

OVID TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

OVID TOWNSHIP OFFICE, BRANCH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

March 3, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

Other present: Gregg Gemmill, Bob Hawley, Merle Donbrock, Dean McDonald, Erich Miarka, Jim and Margaret Haylett, Erin Haley, Beverly Sexton, Judy and Doug Harris, Tom Hantz, Julie and Dave Woods, Tom Porter, Bill Combs, Gary John, Gary Massey, Steve Norton, James Wilson, Tom Roseware, Max Benjamin, Rob Covert

The announcement was made that the presentation about the large scale solar farm proposal has been postponed due to the illness of the presenters.

The item that was brought forth for consideration was the Angola Solar project. This is a project that was previously approved for the development of a two megawatt solar farm on the Porter Farm at 546 South Angola Road. Pine Gate Renewables purchased this project, along with several other projects, from Cypress Creek Renewables in December 2019. As a result of the new ownership, and the expiration of the previously approved Special Use Permit, it is necessary for the previously issued Special Use Permit to be renewed. Erich Miarka of Pine Gate Renewables confirmed that there have been no changes to the site plan in the request for the Special Use Permit. They are hoping to start construction, pending approval, in May. Construction will take approximately 60-90 days to complete.

Public comment: There were dozens of questions that were asked about Solar Farms in general and a few about Angola Solar project in particular. Erich Miarka kindly provided many of the answers. Questions included: where does the energy that is produced go; how far from a residence can the panels be placed; how noisy are the panels as they move; are there any concerns about hunters; what are the sizes of the actual panels and the project overall; how long is the contract on this project; does radiation come off the panels; how does this project benefit the Township; what happens on cloudy days; do these panels produce heat; why didn't we hear about this project sooner; what kind of trees are being planted; how high is the fence around the project; what are the set-backs; what kind of glare comes off the panels; how does this project benefit Branch County?

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Schorfhaar, secretary.