

**PLANNING COMMISSION
ERIE TOWNSHIP
ERIE, MICHIGAN
Regular Meeting & Public Hearing
January 18, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Jacobs called to order the Regular Meeting of the Erie Township Planning Commission on January 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Township office, Erie Road, Erie, Michigan.

2. ROLL CALL

Bill Jacobs	Present
Dave Cousino	Absent-Excused
Dr. Larry Guinn	Present
Dan Taylor	Present
Paul Perry	Present
Robert Schwartz	Present
Manny Evola	Present

Also present: Mike Demski and Recording Secretary, Kristine Crammond.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Paul Perry made a motion to approve the Agenda. Dr. Larry Guinn seconded. Motion carried.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Paul Perry made a motion to keep the Planning Commission officers the same as last year. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Jacobs	Chairperson
Dan Taylor	Vice-Chairperson
Paul Perry	Secretary
Kristine Crammond	Recording Secretary

6. Committee Appointments – (Ordinance Updates Committee)

Robert Schwartz, Paul Perry and Bill Jacobs represent the committee. Bill Jacobs stated there have not been any meetings due to Open Meeting Act.

- Paul Perry made a motion to keep the Ordinance Update Committee members the same. Dr. Larry Guinn seconded. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Robert Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2021 Planning Commission meeting. Dan Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Budget Report

Bill Jacobs stated the Budget is good. The Planning Commission has not had many scheduled meetings.

- Paul Perry made a motion to approve the budget ending 12/31/21 as presented and place on file. Manny Evola seconded. Motion carried.

B. Public Comments

1. Rafael Pobee-Mensah, Age 4 – 2147 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan.

Rafael stated he does not want a solar field near his home.

2. Charlie Pobee-Mensah, Age 9-2147 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan.

Charlie gave reasons why he does not want solar farms. If a farm consists of 100 acres, only 10% should be allowed for solar.

3. Ricki Roelant-11625 Geiger Road. Temperance, Michigan

Ricki stated she has a petition with over two hundred signatures from Erie Township residents specifying Solar fields need to be placed on Industrial ground only. She stated there is a Solar Zoning Information Session on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at the Ida Community Room, 3016 Lewis Ave. Ida, MI 48140.

4. Theresa Pobee-Mensah-2147 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan

Theresa asked that the Planning Commission stay conservative and air on the side of caution in regards to solar. She said the following: Say no to solar in Agricultural. Follow the Master Plan. If agricultural land is 100 acres, allow no more that 10% for solar. Have set backs on solar fields at 1000 ft. Property value guarantees. Ask a lot of questions.

5. Dan Rigato-5034 N. Custer, Rainsville Township. Michigan

The Federal Government does not have an energy plan. There are alternatives to solar and wind. Put solar fields in industrial or brownfields where they will not disrupt the rural nature of our county. The population is growing, where will we grow food to feed our people? He is concerned about ground water contamination.

6. Jeff Benore-2811 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan

Jeff stated he has been educating himself regarding solar. He encourages residents of Erie Township to attend the seminar on February 9, 2022 in Ida. It will be a good educational information seminar about the rights of the Township and Land owners.

7. Diane La Plante-1324 Sterns Road. Erie Michigan

The solar company has replaced the dead landscaping plants with new plants. When are they planning to dispose of the dead plants they placed on the ground?

8. Brenda Vadercook-2812 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan

Brenda asked that solar be allowed only in Industrial. Farmers feed our growing population.

9. Denise Benore-1417 Dean Road. Erie, Michigan

She asked that the current Master Plan be followed. Preserve Agricultural land. Keep in mind future generations. Put solar in Industrial.

10. Mike Canupp-11234 Victory Road. Erie, Michigan

He wanted to remind everyone to carry out the tradition of Erie. Don't sell out, don't give in to solar. We are the Gateway to Michigan. Don't follow the money. Do what is right.

- Paul Perry made a motion to close the Planning Commission Regular Meeting. Manny Evola seconded. Regular meeting closed at 7:21 pm.
- Paul Perry made a motion to open the Public Hearing – Special Use
Dan Taylor seconded. Public Hearing opened at 7:21 pm.

9. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Pond Request-Brian Heaton- 6240 Suder Ave. ID 58-05-105-013-00

Brian Heaton stated his wish is to build a pond on his property. Bill Jacobs stated Brian Heaton's property does not have a home currently on it. Bill stated Brian Heaton should pull a permit to build a house prior to digging the pond. Brian Heaton stated he had no problem showing Mike Demski the plans for his home. He expected construction of the home to begin in March. His excavator wanted to begin digging the pond in February or March. They will be using the soil on site.

- Paul Perry made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Dan Taylor seconded. The Public Hearing Closed at 7:35 pm.
- Paul Perry made a motion to open the Planning Commission Regular meeting. Dan Taylor seconded. The Regular meeting opened at 7:36 pm.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Temperance Solar

Mike Demski stated he will take a look at the dead plants that were not hauled away. Dr. Larry Guinn stated any dead trees need to be removed and the old ones on the ground need to be disposed of.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pond Request – Brian Heaton- 6240 Suder Ave. ID-58-05-105-013-00

- Dan Taylor made a motion to approve Brian Heaton's pond request. Brian is to put up \$1,500 bond money that is not to be returned until the house is substantially under construction. That includes the foundation and footers. Paul Perry seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Discussion of Sun 101 Informational Presentation on January 13, 2022
The presentation was cancelled. Speaker did not show up.
- C. Master Plan-last adopted November 13, 2018
Mike Demski stated the Master Plan needs to be reviewed every 5 years. The Planning Commission has some time yet. He asked the commissioners to review the current Master Plan. Paul Perry stated he would bring the Master Plan for consideration by the Township Board.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Theresa Pobee-Mensah, – 2147 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan.
Theresa suggested the solar company putting up bond money to hold for maintenance fees. Bill Jacobs stated if maintenance is not done, an outside business will clean it up and the cost will be charged to their tax bill.
2. Mike Demski stated the Sun 101 meeting has been changed to Thursday, February 10, 2022. Time 7:00 pm – VFW Post 3925, 1944 Erie Road, Erie, Michigan.
The Farmland Preservation Program (PA 116) meeting is scheduled Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 10:30 am. Raisinville Township Hall, 96 Ida Maybee Road, Monroe, Michigan.
Anyone interested in attending is to let Mike Demski know for registration.
3. Brenda Vandercook-2812 E. Erie Road, Erie, Michigan.
Brenda commented there is a 6-month moratorium on Solar. She asked if the Planning Commission has been researching solar. Bill Jacobs stated the Township Board has not instructed the Planning Commission to do so. He was not aware. Paul Perry questioned whether sub-committees were allowed. He said he would look into.
4. Jeff Benore-2811 E. Erie Road. Erie, Michigan
Jeff stated that we should be proud of Erie Township. We should be proud of our facility and our Township Board and Committees. Not all townships are current on their Master Plans.
5. Diane La Plante -1324 Sterns Road. Erie Michigan
Diane stated she appreciates how the Planning Commission conducts the meetings. She stated the Agendas are always clear and the meetings have a great flow.

13. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

Dr. Larry Guinn thanked all Planning Commissioners for attending the VFW even though the meeting was cancelled.

14. MEETING DATES

Township Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 8, 2022	7:00 pm
Park Commission	Thursday, February 10, 2022	7:00 pm
Planning Commission	Tuesday, February 15, 2022	7:00 pm

15. ADJOURNMENT

- Paul Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kristine Crammond
Recording Secretary