

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7, 2023 MEETING

Committee Chair Gerald Earing called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Paul Ritter, Gerald Earing, Michael Haag, Jack Vietti, Steve Lovell, and Rebekah Fehr

Absent: Joel Barickman

Board Members Present: James Carley, Bob Weller, Seth Welch, Marty Fannin, and Mark Runyon

Also Present: Zoning & Planning Administrator Jesse King, Assistant Administrator Patricia Merlino, Executive Director Alina Hartley, Attorney Seth Uphoff, Felicia Bellows, Julie Fosdick, Julie Russow and Judy Campbell

Earing called for any additions or corrections to the agenda with none requested. Motion by Ritter, second by Haag to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting. Motion by Ritter, second by Haag to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Business:

Case SU-13-22 – CPV Prairie Dock Solar

This zoning case pertained to the review of a proposed special use to allow for the development of a 300 MW solar farm (approximately 2,000 acres) in an AG, Agricultural, District located near Cayuga.

King gave an overview of the case to board members.

Uphoff then gave a presentation of the project to the committee members covering information about their company as well as the site plan, screening, site equipment and design, drainage tile, tax revenue, and location of the project.

A committee member asked a question about the height of the vegetative buffer on the project and Uphoff explained that the the saplings pictured in the presentation may take 8-10 years to reach that height and also explained that larger saplings do not transplant very well. A question was then asked about what would happen if a drain tile was damaged and Uphoff explained that it would be replaced with the same size as the one that got damaged.

Concern was also expressed about the constraints on the power grid and who is keeping track of all of the projects connecting to it. Bellis explained Miso and PJM are keeping track of them and that not all of the projects will get awarded interconnection agreements because in order to do so it would require major upgrades to the system and it would be very costly.

Motion by Earing, second by Lovell to recommend approval with the committee's recommendations for Case SU-13-22 to the County Board. **Motion carried with 5 ayes, 1 nay, and 1 absent on roll call vote.**
Ayes: Earing, Vietti, Haag, Lovell, and Ritter, Nays: Fehr, Absent: Barickman

Solid Waste Update

King reported that the landfill has submitted an application to expand their operations outside of the 730 acres previously approved in their siting application and it includes soil stockpiling and borrowing. He explained that in one of their previous conditions it states that no off-site stockpile areas or borrow areas shall be used other than what is located upon the proposed 730-acre boundary. Lawyers for Republic are working with Andy Keyt to come up with a solution. A committee member asked King if the board would be notified when there was a solution and King said that they would it would have to go through a public hearing.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee

King told the Committee that they should start to consider a date for the next e-recycle event since there is public interest in another event. The committee said that they would like to discuss it at their next meeting. Ritter then asked King when the event is usually held in the fall and he said the first part of November and Ritter expressed that they should be thinking about dates around the end of October or the beginning of November.

Public comment

The floor was opened for public comment.

Review and Approval of Bills

Motion by Ritter, second by Vietti to approve the bills as submitted. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Adjournment:

Motion by Haag, second by Lovell to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Patricia Merlino, Assistant Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission