

## Supervisor's Report

This evening we will be hearing from Alex Campbell, a representative of Hecate Energy. As you know, Hecate is seeking to build a utility scale solar panel installation in Craryville. Hecate is proceeding under Article 10, and thus their application will be decided not by the Copake Planning Board, but rather by a seven member Board known as the Siting Board.

The Siting Board has five permanent members who are Commissioners and Chairpersons of such State entities as the DEC, the Department of Health and the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. There are also two ad hoc members who are Copake residents. These members will "provide a local voice in the review of the project and vote on the final decision on the application."

As supervisor it is my responsibility to nominate four candidates for these two seats. The Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, Matt Murell may also nominate four. The final appointments are made as follows: One member is appointed by the President of the NYS Senate and one is appointed by the Leader of the Assembly.

The candidates whose names I will send to Albany are:

Leonard Barham  
Stephen Futrell  
Robert Haight  
Edgar Masters

Each of these four individuals is highly qualified and deeply committed to Copake. I am honored to be able to put their names forward and thankful that they are willing to take on this significant civic responsibility.

Another matter which I want you to know about is that in view of all that has happened nationwide in the past several weeks, the Governor of the State of NY has issued an Executive Order which mandates every jurisdiction which has a police force to form a committee to "perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices, and develop a plan to improve those deployments, strategies, policies, procedures and practices" with the purpose of "addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness and legitimacy and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color".

Not only is this process mandated, but a report has to be filed no later than April 1, 2021 and the receipt of state and federal funds can be conditioned on the certification of a plan filed by the local government.

I am on the Public Safety Committee of Columbia County so I will certainly have familiarity with this process as we go forward. I hope that the County will view this as an important opportunity. If anyone wants further information on the formation of this new review Committee they should feel free to contact me

And finally, another County related matter, last night many of you received a rather sobering call or email from Chairman Murell.

The substance of the message from the Chairman- which was so important that he took the extreme measure of sending a message to every house registered with Code Red was that "Columbia County is seeing a spike in the number of close contacts of those who have recently tested positive for COVID-19." The Chairman's message said: "The wider the spread, the greater the risk of seeing even more positive cases and hospitalizations. This will have a negative impact on our region's reopening, our economy and the activities that are allowed."

Thankfully, the number of cases in Copake as of this past Friday was 21, and it has been at 21 for several weeks. Likewise, the number of deaths countywide is still at 37.

Although we take hope and comfort in the fact that these numbers are flat, the numbers in the Count are not. We will close our meeting with a moment of silence for those who have died.