

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Present: Commissioners Timothy E. Bubb, Duane H. Flowers, Rick Black, Clerk/Administrator Beverly Adzic.

Motion to suspend with the reading of the minutes of previous meeting and accept as presented.
 Motion by **BLACK**, seconded by **FLOWERS** Motion carried 3-0.

YEAS: Timothy E. Bubb, Duane H. Flowers, Rick Black
 NAYS: _____

9:00 AM Commissioner Bubb called the Public Hearing to order. Commissioner Bubb introduced Commissioner Flowers, Commissioner Black, Compliance Officer Ken Oswalt, Clerk/Administrator Beverly Adzic, Liberty Township Trustee Bill Siegel and Liberty Township Trustee Bill Bogantz. Commissioner Bubb read ORC 303.61 regarding the timeline for a company who wishes to apply for a solar installation petition in an unincorporated area, and explained the public hearing process that would be required before approval from the State Citing Board.

Liberty Township Trustee Bill Siegel: Said loss of Ag land is a concern as large solar farms are taking thousands of acres. He feels the ORC is not fair to Commissioners as the authority for these types of decisions should be in the hands of the Township Trustees.

Liberty Township Trustee Bill Bogantz: A 36 year resident. Cited the Township Trustees had adopted a resolution requesting the Board of Commissioners adopt an exclusionary zone for large solar. He is not against, or anti solar but is against large solar projects, that damage beautiful rural settings and farmland.

The following individuals spoke for the proposed exclusionary zone.

Melody Bogantz, Sue Meserini, Melody Hood, Carl Culberson, Mark Evans, Barbara Brown, Eileen Derolf, Judy Cafmeyer, Rhonda Noble, Ron Butcher, Kari Thomas, Joe Thomas, Tiffany Kocsis, Kevin Poast, Fred Schwartz.

No one appeared to speak against the proposal.

Commissioners and Liberty Township Trustees thanked those in attendance.

Commissioner Bubb explained the Board of Commissioners would deliberate a decision in public session, date and time to be advertised on agenda.

Commissioner Black made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Flowers second. Motion carried.