

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
ERIE TOWNSHIP  
ERIE, MICHIGAN  
Regular Meeting  
May 17, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Bill Jacobs called to order the Regular Meeting of the Erie Township Planning Commission on May 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Township office, Erie Road, Erie, Michigan.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Bill Jacobs	Present
Dave Cousino	Present
Dr. Larry Guinn	Present
Dan Taylor	Present
Paul Perry	Absent-excused
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**

- Manny Evola made a motion to add discussion on solar under Unfinished Business C. Danny seconded. Motion carried.
- Dave Cousino made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried.
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**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Manny Evola made a motion to approve the April 19, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried.
- Dr. Larry Guinn made a motion to approve the May 3, 2022 Planning Commission Special meeting. Dan Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Public Comment**

1. Gary Wilmoth-Township Supervisor stated the Board did not due diligence on solar. The April 19 Planning Commission meeting discussed all 9 issues. Gary stated Mike Demski had highlighted possible changes in the ordinance. Gary stated the Planning Commission did not address the possible changes to the ordinance. Gary Referred to a memorandum from Philip Goldsmith dated Tuesday, May 10, 2022 stating a Planner is needed.
2. Doc Larry Guinn stated the motion was made at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to keep solar power plants on industrial land only. The motion was seconded and moved on.
3. Dave Cousino stated the Planning Commission discussed the potential changes at the April meeting and ultimately decided to keep solar power plant in Industrial only.

4. Danny Taylor stated the Planning Commission did their due diligence. Now the planner will work with the Planning Commission to draft an ordinance to keep solar in Industrial only.
  5. Bill Jacobs stated he was directed to take a look at ordinance and tweak it. Bill stated the Planning Commission board looked at the ordinance and made the recommendation which was to place the solar plant in Industrial. He stated the Township Board is made up of five members. Bill stated he had not heard from the other four members of the Board. Gary is one vote out of five. Bill stated Gary appears to be representing the opinion of the Township Board and that is not the case.
  6. Manny Evola stated it is a two-step process, decide where it goes Industrial or AG. It was decided Industrial only. Why start over? It is a moot point.
  7. Bill Jacobs stated the Planning Commission should be involved in picking a Planner and not leave it only for the Township Board to decide.
  8. Danny Taylor stated the Planner should be at the Planning Commission meeting. At the Planning Commission's direction, tell the Planner what the Planning Commission expects and have the draft be following the Planning Commission's specification. After the Planning Commissioners agree to the draft, then schedule a Public Hearing. After the Public Hearing, send it to the Township Board.
  9. Charlie Reau – 1633 Dean Road, Erie Michigan  
Charlie Reau stated Phil Goldsmith attended the Township Board meeting on May 10, 2022. Charlie stated Phil Goldsmith stated at that time the Planning Commission had to start over. The Township Board directed the Planning Commission to use a planner. The Planning Commission should follow the direction of the Township's attorney to work with a planner.
  10. Diane La Plante-1324 Sterns Road, Erie, Michigan  
Diane La Plante thanked the Planning Commission for their hard work. She reported on an MTA workshop (webinar) regarding adopting and amending Township ordinances.
  11. Theresa Pobee-Mensah-2147 Erie Road, Erie, Michigan  
Theresa stated Mannik & Smith planner (Lucy) is pro-solar. Be cautious as to which planner is used.
  12. Steve Mishka-2020 Creston, Erie, Michigan  
Everything needs to be looked at. Wind and solar needs to be addressed.
  13. Jeff Benore  
Jeff Benore handed out Planning Commission Process for Amending an Ordinance. Engaging a planner and township attorney is advised. Jeff reported on the progress of different townships in the area.
  14. Brenda Vandercook-2812 E. Erie Road, Erie, Michigan  
Brenda asked of the Planning Commission looks at other township ordinances. When the Erie Township's ordinance first addressed solar it was geared more toward personal property solar, not solar power plants taking up large amounts of acreage.
  15. Kristine Crammond-8352 S. Dixie Highway, Erie, Michigan  
The solar power plant at Dixie Hwy and sterns is looking rough. Landscaping trees are not making it. Mowing is needed.
- B. Budget Report
- Dave Cousino made a motion to accept the budget ending 4/30/22 as presented and place on file. Dan Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

- C. Manny Evola-2000 Manny Drive, Erie, Michigan  
Manny stated he wanted to address some comments that were made at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Erie Township Board meeting. It was stated the Planning Commission did not hold robust discussions or due diligence on solar. Anyone attending the Planning Commission meetings the last few months would view this as a mis-representation. The Planning Commission did what the Board instructed it to do. It was the mistake that the Planning Commission did not make the motion at a Public Hearing. A special committee does not need to review what has already been decided. The voice of the people from the community has been loud and clear. Disagreement should be handled by discussion, not by accusation. He stated that everyone on the Planning Commission deserves a public apology for the accusation.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- B. Board request to review Short Term Rental regulations  
Dave Cousino made a motion to table the discussion regarding Short Term rentals (Air B&Bs) and solar power plants until the Planning Commission meets with a Planner. Dan Taylor seconded. Motion carried.
- C. Solar – Solar discussion is over.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments

**10. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS**

Dr. Larry Guinn asked if the fellow on Suder with all the dirt piles has applied for a building permit. Mike Demski said he has not applied for a building permit.

**11. MEETING DATES**

Park Commission	Regular Meeting	Thursday, June 9, 2022	7pm	mpwd park
Township Board	Budget Meeting	Tuesday, June 7, 2022	7pm	
Township Board	Regular Meeting	Tuesday, June 14, 2022	7pm	
Planning Commission	Regular Meeting	Tuesday, June 21, 2022	7pm	

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

- Dave Cousino made a motion to adjourn. Dan Taylor seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kristine Crammond  
Recording Secretary

