

PALMYRA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes March 2, 2021 7:00 pm

Meeting conducted remotely as required by Michigan Governor

Meeting held via Zoom Video

The meeting was called to Order by Chairwoman Isley at 7:00 pm

Present; Brown, Comstock, Crane, Isley, Mapstone, Pell, Southwell.

Absent; None.

Motion to approve the Agenda by Southwell, support Comstock. Roll call vote: Southwell-yes, Pell-yes, Brown –absent from vote, Isley-yes, Crane-yes, Mapstone-yes. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the last meeting Minutes by Southwell, support by Mapstone. Roll call vote: Comstock-yes, Crane-yes, Isley-yes, Brown-yes, Southwell-yes, Pell-yes. Motion passed.

Written comments: None.

Public comments: Supervisor Pixley said that the Michigan Township Assoc. (MTA) stated that per the Governor as of Friday March 5, 2021 public meetings can be held in person with masks (except for eating and drinking) for up to twenty-five (25) people and social distance through April 19, 2021. Pixley stated that all future meetings will be held in the new Township Hall at 6490 Palmyra Rd., Palmyra, MI. The new boiler is running and the decontamination light system ran today.

Old Business:

Motion by Isley to reaffirm the Planning Commission bylaws, support Crane. Roll call vote: Pell-yes, Southwell-yes, Crane-yes, Mapstone-yes, Brown-yes, Isley-yes, Comstock-yes. Motion passed.

Discussion about Coldwater, Riga, Macon, Hillsdale and Raisin Township solar system ordinance requirements and decommissioning. Discussed looking more closely at these communities wording about surety bonding, decommissioning and how solar energy fits into the Palmyra Township Master Plan. Pixley stated that Green Energy was added to the Master plan by the PC last year. Pell stated Green Energy was added at the July 16, 2020 PC meeting.

Motion by Isley to hold a PC Special Meeting on March 16, 2021 at 7:00pm in the new Township Hall to continue work on the solar ordinance bonding and decommissioning sections, support Comstock. Roll call vote: Pell-yes, Comstock-yes, Isley-yes, Brown-yes, Crane-yes, Mapstone-yes, Southwell-No (possible date conflict). Motion passed.

New Business:

Crane said that he had heard that one cannot construct solar panels on land that is in PA116 so he called the MTA attorney. She said Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will allow solar panels on PA116 land in certain circumstances. Crane

also stated that several people both residents and nonresidents of the Township had mentioned to him that there was a possible conflict of interest on the PC regarding drafting solar energy ordinance language and wanting a solar energy farm on their property. Crane stated that MTA told him there is not a conflict of interest if one is building legislation but not ruling on legislation and Isley and Mapstone are building legislation not ruling on it. Crane stated that real or perceived conflicts of interest, we are aware of the possibility. Pell stated that she and her husband had been approached regarding placing solar energy on acreage of their farm and they are not interested at this time.

Next meeting: March 16, 2021 7:00 pm at new Palmyra Township Hall, 6490 Palmyra Rd., Palmyra, MI. 49268

Motion to adjourn by Crane, support by Southwell. Roll call vote: Mapstone-yes, Brown-yes, Comstock-yes, Crane-yes, Isley-yes, Pell-yes, Southwell-yes. Motion passed at 8:24pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Vivian Pell Secretary