

MINUTES
HOPE TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD MEETING
APRIL 3, 2023

The business meeting of the Hope Township Planning Board was held on Monday, April 3, 2023. Chairman Larena called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Brad Bartow, John Koonz, Steve Larena, Mayor Timothy McDonough, Chris Maier, Donna Marie, Robert May, Betsy Peterson, Terry Urfer.

Members absent: Matt Koski

Mr. Larena then led the Board in the pledge to the flag. The Chairman announced that notice of the meeting was given in compliance with the “Open Public Meetings Act – This meeting has been advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.”

Correspondence:

The Chairman briefly noted the various correspondences received by the Planning Board. These correspondences include a memorandum from Roger Thomas, Board attorney, regarding his review of the Highlands Council grant for reviewing warehouses. A brief discussion was held regarding this. Mr. Thomas stated that his review in conjunction with Township attorney Michael Selvaggi, determined that the Township would not be “on the hook” for anything if they accepted this \$5000 grant. A motion was made by Mr. Urfer and seconded by Mr. May to accept the grant, however, several other members had questions regarding this grant and the trustworthiness of the Highlands. Mr. Maier questioned if it was worth the risk for Hope Township to accept this \$5000 grant which is for the study of warehouses only. Mr. Koonz questioned the manner in which payment would be made to the professionals through this grant. Ultimately, this motion was tabled on a motion made by Mr. Koonz and seconded by Mr. Maier, all in favor with no opposition or abstentions being heard. This topic will be discussed at next month’s meeting once more detail is obtained. Additional correspondence noted was received from Warren County Planning Board re: Matarazzo; correspondence from T. Bodolsky re: Matarazzo; and correspondence from Careaga Engineering re: 40 Smith Street (septic repair).

Memorializing Resolutions:

Matarazzo – Application 22-02 – Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan Approvals

Discussion from several Board members took place regarding some changes they wanted to see made to the Resolution. Mrs. Peterson noted that on Page 4, last paragraph, second line from the bottom the word “could” should be corrected to read “would”. Mr. May noted that on Page 6, second line of first paragraph, the word “property” should be added after the word “abutted”. Mr. Maier questioned Condition No. 8 in reference to sound (Page 9, last paragraph) and adding verbiage pertaining to a baseline sound test being performed before the construction of the solar field. Mr. Thomas noted all of these revisions and will reflect those in a revised version of the Resolution. On a motion made

by Mr. Koonz and seconded by Mr. Bartow, a roll call vote was taken to adopt the Resolution as amended: Mr. Bartow – yes; Mr. Koonz – yes; Mayor McDonough – yes; Mr. Maier – abstained; Ms. Marie – yes; Mr. May – no; Mrs. Peterson – yes; Mr. Urfer – yes; Chairman Larena – yes. The Resolution was passed as amended.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the March 6, 2023 meeting were adopted on a motion from Mr. May and seconded by Mr. Koonz, all in favor by a voice vote, with a minor administrative error in wording being pointed out by Mr. May. The secretary will make that change.

New Business:

None.

Other Business:

None

Bills:

Heyer, Gruel & Associates

Re: Matarazzo Solar Farms – \$225.00

Roger Thomas, Esq.

Re: Matarazzo Solar Farms - \$760.29

French & Parrello

Re: Matarazzo Solar Farms - \$461.25

Mr. Maier made the motion to approve the vouchers. Motion seconded by Mr. May. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Unfinished Business:

None.

Public Comment:

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. None was heard and the Chairmen closed the meeting to public comment.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bartow and seconded by Mr. Maier to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. All in favor by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robin L. Keggan
Interim Board Secretary