

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 MEETING

Committee Chair Gerald Earing called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Gerald Earing, Joel Barickman, Michael Haag, Jack Vietti, Steven Lovell, and Rebekah Fehr

Absent: Paul Ritter

Board Members Present: James Carley, Bob Weller, Marty Fannin, Gina Manker and Linda Ambrose

Also Present: Zoning & Planning Interim Director Jordan Uselding, Assistant Administrator Patricia Merlino, Executive Director Alina Hartley, Jesse King, Keith Morel and Michael Keith (

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

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the August 7, 2023 meeting. Motion by Haag, second by Barickman to approve the minutes as submitted. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Business:

Case SF-1-23 – Steffen Farms Subdivision

This zoning case pertained to the review of a request for a proposed 2-lot subdivision of a property located near Cropsey.

King gave an overview of the case to committee members. King stated the property owner sold his business that is located on the property and the buyer does not want the homestead that is on the parcel, so he is requesting a 2-lot subdivision so he can sell the business from the homestead. King mentioned this property will be split directly down the middle.

There was discussion about whether or not each parcel would have its own well and King stated he believes they were looking into having another well drilled.

Motion by Haag, second by Barickman to recommend approval of Case SF-1-23 Steffen Farms Subdivision to the County Board. **Motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 absent on roll call vote. Ayes:** Earing, Vietti, Haag, Lovell, Fehr and Barickman **Nays:** None **Absent:** Ritter

Case SU-7-23 – Beckham Solar, LLC

This zoning case pertained to the review of a special use request to develop a 5 MW solar farm on approximately 66.7 acres of land in an AG, Agricultural, District located in unincorporated Odell.

King gave an overview of the case to committee members.

Morel gave a presentation of the project 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.

Discussion took place regarding the battery energy storage aspect of the project. Committee members were concerned about the County's lack in the ordinance addressing it and possible safety issues. There was also concerns about the screening of the project and making sure the height requirements of the buffering is met.

It was the consensus of the committee to table this project to consult with the County's attorney as to whether or not the project can be moved forward without battery energy storage.

Motion by Haag, second by Earing to recommend approval of Case SU-7-23 Beckham Solar, LLC to the County Board.

Motion by Haag, second by Earing to withdraw the previous motion recommending Case SU-7-23 Beckham Solar, LLC to the County Board. **Motion carried with all ayes.**

Review of Comprehensive Decommissioning Plans of Previously Approved Solar Farms

King gave an overview of the Decommissioning Plans for Miacomet Solar, LLC and Vermillion Solar 1 explaining the new decommissioning figures to the committee members for both.

Motion by Earing, second by Haag to recommend approval of both Miacomet Solar and Vermillion Solar 1 Decommissioning Plans to the County Board. **Motion carried with 5 ayes, 1 nay and 1 absent on roll call vote. Ayes:** Earing, Vietti, Haag, Lovell and Barickman **Nays:** Fehr **Absent:** Ritter

Solid Waste Update

Uselding informed the committee that Gary Deigan had nothing significant to report from the previous month. King mentioned that an in-person meeting between the County and the Landfill should be scheduled soon.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee

Discussion took place regarding having another electronic recycling event in November. The committee agreed on November 4, 2023 and asked that Uselding set that up.

Public comment

The floor was opened for public comment.

Review and Approval of Bills

Motion by Vietti, second by Lovell to approve the bills as submitted. **Motion carried on voice vote.**

Adjournment:

Motion by Lovell, second by Barickman to recess the meeting. **Motion carried on voice vote.**

The meeting was recessed at 6:54 p.m.

Jordan Uselding, Interim Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission