

## St. Albans Township Zoning Public Hearing

January 11, 2024 - Small Solar Farms

Present: Pam, Mike, Dave, Carolyn, Mary. and Rae Ann and Jen, Court reporter

Pam called the public hearing to order at 7PM and led the pledge of Allegiance.

Zoning members introduced themselves

Court reporter swore in those wanting to speak

Pam explained we've already had an open house about solar farms but had to have an official public hearing. Please give your name and address for the court reporter before you speak.

ORC 303.213 small wind and solar farms = <50 mw (125 acres), 1 mw=2.5 acres for panels

Small farms can be excluded at the township level if/when the zoning commission recommends to the trustees.

Large farms exclusion has to go to the county level via trustees.

### Public Discussion

Amy Pausch has heard they put in the solar panels then apply for permits, seems backwards.

Elaine Robertson said in Mt Vernon, they wouldn't allow large so they just have several small.

Someone asked if we could enforce zoning restrictions, Mike said yes he thought we could since the community is supportive. Mary said ORC last year the state legislature gave townships authority over small farms.

Sarah Chaulk said this area governed by PJM (power siting board) is 24 months behind in permitting and allowing them to hook up to utilities grid.

Heather Prenger and family does not support solar farms.

Steve Meisel said it's supposed to be environmentally friendly but only if we're talking about carbon. It is not really environmentally friendly if you're talking about what the environment looks like, how we live or what's going on. It's a very short sighted philosophy and I'm not in favor of them.

Sarah wonders it's a 40 yr. lease for land and technology changes so fast you're left with useless field.

### Zoning Members Discussion

Mike said if there was way of panels on top of large commercial buildings or parking lots, he might be in favor of them.

Pam said we have a beautiful area that is going to be overcome with housing needs.

Dave - residential use is ok but maintenance is a lot.

Carolyn - we're set up to regenerate and solar doesn't fit that purpose.

Mary said technology is moving so fast and mentioned someone having property between York and Outville found out they would be flipping to another company and walking away from it.

Pam moved and Dave 2<sup>nd</sup> to recommend to the trustees to pass a resolution to ban small farms in our township. Motion passed 5-0,

Dave moved and Mary 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn small farm hearing at 7:45, motion passed 5-0.

## St. Albans Township Zoning Public Hearing

January 11, 2024 - Large Solar Farms

Present: Pam, Mike, Dave, Carolyn, Mary, Rae Ann and Jen, Court Reporter

Pam called the hearing to order at 7:45 and led the pledge to Allegiance.

Zoning members introduced themselves.

Court reporter swore in those wanting to speak.

Pam thanked all who came to share their thoughts.

Large solar facilities = 50 mw and above.

### Public Discussion

Sarah Chaulk said Liberty twp. was successful in getting exclusionary twp. from county commissioners so thinks we should also as soon as possible.

Elaine Robertson is concerned about maintenance, poisonous, it's risky, disposal is hazardous and putting small farmers out of business and it doesn't make environmental sense.

Pam said from what she's learned a lot about it and it's scary to think about 2600 acre farms.

Heather Prenger said if we think small solar farms are bad, large is worse.

Sarah added it's not good for birds and kinda a no brainer.

Elaine also hopes commissioners hear that she is against it.

### Zoning Members Discussion

Mary said from our past meetings, no one wants solar and it's our right to control what happens.

Carolyn doesn't want large solar farms

Dave - don't need any solar farms

Mike - no support for large solar farms

Pam - no support for large solar farms

Mike moved and Carolyn 2<sup>nd</sup> to make a recommendation to our trustees to consider sending a resolution to Licking County Commissioners requesting the county commissioners create a restricted area prohibiting large solar farms 50 mw and above in St. Albans Township, motion passed 5-0.

Dave moved and Mike 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn at 8:05, motion passed 5-0.