

MINUTES OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023, STARTING AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE  
112 W. MADISON ST. PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Those present were: Jerry Gaspardo, Ed Hoerner, Joel Barickman, Michael Haberkorn, Rudy Piskule, Dee Woodburn, Verne Taylor, and Shane Long

Those absent were: Dean Wahls, Keith Bahler, and Scott Sand

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda to this meeting was mentioned by Haberkorn. Dee Woodburn moved, seconded by Joel Barickman that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented for this February 6th, 2023 meeting. This motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the January 9th, 2023 meeting were then mentioned by Haberkorn. Rudy Piskule moved, seconded by Shane Long that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion carried with a voice vote of all ayes.

BUSINESS:

**Case ZT-2-22 – Livingston County Board**

This zoning case pertained to the review of a proposed zoning text amendment to extend the temporary moratorium on new solar farm application that is currently in place. The assistant zoning administrator explained that with the new law, our current moratorium was no longer valid and that the extension of it would also be invalid.

There was then a question as to whether or not new applications could be accepted. The assistant zoning administrator stated that new applications could be accepted now that the new state law is in place.

A question about whether or not the county is required to approve new solar farm applications. The zoning administrator explained that the law states that if the application meets the new state law, the county shall approve it.

There was then a question about whether or not the solar farms had to abide by our current ordinance. The assistant zoning administrator explained that the applications would have to abide by the new state law.

Joel Barickman then suggested that the planning commission take no action on this business item. With there being no opposition to the suggestion, no action was taken.

### **Case ZT-1-23 – Livingston County Board**

This zoning case pertained to the review of a proposed zoning text amendment for the county to adopt a new solar farm ordinance.

The assistant zoning administrator noted that the language would need to be revised to meet the state law requirements and therefore could not be passed as currently structured.

Joel Barickman voiced his frustration over the new law and noted the hard work that went into developing a new solar farm ordinance that is now invalid due to the new law.

There was a question by a planning commission member as to why the county needs to have hearings if they are required to approve them. The assistant zoning administrator explained that the state law requires that the county still have hearings on wind and solar.

There was then a question about whether or not the new law changes the taxing on wind and solar projects. The assistant zoning administrator responded by saying that he did not believe it did, but that it would be a better question for the supervisor of assessments.

The planning commission elected not to take action on this item either.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

The assistant zoning administrator then informed planning commission members of the zoning administrator's recent retirement and stated that he has accepted the administrator position.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Shane Long moved, seconded by Joel Barickman, that the meeting be adjourned. This motion carried by a voice vote of all ayes.

This meeting was then adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse J. King, Assistant Administrator  
Livingston County Regional  
Planning Commission