

Town of St. Armand
Public Hearing - 6:00 pm – BESS Review in St. Armand
Tuesday, September 1, 2026

These Meeting Minutes were approved by the St. Armand Town Board on September 15, 2026.

A Regular Board Meeting of the Town of St. Armand was held on the above date and time via webinar and in person at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY. The meeting was advertised and made available to the public

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Town Supervisor Davina Thurston, Deputy Supervisor Karl Law, Councilperson Donna Whitelaw, Councilperson JP O’Neil and Councilperson Joseph Fisher were present at the meeting.
A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT: In person: Nancy Heath Online: Barbara Darrah

GUESTS FROM THE COMMUNITY: In Person: William Martin, Nancy Bernstein, Alison King, Sandra Aery, Kathleen Hogan, Paul Aery, Richard Brenner, Susan Sweeney, Larry Sweeney, Pat Hogan, David Trudeau, Tom Hesseltine, Lindsay Glowaski, Tim Jackson, Alan Roberts, Denise Griffin, Diana Stralou, Missy Elfers, Rob Elfers, Carol Reyell, Rob Reyell. On-line: 2 unknown callers, Aaron Marbone, Diane Chase, David last name unknown, Eva Hoskins, Kara Matthews, Kayla Gutheil, Teah Dowling, Tyler Chase

Supervisor Thurston opened the Regular Monthly Board Meeting at 6:01 pm and asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTIONS # 63 and # 64

RESOLUTION # 63 OF 2026	RESOLUTION OF CORRECTION ONTO RESOLUTION # 59 OF 2026 DATED AUGUST 18, 2026, “THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND, TO TEMPORARILY SUSPEND ITS APPOINTED TOWN CLERK PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
-------------------------	---

The following resolution was offered by Councilperson Donna Whitelaw, who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Town Board of the Town of St. Armand, Essex County, New York, is the governing municipal body authorized under New York State Town Law § 20 to manage appointed town officers; and WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Town Law § 64, appointed town officers, including an appointed Town Clerk, serve at the pleasure of the Town Board unless otherwise explicitly provided by law or local referendum; and WHEREAS, a matter has arisen concerning the performance, conduct, and official duties of Appointed Town Clerk Alexandra Amell, necessitating a formal administrative review; and WHEREAS, the Town Board convened in an Executive Session on August 18, 2026 in strict compliance with New York Public Officers Law § 105(1)(f) to discuss the employment history and disciplinary circumstances surrounding a particular person, and

WHEREAS, In Resolution # 59 of 2026 it was stated in error that Alexandra Amell is hereby immediately placed on administrative leave “*with pay pending investigation*” in fact should have stated Alexandra Amell was placed on administrative leave “*without pay pending investigation*”.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED retroactive to August 17, 2026, Alexandra Amell is hereby immediately placed on administrative leave *without pay pending investigation* and inquiry into her performance and conduct while acting as Town Clerk and shall be immediately prohibited from engaging in any and all Town Clerk duties.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilperson Joseph Fisher, and adopted upon Rollcall vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Thurston	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donna Whitelaw	AYE
Councilperson JP O’Neil	AYE
Councilperson Joseph Fisher	AYE

Dated: September 1, 2026

Barbara J. Darrah, St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 64 OF 2026

THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ST. ARMAND
AUTHORIZATION FOR BARBARA DARRAH TO SIGN
TOWN CLERK CHECKS

Councilperson JP O’Neil, who moved its adoption, offered the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand has appointed Barbara J. Darrah as Town Clerk on August 17th, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk is responsible for issuing check payments and maintaining the Town Clerk checking account with NBT Bank, Saranac Lake, New York, account number 7004457298.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby accepts the appointment of Barbara Darrah as the Town of St. Armand’s Town Clerk and hereby authorizes Barbara Darrah to sign checks from and maintain the above listed checking account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Board hereby requests the removal of Alexandra Amell’s signature authorization over same account.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Deputy Supervisor Karl Law, and adopted by Roll Call vote as follows:

Supervisor Davina Thurston	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Karl Law	AYE
Councilperson Donna Whitelaw	AYE
Councilperson JP O’Neil	AYE
Councilperson Joseph Fisher	AYE

Dated: September 1, 2026

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE – Read by Deputy Town Clerk Nancy Heath

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand, Essex County, New York will conduct a Public Hearing in person and virtually on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Town of St. Armand Town Hall, 1702 NYS Route 3, Bloomingdale, NY 12913. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to further review pros and cons of BESS in the Town of St. Armand.

Public Hearing, Tuesday, September 1st at 6 pm - To Further Review Pros and Cons of BESS in St. Armand
Sep 1, 2026, 6:00 – 8:00 PM (America/New_York)

This was posted in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on August 27th and the link was provided.

PRESENTERS

Town Supervisor Davina Thurston introduced Jennifer Manierre, Director of Clean Energy Siting with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Ms. Manierre provided a detailed slide presentation regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), including how the systems operate, their role within the electrical grid, potential benefits, safety considerations, and New York State’s efforts to address concerns associated with the technology.

Ms. Manierre explained that BESS facilities are designed to store electricity so that it can be made available when needed. She discussed several potential benefits of battery storage, including allowing additional renewable energy resources to be incorporated into the electrical grid, helping to prevent brownouts, reducing or delaying the need for certain upgrades to electrical infrastructure, providing backup power during outages, and making additional energy available during periods of high demand. She stated that the energy needs of New Yorkers continue to increase and that additional methods of supplying and managing electricity on the grid are needed.

Ms. Manierre described the basic components of a BESS facility, explaining that individual battery cells are grouped together into modules, modules are assembled into racks, and the racks are housed within larger enclosures. She also discussed the battery management systems used to monitor the equipment. According to Ms. Manierre, BESS facilities are monitored continuously, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from remote operating facilities. These monitoring systems are designed to identify potential problems, including an individual battery cell beginning to overheat, so that the affected equipment can be shut down and personnel can be dispatched to inspect, repair, or replace the affected components.

Throughout her presentation, Ms. Manierre reviewed several slides containing information and data relating to BESS technology. She explained what each slide represented and discussed the information she considered important to understanding the particular issue being addressed. Her presentation covered the operation and purpose of BESS facilities as well as safety, fire response, environmental considerations, emergency preparedness, and the role battery storage may play in New York's electrical system.

Ms. Manierre also addressed the potential for fires involving BESS facilities. She acknowledged that, although the rate of fire incidents has decreased, no electrical infrastructure can be considered completely without risk. She noted that electrical equipment, including substations and transmission infrastructure, carries some degree of fire risk.

Ms. Manierre discussed the interagency fire safety working group established by New York State following BESS fire incidents. She explained that the working group included NYSERDA, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, the Department of State, and other agencies responsible for fire and building codes. Consultants and national laboratories were also brought in to assist with evaluating the incidents. The purpose of the review was to determine what occurred during previous incidents, identify measures that could help prevent similar incidents, and improve preparedness and response procedures should another BESS fire occur.

As part of that effort, Ms. Manierre stated that air, soil, and water quality were evaluated following BESS fires that occurred in New York. She reported that testing conducted following those incidents did not identify contamination levels of concern. She also discussed fire-code recommendations developed as a result of the review and stated that the recommendations were almost entirely incorporated into the updated codes that took effect in January.

Ms. Manierre further explained that New York State inspected 57 larger BESS facilities that had already been installed throughout the state. She stated that these inspections were conducted to evaluate existing facilities, identify lessons that could be learned from systems already operating in the field, and use those findings to help inform NYSERDA's peer-review process and future safety practices.

Emergency response was also discussed during the presentation. Ms. Manierre described hazardous-material response procedures and programs intended to provide training to local fire departments and emergency responders. She addressed concerns regarding smoke and potential toxic emissions from a BESS fire and stated that studies reviewed by NYSERDA indicate that BESS fires are no more likely to emit toxic fumes than a typical structure or house fire. She further stated that, based on the information presented, an evacuation would not necessarily be immediately required solely because a BESS facility had caught fire.

Ms. Manierre continued through the remainder of her presentation explaining the information contained in the slides and answering issues associated with battery storage technology. She concluded by emphasizing NYSERDA's position that battery energy storage can play an important role in modernizing the electrical grid, improving reliability, accommodating increasing electricity demand, and supporting the integration of additional renewable energy resources.

Town Supervisor Davina Thurston introduced our second speaker, Ms. Sue Sweeney.

Ms. Sweeney stated "I don't have a PhD, I don't represent a distant political group, I don't have academic experience in power sources or strategies, and I wasn't recruited to come from another area or state to speak to you this evening.

I am a local resident. My husband and I own a home at 13 Mount Pisgah Lane, directly across from Dr. Lieb's property where the BESS facility was proposed. And over the last six plus months, we've been put on the defensive to protect our home and our neighborhood. We have no issues with BESS or the need for alternative energy sources, but a BESS facility does not belong in a neighborhood."

Sue stated she had sent a list of questions to Carson Power regarding the BESS system. Carson Power has not answered any of her questions. Sue listed the questions:

Number one, what exact grid problem is this proposed BESS facility solving?

Number two, what makes Bell Road the desired location other than proximity to a power grid.

Three, what are the specific quantifiable benefits to local residents if this proposed facility is built?

Specific quantifiable benefits.

Four, please provide a copy of the interconnection study from 2025.

Five, please share the business requirements from National Grid and or State of New York for a new BESS facility with a list also of the local substations you reviewed and assessed along with the answers to these requirements that resulted in selection of this site.

Six, what specific outages in the last 10 years would this proposed facility actually have mitigated?

Seven, in the event of runaway BESS fire, what is the protocol for local firefighters?

And how long would you generally expect this type of fire to burn for a facility the size and the type of what you're proposing for this specific location?

For this proposed site, who would pay for new equipment annual drills, and ongoing training for local first responders, EMS and fire departments?

What's the content and duration of the contractual commitment to the support?

Who's responsible for paying those?

Not only initially but ongoing as well.

What's the lifespan of the batteries proposed for this location?

Is there an increased risk of failure and or fire with age and or with temperature?

What specific studies have been done to support this answer?

For this proposed location, is there any renewable energy going to the batteries?

And if yes, please be specific and quantify for us.

Please provide a list of the BESS facilities you have successfully implemented.

Again, this was provided to CARSA and we since have learned they have not implemented successfully a BESS facility.

It seems that the location of the Upstone quarry of a year-round blasting facility was a surprise to the team last night.

Please provide a copy of any motion studies you've done or reviewed for battery sites similar to the one you're proposing for Trudeau Road, to support the stated problem that, quote unquote, it should not be a problem.

Ms. Sweeney continued her presentation giving real life examples of fires, thermal runaway events, on-going lawsuits with contaminated well water, etc. Sue further stated that the Mt. Pisgah area is serviced only by residential wells, there are no fire hydrants. Sue explained the risk of fire to that area would be devastating to our community.

(A signup sheet was provided for individuals who wished to speak during the meeting.)

Supervisor Thurston invited William Martin to speak. Mr. Martin stated that he has 49 years of experience in the utility industry, including nine years overseeing National Grid operations in the Saranac Lake area.

Mr. Martin explained the difference between radial and looped electrical feeds. He stated that Bloomingdale is served by a looped system, allowing power to potentially be supplied from more than one direction if service is lost on one side. He contrasted this with radial systems, where communities are located at the end of a single electrical feed and may be more vulnerable to extended outages.

Mr. Martin stated that battery energy storage systems can provide strategic benefits when located in areas with radial feeds or other grid vulnerabilities. He cited examples where battery storage could provide temporary backup for critical infrastructure during outages or allow utility maintenance to occur without interrupting service.

Mr. Martin questioned the strategic need for locating a battery energy storage system in Bloomingdale, given the community's position within a looped electrical system. He stated that he had previously asked why the proposed facility was being located here but had not received an answer. He emphasized that, in his opinion, battery storage facilities should be located where they provide the greatest strategic benefit to the electrical grid and should not be located over a watershed serving the community.

Mr. Martin also discussed what he described as "greenwashing." He noted that electricity used to recharge a battery storage facility comes from the electrical grid, which contains power generated from multiple sources, including fossil fuels, nuclear power and renewable energy. He stated that unless a battery facility is directly

supplied by renewable generation, the electricity stored in the batteries should not necessarily be characterized as entirely "green."

Supervisor Thurston invited Kathy Hogan to speak. Ms. Hogan read a letter from Terry Crews, one of the owners of the neighboring home, regarding his experience with the 2023 fire at the Cove Hollow battery energy storage facility in East Hampton. According to the letter, approximately 2.2 million gallons of water were used over a 30-hour period to respond to the fire.

The letter stated that subsequent testing identified concerns regarding PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” in surface water and groundwater in the area. It further stated that private and public wells were affected, two Suffolk County Water Authority wells were taken offline and Suffolk County drilled additional monitoring wells as part of its investigation. According to the letter, testing produced PFAS results substantially above New York State standards, resulting in expanded groundwater and surface-water testing.

Ms. Hogan stated that the East Hampton facility had originally been approved based, in part, on representations that liquids from the batteries could not spill, resulting in limited containment measures at the site. She said concerns arising after the fire have led to additional environmental testing and scrutiny of battery storage facilities in the area.

Ms. Hogan also stated that the Suffolk County Water Authority filed a civil lawsuit against parties associated with the battery storage facility and battery manufacturers. She said residents are now concerned about potential long-term health effects associated with contaminated water and smoke exposure, particularly for first responders, and are seeking continued water-quality testing and health monitoring.

Ms. Hogan concluded that these concerns reflect Mr. Crews' firsthand experience as a resident of the East Hampton neighborhood and asked the Town Board to consider that experience when evaluating battery energy storage facilities in St. Armand.

Supervisor Thurston invited Rob Reyell to speak. Mr. Reyell stated that he has been involved with the group opposing the proposed BESS project since its beginning and is part of its core leadership team. He stated that he owns a large property and resides directly across from the proposed BESS site.

Mr. Reyell said the group has conducted extensive research into the potential risks and benefits of the project and, in his opinion, the potential benefits do not outweigh the risks.

Drawing on nearly 40 years of experience as a real estate broker in Saranac Lake, Mr. Reyell expressed particular concern about the potential effect of the proposed facility on surrounding property values. He estimated that his own property could lose approximately 20 to 25 percent of its value if the facility were constructed. He stated that the presence of the facility, additional noise and perceived safety risks would be factors that prospective purchasers and real estate professionals would have to consider when evaluating nearby properties.

Mr. Reyell also expressed concern about the consequences of a potential battery fire, particularly the movement of smoke during a temperature inversion. He stated that local geography and weather conditions could potentially cause smoke to remain in the area and affect surrounding properties, the Village of Saranac Lake and critical facilities.

Mr. Reyell acknowledged that battery energy storage may have a role in meeting energy needs but stated that, in his opinion, such facilities should be located in appropriately designed industrial areas where risks can be better contained and managed. He emphasized that his opposition is not to energy policy generally, but to locating this type of facility in the proposed location.

Mr. Reyell concluded by thanking Supervisor Thurston and the Town Board for researching the issue, listening to residents' concerns and considering measures to protect the community. He stated that he supports adoption of a permanent local law prohibiting the proposed type of facility in the Town.

Supervisor Thurston invited Larry Sweeney to speak. Mr. Sweeney stated that he lives on Pisgah Road near the proposed BESS site and that many of his concerns have been discussed previously but remain unresolved.

Mr. Sweeney focused on emergency preparedness and questioned who residents should contact and which agency would be responsible if an incident occurred at the facility. He noted that the surrounding area involves multiple municipalities, the Village of Saranac Lake and both Essex and Franklin Counties. He stated that the only information he has received thus far is that the Saranac Lake Fire Department would be responsible for responding to the area.

Mr. Sweeney questioned whether a coordinated evacuation plan exists and how residents in different municipalities and counties would be notified and directed during an emergency. He noted that neighboring properties may be located in different counties despite being immediately adjacent to one another.

Mr. Sweeney also stated that emergency-planning and evacuation guidance associated with battery storage incidents can encompass varying distances. He expressed concern that a significant incident could affect an area extending well beyond Pisgah Road and potentially involve a substantial portion of the surrounding community.

Mr. Sweeney concluded by asking the Town Board to consider the need for clearly defined emergency-response responsibilities, evacuation procedures and coordination among the municipalities, counties and emergency-service agencies that could be affected by an incident at the proposed facility.

Supervisor Thurston introduced Pat Hogan.

Pat Hogan stated that he lives at 21 Mount Pisgah Lane and that he and his wife, Kathy, have lived in the area for 51 years, within sight of the proposed BESS location. He stated that the facility would be visible from his home.

Mr. Hogan questioned what problem the proposed project would solve and expressed concern about Carson Power's experience with battery energy storage projects. He stated that Carson Power is a relatively new company and, based on information he received from a company representative, had previously focused primarily on wind and solar projects before shifting its attention toward battery energy storage. He further stated that, to his knowledge, Carson Power has not yet completed a BESS facility and questioned whether the company has sufficient experience to undertake the proposed project.

Mr. Hogan expressed concern about the proposed facility's proximity to residences, private wells, a daycare center, Adirondack Medical Center, Trudeau Village housing and other nearby properties. He stated that, in his opinion, the proposed location is inappropriate for this type of facility.

Mr. Hogan also discussed fire safety. He stated that during a Carson Power meeting at the Pisgah Lodge, a company engineer indicated that a battery fire could be allowed to burn itself out and that firefighters would not enter the facility during such an event. Mr. Hogan expressed concern about smoke, airborne particulates, groundwater contamination and the potential duration of a battery fire.

Mr. Hogan raised an additional concern regarding the facility's proximity to the Greystone quarry, where blasting regularly occurs. He stated that nearby residents can feel the effects of the blasting at their homes and questioned what impact those vibrations could have on the proposed battery storage equipment. He also stated that Carson Power representatives appeared to be unaware of the nearby quarry and its blasting activity when he raised the issue with them.

Finally, Mr. Hogan questioned what would happen to the battery units at the end of their useful life. He expressed concern about the absence of a clearly identified long-term plan for removal, disposal, recycling and decommissioning.

Supervisor Thurston introduced Tom Hesseltine. Mr. Hesseltine stated that he lives on Trudeau Road near the proposed BESS facility.

Mr. Hesseltine said he was struck by the amount of the presentation devoted to fire preparedness. He questioned why such extensive emergency planning and preparation would be necessary if the likelihood of a fire or serious incident is considered low.

Mr. Hesseltine focused primarily on noise and its potential effect on the quality of life of nearby residents. He stated that residents already experience significant noise from the existing electrical substation and noted that several Town Board members had visited the area and listened to the existing noise firsthand.

Mr. Hesseltine stated that his research indicated that both electrical substations and utility-scale battery energy storage systems can generate substantial noise. He expressed concern that adding a BESS facility near the existing substation could create an additional continuous source of noise.

To illustrate his concern, Mr. Hesseltine compared the anticipated noise to the sound of a gas-powered lawn mower operating continuously throughout the day and night. He stated that nearby residents should not be expected to tolerate that level of continuous noise and expressed concern that they would have inadequate protection from its effect on their quality of life.

Supervisor Thurston introduced Lindsay Glowaski. Ms. Glowaski stated that one of her primary concerns is not only the BESS technology itself, but who would be responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining the facility.

Ms. Glowaski expressed a lack of confidence in Carson Power based on her interactions with the company, including a public presentation at the Pisgah Lodge. She stated that she had expected that presentation to provide detailed information about the proposed BESS system but felt that it did not adequately address the technology or residents' concerns.

Ms. Glowaski also questioned the long-term reliability and safety of battery energy storage systems. She stated that she was told the proposed facility could have an approximately 20-year lifespan but questioned whether sufficient long-term operating data exists to understand how these systems will perform throughout that period. Given the history of BESS fires that had been discussed during the hearing, she questioned why the Town should accept that risk in a wooded and residential area.

Ms. Glowaski also raised concerns about compliance and enforcement. She acknowledged that codes and safety requirements exist but questioned who would be responsible for ensuring continued compliance, how the facility would be monitored and whether Town taxpayers could ultimately bear costs associated with enforcement and oversight.

Finally, Ms. Glowaski stated that Carson Power had indicated that the facility would ultimately be operated by a contractor rather than directly by Carson Power. She questioned how much experience such contractors could have with a relatively new technology and stated that, in her opinion, additional operating history and demonstrated long-term safety are needed before this type of facility should be located near residential properties.

Supervisor Thurston stated that a question had been submitted by an online participant regarding NYSERDA guidance on evacuations during battery energy storage system fires. She read information indicating that safety experts generally do not recommend evacuation as the default response to a BESS fire and that, similar to a structure fire, residents may instead be advised to avoid smoke or shelter in place depending upon the severity of the incident. Supervisor Thurston expressed concern about advising residents to remain in their homes during an incident involving potentially hazardous smoke and asked Jennifer for clarification.

Ms. Manierre responded that, based on information from the safety experts and experienced first responders with whom NYSERDA works, the products of combustion from a BESS fire are toxic but are not considered significantly different from the toxic products generated by many conventional structure fires involving plastics, furniture and other materials.

Ms. Manierre explained that evacuation is therefore not necessarily recommended as the default response to every BESS fire and that the appropriate response would depend upon the circumstances and severity of the particular incident. She stated that emergency-response experts would evaluate conditions and advise whether residents should shelter in place or take other protective measures.

Ms. Manierre further explained that the appropriate firefighting strategy may also depend upon the specific incident. In some circumstances, experts may recommend allowing the affected battery components to burn and consume themselves, while in other circumstances the use of water or another response strategy may be recommended.

Supervisor Thurston thanked everyone in attendance for participating respectfully despite differing opinions and stated that she appreciated the community's ability to discuss the issue calmly and respectfully.

Supervisor Thurston stated that she takes seriously her responsibility as an elected representative to protect the residents of the Town of St. Armand. She stated that the Town Board has listened to residents, reviewed petitions submitted by those living near the proposed facility and heard the concerns presented during the public hearing.

Supervisor Thurston stated that, in her opinion, the appropriate action is to move forward with a Town wide ban on battery energy storage systems. She acknowledged that there may be appropriate locations for BESS facilities but stated that the proposed Trudeau Road location is particularly unsuitable because of its proximity to residences, a hospital, a school and a significant watershed.

Supervisor Thurston stated that she had previously suggested to Carson Power that an industrial location, such as the Lake Clear Industrial Park, may be more appropriate for this type of facility. She emphasized that the Town Board has a responsibility to mitigate risks to its residents and concluded by stating that she intends to vote in favor of a Town wide BESS ban in the Town of St. Armand.

Supervisor Thurston asked Deputy Supervisor Karl Law to speak.

Deputy Supervisor Law thanked everyone for attending and speaking at the public hearing. He stated that each speaker contributed valuable information and expressed appreciation for the respectful manner in which differing viewpoints were presented.

Deputy Supervisor Law stated that, as a Town Board member, he has a responsibility both to protect and to represent the residents of St. Armand and to listen compassionately to their concerns and requests.

Based on the information presented and the concerns expressed by residents, Deputy Supervisor Law stated that he intends to vote in favor of moving forward with the proposed Town wide BESS ban.

Supervisor Thurston asked Councilperson Donna Whitelaw to speak.

Councilperson Whitelaw thanked the residents for attending and sharing their concerns. She stated that the Town Board's responsibility as elected officials is to listen to and represent the residents of St. Armand.

Councilperson Whitelaw stated that she shares the concerns expressed by Supervisor Thurston and Deputy Supervisor Law and that she will also vote in favor of the proposed Town wide BESS ban.

Supervisor Thurston asked Councilperson JP O'Neil to speak.

Councilperson O'Neil expressed concern that questions previously raised with Carson Power had not been answered. He also expressed concern that Carson Power could construct the facility and later sell it, leaving the Town and residents dealing with a different owner or operator.

Councilperson O'Neil stated that he does not believe the proposed Trudeau Road site is an appropriate location for a BESS facility. He suggested that an established industrial location, such as the Lake Clear Industrial Park, should have been considered as a potential alternative.

Councilperson O'Neil concluded by stating that he will vote in favor of the proposed Town wide BESS ban.

Supervisor Thurston asked Councilperson Joe Fisher to speak.

Councilperson Fisher stated that this was his first exposure to the BESS issue as a Town Board member, as he was not on the Board for the earlier vote. He expressed appreciation for the thoughtful and well-researched information presented by residents and noted his concern that residents felt they had to conduct much of the research themselves because they had not received sufficient information or responses from Carson Power.

Councilperson Fisher stated that he believes it is important to consider information and expertise from both sides of an issue. During his remarks, Supervisor Thurston clarified that Carson Power had been invited to attend the public hearing but was not present.

Councilperson Fisher stated that the Town Board has a responsibility to carefully consider the potential consequences of its decisions. He emphasized that his concern is not simply opposition to having a project located near one's home, but rather the scale of the proposed facility and the uncertainty regarding its potential long-term consequences for the community and future generations.

Councilperson Fisher concluded by stating that, based on the information presented, he intends to vote in favor of the proposed Town wide BESS ban.

Deputy Town Clerk Nancy Heath gave highlights of written comments submitted by Violet Martin. The concerns identified included thermal runaway and fire risk; water use and firefighting challenges; potential air pollution and hazardous particulates; proximity to wetlands and water bodies; emergency evacuation; the capabilities and resources of local volunteer fire departments; the scale of the project and its compatibility with the rural character of the area; noise; decommissioning; and the concern that local residents would bear the risks associated with the facility.

Supervisor Thurston thanked Jennifer Manierre for traveling to St. Armand to attend the hearing and for providing an informative presentation. She stated that she did not believe the Town Board or those in attendance were necessarily opposed to battery energy storage systems generally, but rather had significant concerns about locating such a facility at the proposed site.

Supervisor Thurston stated we need to enter an Executive Session for legal and personnel reasons and asked for a motion to enter a 5-minute recess before that.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION made by Councilperson JP O'Neil at 7:21 pm, seconded by Councilperson Joseph Fisher. All approved, motion carried.

MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION made by Councilperson Joseph Fisher at 7:59 pm, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Karl Law. All approved, motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN REGULAR BOARD MEETING made by Councilperson Donna Whitelaw at 8:00 pm, seconded by Councilperson JP O’Neil. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

I, Barbara J. Darrah, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Public Hearing and Regular Board Meeting held on the above-referenced date.

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

Dated: September 1, 2026