



Watertown Township

*2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, Michigan
48471*

Watertown Township Planning Commission

Approved Minutes: Thursday August 8th, 2024 - 6:00 P.M. Meeting

CALL TO ORDER WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE @ 6:02 PM by Chairman Jim Hacker

PRESENT: Becky Cambridge, Mark Batkie, Jim Hacker, Jim Franzel, and Jason Radloff

ABSENT: Nathan Campbell and Al Stoutenburg

GUESTS: Scott Kenny, Mike & Christine Papp, Jim & Holli Boyles, Mike & Karen Smith, Bill Parrish, Dick Henderson, Diane & Frank Ferguson, and others.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST BOARD MEETING:

Motion to accept the minutes as presented by: Jim Franzel, Support By: Becky Cambridge, motion passed unanimously

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

Motion to accept the agenda as presented by: Jason Radloff, Support By: Mark Batkie, motion passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PUBLIC OFFICIALS: none

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mike Smith a local resident prays to God to give the PC the wisdom to do the right thing, talked about the gov't's net zero by 2050 policy, talked about Jason Hayes and how the energy policy is going to cost billions of dollars and will create brown outs. He talked about how the gov't is using fear and manipulation to push their renewable energy agenda. He quoted Ty Bollinger how there's a few elements that play a critical role in renewable energy and moving billions of dollars into the deep state by controlling our food supply.
2. Diane Ferguson passed out the Michigan Constitution and asked the board if they have ever read it and continues preaching its contents. She stated that she is speaking as a grievance of the people so there is no time limit for her speaking. She stated that the clean air publication that came out is good. She referred to a contract that she thought was signed in 2022 that would allow solar. Stated that 87% of the residents do not want solar in the community. Asks the board to uphold the oath, then banter on how the PC sits in a void seat.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Opened @ 6:15PM

Discussion of amending the solar ordinance review by Foster & Swift. There's only a couple changes to be made and one is to clarify some definitions and the other is removing the medium category and only having small energy systems and large energy systems as categories for a development. This has been an ongoing review for the past year with Foster & Swift.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS:

1. Diane Ferguson brought a copy of the solar existing ordinance up for clarification of the date of adoption. Claims that the solar ordinance was not written with full disclosure because of the covid restrictions not being lifted. She does not support solar and is worried it will affect her property.
2. Karen Smith quotes the solar ordinance about protecting her property values and states she has legal proof that her property is going to be affected by the solar development.
3. Dick Henderson has sat at the PC table for years and tells the board that we have done what we need to do for what is right for the township and talks about what will happen if the board does not approve the Watertown Solar Application. They will take the application to the state after Act 233 comes into effect and the township will have solar closer to homes. He talked about tweaking the ordinance after this application is approved.
4. Mike Smith thanks the board for all the hard work we have done and asks if Watertown Solar can add to the development after it starts to get constructed without approval from the board first. He was also worried about eminent domain and the state taking property for renewable energy.
5. Frank Ferguson asks the board to read the Michigan Constitution and the division of government.

Motion By: Jason Radloff to recommend the Twp. Board adopt the amended solar draft, Support By: Jim Franzel, motion passed unanimously

Discussion of the next steps and Jason will send the draft to the County Planning Commission to be reviewed by them at their next scheduled meeting.

ADJOURN: *Motion By: Jason Radloff @ 6:57 PM Support By: Becky Cambridge, motion passed unanimously*

Next Planning Board Meeting Thursday, August 22nd, 2024 at 6:00 pm.