

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Augusta Charter Township SPECIAL Planning Commission Meeting

Township Hall
Wednesday December 5, 2018
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chie at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in the room arose, faced the flag, and stated the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

In Attendance: Bennett, Chie, Green, Howard, Newsome, Selter, Yurk. Planner Kreps was in attendance. There were 2 reps from NextEra Energy, Mark Trumbauer and Mike Lienhard. There were 2 reps from Atwell Hicks, Bourke Thomas and Tim Jones. There was 1 audience member in attendance.

4. Business Items

- a. SP-18-02, Sugar Creek Solar, NextEra Energy, Preliminary Site Plan Review and Consideration.

Planner Kreps reminded that we have done prior work to allow for solar farm, including pre-application review, special land use review, and preliminary site plan review. She sent 4 items last night: cover letter, suggested zoning plan, site plan with proposed screening locations, and correspondence from water resources council.

Comm. Chie asked if NextEra has been in contact with concerned neighbor. Mr. Trumbauer responded that Gabe Halloran had stayed in contact. They had requested additional screening which is shown on plan. NextEra will continue to work with them.

Yurk questioned the building shown on the plan. Mr. Trumbauer responded that no one will staff this, and that it will be a Conex type unit to store parts for maintenance. There will be no temporary or permanent toilet facilities.

Comm. Selter asked clarity about capacity. Mr. Trumbauer responded it will power about 11-15K homes. Comm. Chie asked if there are other arrays like this one. Mr. Trumbauer said the company primarily started focused on wind energy and now do a lot of solar as well.

Comm. Green asked about removal if the project goes defunct. Mr. Trumbauer noted that final plan will show removal according to requirements. Property can be reverted to prior state very easily.

Comm. Newsome asked about tax break for residents on energy bills in future. Mr. Trumbauer responded that NextEra is a commercial energy seller. Pricing is dependent on DTE or

Consumers Energy to determine, but hopefully will go down with more renewables being developed.

Resident DaleLynn Mallonen (7685 Judd Rd.) wants opportunities that will benefit township. Mr. Trumbauer indicated that taxable base (assessments of improvements) will all come to Augusta Twp. Comm. Howard explained that entire project is in Augusta Township. Ms. Mallonen asked if NextEra is getting any benefits from State for this project. Mr. Trumbauer was not aware of any. Ms. Mallonen was concerned about which school district will benefit, Lincoln or Milan, and it was confirmed that Lincoln would benefit receive benefit.

Motion by Bennett, second by Howard to accept prelim site plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Included above.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Bennett, support by Newsome for adjournment. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned 6:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Selter.