

OVID TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

OVID TOWNSHIP OFFICE, BRANCH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

October 6, 2020

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The Ovid Township Planning Commission was called to order by Andy AcMoody at 6:00p.m.

Members present: Andy AcMoody, Sean Groves, Jim Snivley, Tammi Schorfhaar

Other present: Gregg Gemmill, Max Benjamin, Matt Drennan, Brian Walker, Tammy Walker, Steve Gaglio, Grace Paul

Tammi Schorfhaar made a motion to approve the Agenda; seconded by Sean Groves; motion carried.

Jim Snivley made a motion to approve the September 1, 2020 Public Hearing Meeting minutes; seconded by Andy AcMoody; motion carried.

Jim Snivley made a motion to approve the September 1, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting minutes; seconded by Andy AcMoody; motion carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Matt Drennan of ESA Solar provided a variety of information about the potential 150 megawatt solar project. Approximately 40% of this project would be located in Coldwater Township and approximately 60% of the project would be located in Ovid Township. The tentative timeline indicates that the earliest construction would start is in 2022. Due to the size of this project, a new substation would have to be built. Matt explained that there are a number of benefits to the community with a project like this including an increase in tax revenue and new jobs to the area during the construction period. Matt offered to do a more formal presentation at any time. Matt also said that while he sincerely applauds our efforts to update our Master Plan, he cautioned against placing a Moratorium on solar projects as it could greatly impede the project. ESA Solar has reached out to our attorney about other possible ways to complete the changes to the Master Plan without a Moratorium.
2. We will move our next Planning Commission meeting to Thursday, November 5th, as a result of the Election. We will also tentatively plan to have a Public Hearing on that same date on the possibility of a Moratorium on solar projects while we review and update our Master Plan. The purpose of the Public Hearing would be to discuss the updates needed to our Master Plan on Alternative Energy and whether or not the updates can be accomplished in a timely fashion so that a Moratorium is not necessary. This Public Hearing is NOT pertaining specifically to the ESA Solar Project.

Zoning Report: Provided by Robert Hawley

Public comment: None

Next meeting and Public Hearing is Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00p.m.

Jim Snivley made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sean Groves; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Schorfhaar, secretary.