

Monday, March 2, 2020
Riga Township Hall
7817 Riga Hwy, Riga, MI 49276

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Supervisor Gary Kastel called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The pledge was recited. Reg Karg then called to order a meeting of the Riga Township Planning Commissioners.

Members Present: Supervisor Gary Kastel, Clerk Natalie Thompson, Trustee Brenda Delgado, and Treasurer Katy Gust, ~~Trustee Brenda Delgado~~. **Absent:** None

Others Present: Riga Township Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator Todd Roach, Township Attorney Mike Homier, approximately 55 members of the community, representatives of ESA Solar

The Riga Board yielded the floor to the Riga Township Planning Commission to run their regular monthly meeting that included presenters on the topic of large scale solar development.

Presentation: Sarah Mills, Ph.D. from the University of Michigan offered her presentation on the pros and cons of solar development and then offered feedback on the current Riga Township Solar Ordinance. Her presentation focused on the benefit of planning ahead, asking questions, and her opinions on the biggest risk of solar because of unknowns – topics that have not yet been researched. She commended Riga Township for already having an ordinance. She recommended strengthening and clarifying the terms of bonds and maintenance in the existing ordinance.

Public Comment: Dr. Mills was asked about tax implications, bond specifics-to which she deferred to more qualified individuals, and water quality impact

Presentation: Lindsay Latre, CEO of ESA-Solar presented information specific to the proposed Carroll Road Solar Array. She and her colleague, Javier Latre, shared information regarding sound, real estate values, glare, and solar panel construction

Public Comment: Ms. Latre was asked about the time length and noise of construction, noise volume of panels vs. inverter. She was also asked more specific questions about home values when surrounded by solar panels and cadmium style solar panels—the proposed panels do not use cadmium.

Executive Session:

- Thompson moved with support from Gust to adjourn to closed session to discuss a written confidential legal opinion with the Township's attorney pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open

Meetings Act at 9:08 p.m. Roll call vote: Delgado-yes, Gust-yes, Kastel-yes, Thompson-yes, Goetz-absent, voting as a planning commissioner. Motion carried.

- Gust moved with support from Delgado to reconvene the special meeting of the Riga Township Board at 10:13 p.m. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Dave Pixley, Planning Commission Chairman from Palmyra Township thanked the boards for having a presentation of information. He thinks that all the local units should have similar zoning for large scale solar because several projects are being considered in southeast Lenawee county. Henry Smith complained about semi-tractors j-braking in the residential area of Silberhorn Highway between ~~222~~ **US 223** and Cemetery Rd. He asked about the process to try and stop it.

Adjournment: Gust moved with support from Delgado to adjourn the meeting at 10:31 p.m. Motion carried.

Natalie Thompson, Clerk

Gary Kastel, Supervisor