

MINUTES OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD ON MARCH 4, 2019, STARTING AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
112 W. MADISON ST. PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

Roll call was taken.

Those present were: Rudy Piskule, Eddie Hoerner, Verne Taylor, Keith Bahler, Dean Wahls, Dee Woodburn, Shane Long, Scott Cranford and John Slagel.

Those absent were: Jerry Gaspardo, Mike Haberkorn and Scott Sand.

With the absence of the chairman and the vice-chairman, Rudy Piskule moved, seconded by Dee Woodburn, for John Slagel to be acting chairman. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda to this meeting was mentioned. With no recommendations for additions or amendments to the agenda for this March 4, 2019 meeting, Verne Taylor moved, seconded by Rudy Piskule that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting were noted. It was explained that Eddie Hoerner's was not listed as being present in these minutes, and that this oversight would be corrected. Then Dee Woodburn moved, seconded by Scott Long, that these minutes be approved as amended. This motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

BUSINESS:

The planning commission members then reviewed once more a consideration for limiting the land area for solar farms, regarding solar energy and agricultural land importance. The zoning administrator provided the planning commission members with a partial copy of the Livingston County Comprehensive Plan with draft language for discussion regarding this consideration.

A need for limitation was discussed again, in that some limitations exist in that solar farms are limited by current state regulations. Once again mention was made about being fair to allow any land owner to have the potential to have a solar farm on their property without restricting them and without limiting to so many per township. Remarks were made that solar farms just temporarily take farm ground out of production.

The draft language as amended from the last planning commission meeting was referred to the planning commission members. Once again it was noted that this would be in the comprehensive plan and could be used as a guideline in the planning commission making recommendations to the zoning board of appeals and county board. This draft language can be further amended in the future, if the circumstances justify a further amendment. In discussing the draft amendment language remarks were made as to a potential need to clarify if the acres mentioned would not include non-develop or leased acreage. As it is known that some solar farm leased acreage has not been reviewed and approved by the county as a special use.

As it continues to be the consensus of the planning commission to have the new language reflect development and not the leasing of acreage. After discussion a consensus was made by the planning members present to add a sentence after the word township to read; This solar energy development under consideration does not include acres that are non-developed leased or contracted for solar energy development. Rudy Piskule then moved, seconded by Verne Taylor, that the Livingston County Regional Planning Commission recommends an amendment to the Livingston County Comprehensive Plan, as proposed in this Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Solar Energy.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rudy Piskule commented about a proposed private detention center to be potentially located in an area being incorporated into Dwight, of which the Village of Dwight would have the jurisdictional authority of the property. The pros and cons of this proposal were the discussed by the planning commission members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE:

The planning commission members present were informed that their next meeting is scheduled for Monday the April 1<sup>st</sup>. at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Verne Taylor moved, seconded by Scott Cranford, that the meeting be adjourned. This motion was unanimously approved.

This meeting was then adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles T. Schopp, Secretary  
Livingston County Regional  
Planning Commission