

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
AND PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023, 7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order @ 7:00pm by Chairperson Doug Bracy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Tom Waltke, Chris Parker, Janis Olney, Michelle Reed, Jr Cole, Chairperson Doug Bracy and Eileen VanVleet, all members present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoning Administrator Matt Ashenfelter, Township Supervisor Gary Smith, Jeff Haines from DTE, John and Pat VanDyke, Gary and Linda Hammontree, Velma Cole, Luke and Daniel Lindsey, Mark and Melanie Rossman, Jeremy Brenner & Dave Quick.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from May 15, 2023, J. Olney/T. Waltke. All in favor, motion passes.

REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

5 (Five) Zoning permits issued in June 2023. J. Graber, 48X80 ag barn on concrete slab & 30X60 chicken coop. \$50.00. B. Brenner, 20X32 elevated deck w/ 24' pool cut-out, \$25.00. M. DeLagrange, 28X60 pole barn (replacement of fire damaged barn) w/14X40 lean-to. \$50.00. C. Worden, Demo existing dwelling-outbuildings to remain, fee exempt. 1 (one) Zoning permit issued in July. A. Graber, 44X100 stick build calf barn on 4ft concrete wall foundation w/ dirt floor. \$50.00.

Matt Ashenfelter passed out an updated copy to the planning Commission Members of the ordinance to regulate solar energy facilities as there was two corrections, "lot" changed to parcel and blue spruce trees taken from the list of approves species of trees.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Motion to open public hearing, E. VanVleet/C. Parker, all in favor, motion passes.

1. **Ordinance to regulate Solar Energy Facilities.**
2. **Summary by the Zoning Administrator.**

Matt gave an overview of what the ordinance was about and it was suggested that the ordinance be read for the public in attendance to know what the ordinance was about. Several members of the planning commission read the ordinance.

3. **Questions from the Planning Commission.** None at this time.
4. **Questions from the Public** Melanie Rossman was questioning the difference in setbacks. Matt explained that the setbacks listed on the first page under section B, The following shall apply to all Solar Energy Systems, regardless of the maximum kWh capacity, were for residential and had smaller setbacks than what was listed for Commercial projects, on page 2, # 2 Setbacks.
5. Jr. Cole explained that we cannot stop commercial Solar energy facilities from coming into our township, but we can regulate the acres used, and also protect the property owners.
6. **Commission discusses the request.**
7. **Motion to approve/deny. Roll call vote to approve,** Tom Waltke, **YES,** Chris Parker, **YES,** Janis Olney, **YES,** Michelle Reed, **YES,** Jr Cole, **YES** Eileen VanVleet, **YES,** Doug Bracy, **YES,**

All I favor to approve the Ordinance to Regulate Solar Energy Facilities. Motion passes.

This ordinance will be given to the Township Board to be adopted and placed in our Ordinances.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING.J. Olney/T. Waltke, all in favor, motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

THE NEXT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 11, 2023 AT 7:00pm.

Gary Smith complimented the Planning Commission members & Matt Ashenfelter on the all hours and hard work they did to complete this project.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eileen R. VanVleet