

HIGGINS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

DECEMBER 20, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: THE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN JIM SMITH AT 11:00AM

FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

ROLL CALL:

JIM SMITH, CHAIRMAN, LAURIE GRANLUND, JULIE PETERS, TOM JENNETTE, EX OFFICIO.

DISCUSSION:

WADE TRIM MEMBER ART MULLINS REVIEWED THE LATEST REVISIONS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE THAT INCLUDED CHANGES TO THE SETBACKS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP DISTRICTS FOR SOLAR UNITS. BECAUSE THE TOWNSHIP CANNOT STOP THE STATE FROM PROVIDING THEIR LAND WITHIN HIGGINS TOWNSHIP FOR SOLAR ENERGY USAGE, IT WAS FELT THAT SETBACK ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE WERE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE NATURAL VISIBILITY WITHIN HIGGINS TOWNSHIP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE WAS OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS TOWARD THE ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGES. THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMENTS WERE DIRECTED TOWARD THE REMOVAL OF THE NEW CHANGES TO SOLAR SETBACK RULES AND WANTED NO SOLAR UNITS IN THE TOWNSHIP.

**APPROXIMATELY 15 INDIVIDUALS HAD QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS.

ERIC WARD: WOULD LIKE TO REJECT ANY SOLAR POWER IN THE TOWNSHIP.

FRED GERMAN: IF NO ONE WANTS THEM, WHY DON'T WE STOP DECIDING WHERE TO PUT THEM.

MIKE BAILEY: WHY CAN'T WE DO A U-TURN AND NOT ALLOW THEM?

ANTHONY GNESOTTO: WHERE ARE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MEETINGS POSTED?

TERI MCGEE: DID THE PLANNING COMMISSION REQUIRE INSURANCE TO CLEAN PROPERTY?

*** Amended to add the specific comments made, amended on January 23, 2025 by Tom Jennette with the approval of Jim Smith.*

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 8, 2025 AT 1:30PM

ADJOURN:

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY L. GRANLUND, 2ND BY J. PETERS, ALL APPROVED

MINUTES WRITTEN BY TOM JENNETTE