

BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor, Andrew Gardiner called the September 11, 2023 meeting of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m., Bainbridge Township Hall, 7315 Territorial Road. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
Present: A. Gardiner, N. Weber, J. Yetzke, D. Baiers / **Absent:** P. Hilmer Molter

CONSENT AGENDA & CHECK DETAIL:

- Motion by J. Yetzke / D. Baiers to approve consent agenda, minutes of August 14, 2023, and the minutes of the August 31 Special Meeting and bills/payroll in amount of **\$34,915.46** (attached)
Recorder called roll: A. Gardiner, N. Weber, J. Yetzke, D. Baiers Absent: P. Hilmer Molter **Motion Carried**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened 7:04: p.m. / Closed 7:04 p.m.

TREASURER REPORT:

- Treasurer N. Weber, reviewed Treasurer reports. (attached)
J. Yetzke/ D. Baiers motion to approve **Motion Carried**

REPORTS/SUPERVISOR:

- Assessor, Building, Electrical, Enforcement, Mechanical, Plumbing, Sister Lakes Fire Department, Benton Charter Fire Department, Medic One Ambulance, Berrien County Sheriff's report for August, 2023.

REGULAR MEETING WAS RECESSED AT 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: Opened at 7:16 p.m.

Supervisor, A. Gardiner described Tom's request to the board and the audience, Tom petitioned the board for relief from the Moratorium on Solar Panels. He would like permission to have Harvest Solar install 32 panels on the south side of his barn rooftop to provide enough power for its own operation. He expressed that he began this project before the moratorium was in place and that he has already put a lot of his own money into the project up front and will be reimbursed for 40% of the total investment by a USDA REAP grant upon final inspection.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lloyd Allen of 7565 Hill Rd, Watervliet: Voices support for Tom and expresses that he and his wife would like to install solar panels in the future and wanted to know if he would have to go through a similar process and hearing when the time came.
Larry Burghdoff of 5550 Carmody Rd, Coloma: What is the capacity of your operation? Have you had engineers check the structural integrity of the barn? Are the panels movable or fixed mount? If they are tilted in a way that creates a glare for your neighbors, are you willing to address it? Is the converter inside or outside the barn? Will there be any fencing around the panels? What if the panel installation we approve tonight does not conform with the ordinance that we decide on?
Michelle Allen of 7565 Hill Rd, Watervliet: Voices support for Tom and voices concern for government overreaching in what property owners are allowed to do on their own property. She understands the need for an ordinance but hopes the Planning Commission keeps that in mind when creating the ordinance.

Tom Zabadel of 7785 Hill Rd, Watervliet: Responds that the structure has been inspected and approved by Harvest Solar engineers, and was built by the Moore brothers out of Dowagiac and he is more than confident of its capacity to bear the extra

weight of the panels. He also stated that the panels are fixed, and the converter is mounted on the outside of the barn. He states that should his neighbors experience any discomfort from noise or glare he will address that immediately. He also states that there will be no fencing around the panels as they are roof mounted. Regarding not-conforming, Tom is confident that the regulations followed by Harvest Solar will be satisfactory to the Township, and if there are any discrepancies, he is willing to address them in a timely manner.

PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED AT 7:48 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING CALLED TO SESSION AT 7:49 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Solar Panel Motion: Board Deliberation and Vote:** Motion by A. Gardiner/N. Weber to approve the Solar Panel Installation.
Recorder called roll: A. Gardiner, N. Weber, J. Yetzke, D. Baiers Absent: P. Hiler Molter **Motion Carried**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pipestone Boat Launch Discussion is postponed to a later date when there is representation from the Pipestone Lake Association present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened 7:58p.m. - Closed 7:59 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURN:

Motion by J. Yetzke / N. Weber to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Hiler-Molter

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion of an item is required it will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.