

**Palmyra Township
Special Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Dave Pixley at the Palmyra Township Hall, 6490 Palmyra Rd.

Members present: Dave Pixley, Matt Koester, Mark Crane. Steve Papenhagen, and Chris Whited

Members absent: None

Audience Attendance: 10

Motion Whited, support Crane to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried**

Public Comment

- Jeff Ehlert stated that he was upset with the Board's November 15, 2022, decision to adopt the SES Ordinance. He accused the Board of forgetting about the farmers and landowners. He said that as leaders, the Board must look at what is best for the entire Township, not just a few. He believes that the Board has taken away the farmers' privileges. He desires that the Township Board and Planning Commission members come to an agreement on the SES ordinance.
- Richard Beauleaux asked what was discussed during the November special meeting. Supervisor Pixley stated that the Board had adopted the Solar Energy Systems ordinance amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.
- Deborah Comstock stated that she learned while gathering signatures for the referendum petitions that all those to whom she had spoken were not opposed to solar. She said that many residents said that the Township needs to do something to generate more revenue. She desires that the Board and Planning Commission come up with a solution to avoid a referendum vote.
- Gail Dotson asked how many farmers in the township have 100 or more acres of property. Supervisor Pixley stated that the adopted SES ordinance allows for individuals who have 20 acres or more to put solar on their property.
- Alannah from ESA Solar said that residents lack the knowledge about solar and need to be educated. She asked if she could submit to the Board a red-line version of the adopted SES ordinance that may fix the issues of the adopted SES ordinance. The Board agreed to review the red-line SES ordinance submitted by ESA Solar.
- Brendan Miller from the Land & Liberty Coalition stated that he concurred with Deborah Comstock's statements. He also said that he had collected over 200 signatures from

individuals in a neighboring Township who support solar. He agrees that there is a lot of misinformation. He too urges the Board to reconsider the SES ordinance.

- Perry Pooley believes that solar would be beneficial. He stated that there is less opposition to solar than to wind turbines. He believes that electricity will continue to increase in cost, and solar energy will offset the increase.
- Mark Knoblauch would like to see the Board and Planning Commission work out some of the issues with the SES ordinance.
- Diane Christopherson stated that she was not aware that the Township had been working on solar, but was aware of Blissfield Township's consideration of solar. She said that she came to the meeting to express her concern about the Board's process of putting the SES ordinance in place. She also said that she would like the Board and Planning Commission to have a deeper conversation about solar.
- Deborah Comstock said that there needs to be consistency in the ordinance. She pointed out that setbacks in the SES ordinance are inconsistent as well as the noise requirements. She suggested that everyone be collaborative in resolving the inconsistencies.

Communications: Supervisor Pixley reported that the Solid Waste Committee had given him information concerning Republic's consideration of reopening the Adrian Landfill. Republic had submitted their request to EGLE with the expectation of making a decision in August 2022. As of right now, Republic is in the process of gathering the required documentation and has requested an extension from EGLE. EGLE has extended the date to May 2023.

Business:

- **Ballot language:** Motion Koester, support Papenhagen to accept the attorney amended referendum ballot language as stated:
Shall ordinance No. 11-2020 amending the Palmyra Township zoning ordinance 2020 to regulate solar energy systems, as adopted by the Palmyra Township Board on November 15, 2022, be affirmed and placed into effect.

Roll call vote: Koester – yes; Whited – Yes; Crane – yes; Pixley – yes; Papenhagen – yes

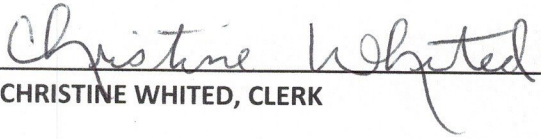
Motion Carried

- **Special Election:** Motion Pixley, support Papenhagen to hold a special election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, to allow the electors of Palmyra Township to consider a referendum regarding an amendment to the Palmyra Township zoning ordinance to regulate solar energy systems. **Roll call vote:** Koester – no; Papenhagen – yes; Crane – no; Whited – yes; Pixley – yes **Motion carried**

Adjournment

Motion Pixley, support Koester to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. **Motion carried**

Next Regular Meeting: February 14, 2023


CHRISTINE WHITED, CLERK

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED February 14, 2023.