

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

August 3, 2021

Public Hearing for Solar Energy Facilities

These minutes are not approved until our next meeting.

Chairman Little called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Karen Flahie, Susan Ochs and Matt Little. Absent were Dan Schaible and Mike Bossory  
Planner Rodney Nanney and Township Supervisor Larry Lindemann were present.

Little made a motion to open the public hearing for proposed amendments to articles 6.0 (General Provisions), 10.0 (supplementary Development Provisions), and 19.0 (Definitions) of the Freedom Township Zoning Ordinance No. 43 for the purpose of inserting new and updated provisions for solar energy facilities and devices by authority of Public Act 110 of 2006 as amended. Motion was seconded by Ochs. Motion passed.

Rodney gave a brief overview and stated the biggest change was the commercial solar.

Alex McKay said they had some reservations, but the Planning Commission has covered all their concerns and they feel good about it now.

Lon Nordeen asked what a typical minimum size unit was. The answer was occupying 50 to 60 acres. He asked what the Township gets out of this. The answer is tax revenue. What about safety issues, for example if the unit is struck by lightning. We should have input from the provider in regard to the impact on the township due to safety issues. Lon said he thinks it's a good idea but still had some concerns.

Larry Lindemann asked what is the guarantee from the solar company if they leave that the land would return to farm use? This is answered in the Ordinance #43 under FB5. Facility development would be avoided where environmental or other conditions would likely create state or federal regulatory conflicts that would preclude a return of the land to farming following the removal of the facility.

No further action was taken on this as Little wants to hear opinions of Bossory and Schaible.

Little closed the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Ann Huehl, recording secretary