought
6 up about Stephen, is this -- it's a -- I don't
7 think that the people can -- new customers, I don't
8 think they can pick their dates. I think everybody
9 has to --

10 TREASURER GAFFGA: No, this would lock --
11 this would lock it in for this. That's just
12 other -- that's other places do it that way. We
13 would be locking it into the April -- you know, the
14 April to March period.

15 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Okay. But it's really the
16 April billing cycle. You have to give the
17 terminology that we need.

18 TREASURER GAFFGA: The terminology --

19 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Whatever terminology you
20 use in the office has to go into this, because it's
21 in the April billing cycle.

22 TREASURER GAFFGA: The terminology would be
23 it would be reset at the April billing cycle.

24 ATTORNEY PROKOP: Okay. Reset at the April
25 bill cycle, okay.

1 MAYOR STUESSI: Joe, can I ask you a
2 question? Are you comfortable enough with it,
3 looking at it again now, that we can approve this
4 tonight with the change to the April billing cycle,
5 or should we take the extra 10 days to make sure it
6 gets one final pass, and the document is approved,
7 and we do it then at our next meeting? I'm happy
8 to do it tonight if we make certain it's not going
9 to come back to haunt us.

10 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I think that -- the
11 question that I have is the description of the --
12 this true-out -- this true-up period, you know, the
13 reconciliation period. If Treasurer Gaffga is
14 confident that we can come up with that language,
15 then I'm okay with moving forward. But I just --
16 the Board really needs to vote on specific
17 language, and we don't have -- we don't really have
18 that language, to be honest with you. It's
19 something other than March 31st. It's the -- it's
20 the cycle that we have to reflect.

21 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Then I'll make a comment.
22 I'm not really interested in making a vote that
23 this is an emergency situation, because I don't see
24 it as an emergency. So I'm perfectly comfortable
25 waiting the 10 days.

1 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: But 10 days
2 really means --

3 TRUSTEE ROBINS: And we can proceed
4 accordingly.

5 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: -- next month,
6 right? I mean, we're not going to have a meeting
7 in 10 days.

8 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Well, he said set a
9 specific date. There's no reason why we can't set
10 a special meeting to take care of this.

11 ATTORNEY PROKOP: You can --

12 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: I mean, if it has
13 it take a month, it has to take a month. I was
14 just saying it's already been -- I mean, it's been
15 a long time. 2016 is what Paul Pallas said, so.

16 ATTORNEY PROKOP: So the way this is drafted,
17 and because we're dealing with a public hearing,
18 you can -- you can adjourn a public hearing to a
19 specific date. There will not be a 10 -- the way
20 that this is drafted, there will not be a 10-day
21 requirement, and then you could adopt it at that --
22 on that date. I recommend that you do not make it
23 a brief period, that you go --

24 MAYOR STUESSI: So tomorrow night's budget
25 meeting would not work.

1 ATTORNEY PROKOP: I probably would -- I would
2 not do that.

3 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay.

4 ATTORNEY PROKOP: And we -- we need input
5 from several people to get the language correct,
6 which we're not going to be able to do by tomorrow
7 night. So I would think that you're looking at
8 7 to 10 days to adjourn the meeting -- hearing to.
9 But you can't adjourn the hearing open, you'd have
10 to adjourn to a specific date.

11 TREASURER GAFFGA: But the work session is on
12 the 18th of May. So if you set it to that date,
13 you can vote on it right -- right then at the work
14 session.

15 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: You could vote on it on
16 the 18th of May.

17 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Mr. Mayor, can I make a comment?

18 MAYOR STUESSI: Please.

19 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: I just want to echo Trustee
20 Robins. I think that this is not an emergency. I
21 know there's been a lot of time and effort into
22 this, and the public has been very patient, but I
23 do think it's necessary to get this just right.
24 And then we should take this time, get the language
25 crystal clear, and, you know, try to get it on the

1 18th agenda.

2 I'm for this proposal. I've paid a lot of
3 attention to this conversation, and I can't really
4 say I understand all the nuances of this, but I
5 know there's the timing issue with the
6 reconciliation. And to my mind, it's like the
7 public has been floating the Village, because the
8 public is being required to pay more up front in a
9 sense. It penalizes the person with the solar
10 panel system. So we're going to kind of reverse
11 that float by changing the timing of this, where
12 they're not going to be paying as much early in the
13 calendar year.

14 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Yeah.

15 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: And so my question for our
16 Treasurer is does that present any hardship for the
17 Village in terms of how you manage your cash flow?

18 TREASURER GAFFGA: No.

19 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: No, okay.

20 MAYOR STUESSI: And is that simply a function
21 of how few people are utilizing solar?

22 TREASURER GAFFGA: That's correct.

23 MAYOR STUESSI: Would it be a very different
24 story if we had 250 people using it?

25 TREASURER GAFFGA: I mean, if we had 200 --

1 it would make it a little more burdensome, yes.
2 But I do believe that we have the tools to be able
3 to do it, and especially since you have four
4 different billing sectors. There's a way to manage
5 it in that way, and we could -- I mean, we would
6 come up with a solution if it ever got to that
7 point, but we're not there yet. We only have, as
8 far as I understand it, 10 customers currently that
9 have solar panels out of close to 2,000 electric
10 customers.

11 MAYOR STUESSI: And the proposals to do
12 online billing, will that rectify any of the
13 billing sectors, or we'll still have the sectors,
14 but it won't really make processing payment that
15 much easier on the office?

16 TREASURER GAFFGA: No, we'll always have the
17 sectors, and the reason for -- the reason for the
18 sectors and why it was implemented that way is to
19 have cash flow coming in on a weekly basis, instead
20 of doing it all at once on a one-month basis.

21 MAYOR STUESSI: Okay.

22 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Okay. So this issue about
23 this proposal may -- I think you said earlier there
24 may be less transactions. Is that really material?
25 Because it's only a few transactions we're talking about.

1 TREASURER GAFFGA: I think it's material to
2 the customers, because --

3 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: To the customers.

4 TREASURER GAFFGA: Yes, because they are
5 correct. If you -- if you start it in the winter,
6 they end up having to pay you for January, February
7 and March. Then they build up a credit that they
8 work off of until they have to then -- you know, we
9 write a check based off of what's left at the end
10 of December, and then you start that cycle over
11 again, where they have to pay you and then we --
12 then we pay it back. And they're not getting the
13 full benefit of their solar production. So that is
14 correct, they are all correct when they state that.

15 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Okay. But it's not in --
16 it's not a material difference in -- to the Village
17 itself?

18 TREASURER GAFFGA: Not to us, no.

19 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Okay, all right. Well, I
20 think we should be making this as attractive as
21 possible to these customers, so I definitely
22 support this, but I would like to get it just right.

23 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So Joe's recommendation is
24 to adjourn -- is it adjourn this, or leave it open
25 to --

1 ATTORNEY PROKOP: No. It's to adjourn the
2 public hearing until whatever --

3 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: May 18th.

4 ATTORNEY PROKOP: May 18th. And to schedule,
5 to schedule a special meeting on the 18th, so we
6 can vote on it, yes.

7 MAYOR STUESSI: Does anybody have any other
8 questions?

9 (No Response)

10 MAYOR STUESSI: I'd like to make a motion to
11 adjourn the meeting until May 18th, and then have a
12 special meeting on May 18th at 6 p.m. to address
13 the solar tariff.

14 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: So moved.

15 MAYOR STUESSI: All in favor?

16 TRUSTEE BRENNAN: Aye.

17 TRUSTEE DOUGHERTY-JOHNSON: Aye.

18 TRUSTEE PHILLIPS: Aye.

19 TRUSTEE ROBINS: Aye.

20 MAYOR STUESSI: Aye.

21 Any opposed?

22 (No Response)

23 The motion carries.

24 (The Hearing was Adjourned at 7:33 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) SS:
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

I, LUCIA BRAATEN, a Court Reporter and Notary Public for and within the State of New York, do hereby certify:

THAT, the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of the proceedings taken on April 27, 2023.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of May, 2023.

Lucia Braaten
Lucia Braaten