

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes

March 1, 2022

These minutes are not approved until our next meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Matt Little called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Matt Little, Dan Schaible, Karen Flahie and Susan Ochs. Mike Bossory was absent. Planner Rodney Nanney and Supervisor Larry Lindemann were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Schaible with support from Ochs to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

Little made a motion with support from Ochs to dispense with the reading of the February meeting minutes and approve them as presented. The motion passed.

Reports: Little gave an update on Consumers. There is nothing new in the Legislation. ZBA did not meet. From the Township new emails will be given to certain heads instead of having to use their personal emails. There is a budget hearing on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. Lindemann said he would like to get a digital sign for the Township Hall, they will check into this.

Audience participation: None

Old Business:

- 1) Alternate Energy Zoning amendment discussion. Planner Rodney suggested making a recommendation and give reasons for the decision so that it could be in the record. After questioning each member a decision was made. Flahie with support from Ochs made a motion to recommend to the Township Board to take no action now on the commercial solar energy ordinance for the following reasons:
 - 1) It doesn't go along with the Master Plan.
 - 2) Concern about the scope of potential damage to underground agricultural tile drainage from both transmission infrastructure and solar energy array installations.
 - 3) Solar technology is rapidly changing. There is value in tabling now in favor of addressing this issue in the future.
 - 4) It would adversely affect the rural visual character of Freedom Township.
 - 5) Perhaps technology improvements in the future would improve compatibility with farming while reducing visual impacts.

A roll call vote was taken. Flahie-yes, Schaible-yes, Little-yes and Ochs-yes. The motion passed.

- 2) Jessica Roberts letter. The items in her letter were reviewed and some items are budget items and a lot are governed by the State and Eagle.
- 3) Conditional use permits were gone over and some need to have further attention.

New Business: Nothing

Communications: MTA

Audience participation: none

Chairman Little adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Ann Huehl, recording secretary