

May 4, 2020 7:30 pm Meeting conducted telephonically via conference call.

102 callers joined the conference call

Atty Burkhart requested Chairperson for permission to give opening statement to all participants to please mute your phone unless you are called upon to speak, to hold all outside noises to a minimum and give respect without interruption to those who have the floor in order to conduct a professional meeting that can be heard by all.

Meeting called to order at 7:32 by Chair person, Jack Penegor

Verbal role call: B. King-present T.Rymkos-present N. Fleury-ABSENT T.Chenier-present C.Barron-present R.Hughes-present D.VanLoon-present

D. VanLoon requested the floor from Chariman Pengor. Permission was granted.

The following statement was made: I would like to address the Planning Commission prior to the approval of the existing agenda. The agenda listed for tonight's meeting should not be approved for the following reasons:

- The Planning Commission was not given opportunity to vote to allow the chairman and Atty Burkhart to work on their own to draft an amendment to ordinance 76-1
- It was motioned and approved at the last meeting of the Planning Commission on March 2, 2020, to set date for a meeting to start discussion on Ad Hoc findings. This is not on the agenda
- The finalization of the Township Board's policy on Conflict of Interest should also be finalized before any votes on any amendments.
- It should be a mute point to discuss item 7 as it has already been posted to website creating confusion
- Since items 9 and 10 are mute due to the conflict of the chairman's and Atty Burkhart's actions, I make a motion to discard items 3 thru 10 from the agenda before any other violations occur.

T. Chenier added concerns that at March 9, 2020 Township Board meeting, Supervisor Brunette announced all meetings would be cancelled for 60 days. That would be thru May 9, 2020. The next meeting should be held as scheduled in June.

D.VanLoon motioned to not approve the agenda as presented. T.Chenier second. Motion carried. **Verbal vote:**

D.VanLoon-**Yes** T.Chenier-**Yes** B.King-**No** C.Barron-**No** T.Rymkos-**Yes** R.Hughes **Obstained**
Pengor-**No** Motion final as TIE without majority support

Chairman rephrased motion to clarify vote: Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

D. VanLoon-**No** T.Chenier-**No** B.King-**Yes** C.Barron-**Yes** T.Rymkos-**No** R.Hughes-**Abstained**

J.Penegor-**Yes** Motion final as TIE without majority support

Current agenda, as presented, line items 3,4,5,6,7,8 will not discussed at tonight's meeting

D.VanLoon made motion to accept line 1 & 2. D.VanLoon withdrew motion.

Public comments:

Pam Leisner – Concerns regarding amount of legal fees and legal representation was not in the best interest of the township

Maradee Luft- Concerns regarding favoritism to only 1 resident and excluding others during AdHoc publication distribution at March 2, 2020 meeting.

Nancy Chenier- Concerned how publication on March 17 stating all meetings were cancelled and then there was a meeting scheduled

Novaline Bovin-presented data on effects on wildlife sufferings in areas with solar panel developments

Barbie Clairmont- presented information involving studies of solar development failures, costs

Terry .Burkhart-urged all participants to read the report published in Ad Hoc findings to answer several of these concerns

Bob Barron- disapproves of agenda format. Would prefer approval of agenda to be after public comments as it has been for the last 10 years

Joelle Roberts- Voiced concerns of water contamination and that large company morals are not the same as the we appreciate in small communities

Frank Chenier- 50 years as a geologist qualifies him as an expert and has strong concerns regarding water contamination. Even if holes are plugged, grout can become compromised. He has performed studies in both Michigan and Wisconsin.

Linda Robitaille- Informed township listeners of revenue concerns, especially during the covid-19 orders closing businesses so that no sales tax is being generated. This effects state monies distributed to townships. Orion Energies had agreed to pay expenses involving the solar project and they have not kept their word. Of the \$76,000.00 the township has paid out, Orion has paid \$17,000.00 which leaves a large burden on the township during these difficult times

Warren Bovin- - Presented report of findings that a lot of data used for industrial solar operations come from much smaller scale facilities than the one that is proposed in Escanaba Township.

Donna LeHouiller- Voiced how we need to protect what we are blessed with in this community. Keeping us safe should be most important. An occurrence of water contamination is very probable since there are issues happening already even though her residence is on the highest point of Flat Rock.

Kim Knauf-Wycoff- concerns regarding bylaws, proper procedures being followed. Over 100

township residents tuned into this evening's meeting that are not in favor of 311 acres of industrial solar being developed in the community. The next minute of the planning commission was scheduled to be to vote on a date of review Ad Hoc report. Other options to the drilling should be considered.

Theresa Chenier- The Planning Commission had voted to go thru ad Hoc book. No two members can work on an issue alone. She would like there to be an organized orientation packet for new board and commission members. The township needs to have copy of bylaws accessible along with the masterplan, township zoning and ordinance guidelines.

No new or old business was discussed.

No Blythe issues discussed

No zoning requests or permits discussed

Motion to adjourn by a member, _____ D.VanLoon seconded motion to adjourn. Verbal vote: B. King Yes c.Barron-Yes T.Chenier-Yes T.Rymkos-Yes D.VanLoom-Yes. Motion to adjourn at 9:13 pm

March 2, 2020 meeting minutes were not brought into discussion. It will be added to next meeting agenda for members approval.

Next scheduled meeting of Escanaba Township Planning Commission June 1, 2020 7:30 pm. Notification will be given as to location pending Gov.Whitmer's Covid-19 restrictions stay in place orders are lifted.