

**Village of Pulaski/ Town of Richland Comprehensive Plan  
Committee/Climate Action Plan  
Meeting - April 6, 2023  
H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse  
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Present: Committee members - Dawn Holynski, Jan Tighe, Shawn Doyle, Melissa Wadkinson, Robin Philips, Robin Ford,**

**Guests: Mike Boccuzzi (CNY Regional Planning Board), Tom Jennings, Sarah Starbird (both representing the Pulaski School District), Larry Atkinson (citizen).**

Dawn called the meeting to order at 6pm. The minutes of the March 3, 2023 meeting were approved upon motion of Jan Tighe, seconded by Melissa Wadkinson. All in favor, none opposed, carried.

Mike narrated a power point on the updated climate action plan. Jan wrote a forward to the plan, need Kern Yerdon to sign. A timeline from 2003 to present was added. Mike added a suggestion about the Town insulating the water building and switching to a heat pump system versus the current propane. These actions may save over \$2,500 a year, and the town solar could assist. Mike went on to discuss simple energy efficiency improvements that all residents can do to save energy and money.

Mike transitioned to the page for the school district, asking for their input. Tom Jennings, Pulaski School Superintendent spoke on some ongoing actions that the school is doing. LED lighting has been a big focus. Controls for furnace units on the radar, as well as electric vehicles. On transportation—the state is pressing schools to move to EV but has not provided guidance and support. The bus garage has been converted to LED, parking lot lights. Some heat pumps are being installed. Tom will look on getting a list of work done and planned. Solar panels over the pool have been disconnected for many years. Shawn asked if the state recognized the schools as an entity like the village and town (which are both at Bronze level) Mike said NYSERDA has not classified schools as such. Shawn suggested that schools keep track of their improvements, perhaps involving students in this. Mike added thoughts and suggestions on this.

There was some discussion on the smaller fleet vehicles the school uses, and that they might be appropriate as hybrids or EVs. Mike spoke to NYSERDA and got some idea on what is coming down the pike in monies for school fleets. As an example, NYSERDA indicated funding is being prepared to aim at covering the “GAP” between the diesel bus and the EV bus. Part of this is to incentivize scrapping pre 2009 buses (most districts do not have these). Chargers and installation costs are planned to be funded by NYSERDA to get the infrastructure in place. Tom said that the current school buses last 5-9 years. Sarah said the school is still awaiting a guidance document from NYSERDA, Mike said he may be able to get this. Mike wants a list of the energy efficiency projects completed and, on the table, a fleet inventory may be useful, but just a snapshot would be good for the inventory. Mike wants to review the old school solar panel history so we could explore options on this. Tom agreed to either sign the letter by Mayor and Supervisor or write an additional forward.

Mike talked about the town and village fleet inventories. He compared the Chevy Taurus with the new VOLT EV. An annual savings of over \$1,000 would be realized, as well as emissions.

There was question about a statement made regarding what the committee and local entities hope comes down from NYS. Larry Atkinson spoke on how he felt there needs to be more public outreach—farmers market social media etc. Shawn spoke on how this was done with solar (Jan in the market weekly) and the lighting district. Jan cited that the village budget for lighting district went from \$40,000 to \$24,000. We do not have the town numbers. Shawn said that these numbers need to be in the report as this was a success of this committee and plan. Mike agreed that these were good suggestions. Mike will work to write up some one page information papers for us to distribute and he may be able to put a model together we could use for a display of how .

Mike wants to do a heat pump demonstration also. The Pulaski Library could be used as an example (closed due to ceiling replacement ongoing), Jan said that the auditorium could be used.

Jan talked about an email she received on a National Grid program for rentals. She asked Mike for further information on this, and that she is interested in sharing it with our major landlords as well as tenants. Mike will review this email and contact National Grid for more information and comparison data, and will get back to Jan and the committee.

Mike returned to the plan document and pages 17-19 forecasted decreases based on cleaner energy usage. Grid forecasted to get cleaner by 2030. 40% reduction forecasted for the two municipalities (this includes the general grid reduction in Carbon emissions). Mike said he has asked often of NYSERDA about the schools being part of the competitive grading of entities, he will pursue this.

Tom will send Mike a list of completed energy projects to compile the list, and some photos (by April 25<sup>th</sup>) to be included in the new plan. May is the goal to have the plan final and presented to the village and town boards.

Shawn committed to attend the May village meeting to help sell the plan. A motion to adjourn at 7:30pm made by Melissa Wadkinson, seconded by Robin Ford. All in favor, none opposed.

Next meeting will be May 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted.  
Shawn Doyle