

PUBLIC HEARING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, APRIL 8, 2025-LOCAL  
LAW #2-2025, ONE YEAR MORATORIUM ON BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

A Public Hearing of the Town of Little Falls was held on April 8, 2025 at the town hall on Local Law #2-2025 immediately following a public hearing on Local Law #1-2025 commencing at 7:18 p.m. with the following members present:

Present:        Supervisor Dan Casler  
                  Councilman Anthony Viscomi  
                  Councilman Kevin Sullivan  
                  Councilman Mitch Soules

Absent;        Councilman Kirk Schwasnick

Others Present: Town Clerk, Sandra Regan; Town Attorney, Nicholas Macri; Comprehensive Steering Committee members Steve Salamone and Kimberly Pepper and Comprehensive Plan Project Manager, Jordyan Mueller; City of Little Falls Mayor, Debra Kaufman; Creative Outpost's Executive Director, David Warner; Little Falls City resident, Elaine Sperbeck.

-Notice of the hearing was published in the Times Telegram Newspaper on March 20, 2025.

-Supervisor Casler called the hearing to order stating that the purpose of the hearing was to consider adoption of Local Law #2-2025, a one-year moratorium on battery energy storage systems.

-Little Falls City resident, Elaine Sperbeck, asked if anyone knew what might be going in Remington Arms and stated that she wanted to put it out there that it could possibly be a data center; it's a large facility that could hold tons of computers and she believes Ilion has their own fossil fuel energy plant and your solar battery could back this up.

Ms. Sperbeck stated that in January there was a massive fire in California and a lot of the batteries started on fire, emitting toxic smoke; that these batteries possibly contain cobalt, copper, and heavy metals and she thinks a most up-to-date fire department and evacuations plans are needed. Ms. Sperbeck stated that in addition to environmental damage, if pilots are given you're not going to get a whole lot of money.

-Attorney Macri stated that this Moratorium Law will temporarily forbid these systems in the town.

-Councilman Soules stated that should a battery system come to town, the town will try to make sure they support our fire department with the proper equipment needed for fires; this is what this moratorium about, it gives the town the option to see what legally can be put into effect to control or stop it.

City of Little Falls Mayor, Debra Kaufman, stated that it's been in discussion as to what the fire department needs to be prepared for this.

-Comprehensive Plan Project Manager, Jordyan Mueller, stated that municipalities engaged in comprehensive planning are legally protected and insured, if they put something in place like a moratorium for something like this, because their engaged in a planning process that holds additional legal backing.

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CONT.

-Supervisor Casler stated there hasn't been any notification of any of these coming to town yet, we're just getting prepared.

-Supervisor Casler asked if there were any comments for or against said law. There were no comments.

-All persons desiring to be heard, having been heard, the hearing was closed at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Regan, Town Clerk