

**MARION TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOLAR ORDINANCE SPECIAL MEETING  
PARKER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MARCH 22, 2023, 7 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Lloyd, Bob Hanvey, Tammy Beal, Les Andersen, Dan Lowe, Sandy Donovan, and Greg Durbin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** John Gormley, Gormley Law Offices PLC; Laura Genovich, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Bob Hanvey called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

The board members introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Greg Durbin motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Tammy Beal seconded. **Motion carried.**

**SOLAR ORDINANCE DISCUSSION**

Attorney Gormley recommended that the board offer a resolution to adopt the ordinance, then modify it as necessary.

Les Andersen motioned to adopt a resolution to amend the zoning ordinance to regulate solar energy systems and to include comments from Trustee Lowe. Bob Hanvey seconded.

**Discussion:**

Les Andersen said he would like to consider the original overlay (Pingree/Coon Lake area) to be off the table. Dan Lowe's suggestion for the overlay is south of I-96 to Francis Road, along D-19, east toward Copperfield Villas, and west to Peavy Road (Mitch Harris property) which is approximately 158 acres. Sandy Donovan said she would like it to be in commercial/industrial areas and possible the township's property in near Hometown Village of Marion; she would like to adopt an ordinance and make revisions as necessary. Greg Durbin said the ordinance as written is comprehensive for the foreseeable future and should be approved to protect the township's interests. Attorney Genovich said this ordinance can be revised in the same way as any other ordinance: a public hearing with the Planning Commission, sent to Livingston County Planning for review, and forwarded to the township board for approval.

Les Andersen motion to adopt the overlay district provided by Trustee Lowe. Scott Lloyd seconded. **Motion carried.**

Several revisions/additions were made from Trustee Lowe's comments and were approved by the board. Attorney Genovich read each section as modified and will provide the board with an updated copy.

Supervisor Hanvey said that the word “husbandry” should be changed to “arboricultural” in Buffering Requirements; asked that Section 6.31 Private Solar Energy Systems reflect that only ground-mounted solar arrays require a land use permit from the township.

Supervisor Hanvey said he will provide the map of the new overlay district.

Roll call vote: Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Hanvey, Durbin, Andersen, and Donovan—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Comments were heard from:

- Jim Witkowski, Marion Township
- Jim D., Conway Township
- Sarah Porter, Conway Township
- Erin Hamilton, Marion Township
- Brian Williams, Conway Township
- Catherine Dyer, Marion Township

**ADJOURNMENT**

Les Andersen motioned to adjourn at 8:53 pm. Dan Lowe seconded. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by: S. Longstreet

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Tammy L. Beal, Township Clerk      Date

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Robert W. Hanvey, Township Supervisor      Date

