

April 15, 2025

Public Hearing

A public hearing was called to order at 4:30 PM on April 15, 2025, to discuss Local law #1-2025 which will be a moratorium for 6 months for all battery storage facilities, the moratorium will end on October 31st. This gives the town time to establish code for such facilities.

Present: Tony Cooper, Emily Losey, Kevin Finnegan, Clark Putman, Eric Gustafson-Attorney, and Zoe Hawkins- Town Clerk. **Absent:** David Fisher

Also Present: Joe and Debbie Finnegan, Bill Hull, Barb Fisher, Carol Palmer, Harry Garvey, Greg Hargrave, Carl Huttel, Mike DeAngelo-Nexamp, and Mohamed Kassamali- Nexamp.

Public Comment: Mike Deangelo and Mohamed Kassamali from Nexamp introduced themselves and explained the project. A 4.5 MW facility on the Brady rd. This will bring tax revenue to the Town and County, and Job opportunities to the area.

Emily Losey has concerns about how close this is to the school, Nexamp will work with the schools on protocols for evacuation.

Kevin Finnegan asked what happens to this after 20 years, as that is the life expectancy. Mohamed says there is a decommissioning plan which is reverse of installation, everything will be removed and recycled.

Carl Huttel representing the Madrid Fire District expressed concerns of lithium-ion batteries having a substantial risk of fire. There have been sever from 2023-2025 which have caused issues of toxic and flammable gas being released. These fires are extremely difficult to extinguish and require specialized suppression agents which Madrid Volunteer Fire dept. does not have and is cost prohibitive to the fire district. The fire district is supportive of the Town of Madrid's decision to place a moratorium. Mohamed says nexamp will work with the fire dept. to help fill the gaps of any safety protocol and equipment.

Barb Fisher is concerned about the school, and that typically the wind comes out of the west.

Harry Garvey would like to know if they are going to train not only our fire departments volunteers but surrounding towns as well. Muhamed stated that they are willing to, and record trainings for future use. They encourage surrounding towns to join in. Consultants for training are former fire fighters.

Rita Gerenser asked how are chemicals removed? Chemtech remediates anything hazardous.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion second by Clark Putman to Pass Local Law 1-2025 enacting on a 6-month moratorium, which will expire October 31st 2025. All are in favor of passing the local law. This will be sent to the Department of State, and a copy will be kept at the Town Office.

Emily Losey made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:45 PM. All in Favor

Zoe Hawkins, Town Clerk