

Ravenna Township Dakota County. MN

1. Allen Clement called the December 16, 2015 Joint Meeting of the Town Board and the Planning Commission to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. Town Board Supervisor Carl Reuter, Brian Riches and Mike Waxon; Planning Commission members, Allen Clement, Scott Craigie, Junie Mundt, Rich Otteson, Tiffany Soucek, and Mike Wheeler; and Caroline Spurgeon, Clerk/Treasurer, were present.
2. Brian Riches moved to approve the agenda as printed. Mike Waxon seconded; motion passed unanimously.
3. Carl Reuter moved to approve the joint planning commission meeting of 11/30/2015 as printed. Mike Waxon seconded; motion passed unanimously.
4. Junie Mundt and Scott Craigie attended Marshan Township's Public Hearing on a solar farm going in their township. A copy of the Marshan's solar ordinance was received. Retail systems are residential systems for a person's own needs and there is no sell back. Wholesale systems are commercial systems and require 40 acres.
5. Junie noted that commercial systems usually are 2 to 3 miles from a substation.
6. Dawn Lanning provided information to Junie and Scott on growing food crops under solar panels for optimizing land use. Consensus says this will not be allowed due to aesthetics.
7. Group confirmed again that only residential systems will be allowed in township, no commercial systems.
8. The group decided to use Marshan's ordinance 2010-B dated 12.1.15 as a baseline and make adjustments as needed for our township. Section 1 – Definitions will be kept except changing the name Solar Electric System, Retail to Solar Electric System, Residential. Also remove ..."whether residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional" from same definition. Change name of Solar Electric System, Wholesale to Solar Electric System, Commercial.
9. Section II – Site Plan Review Requirements: Initial paragraph should have details about a zoning permit is required from our township inspector. Items #8 and #12 can be eliminated. Add that site plan must show bluff line setbacks.
10. Sections III and IV can be eliminated.
11. Section V: First sentence should be "Residential solar electric systems..."
12. Items #1, #5, #6, #13, #15, and #16 can be eliminated.
13. Item #3 should eliminate commercial or industrial in first sentence.
14. Item #4 should eliminate ..."not less than five acres in area" in first sentence. 100 feet should become 50 feet. The last two sentences should be eliminated.
15. Item #14 should read that deviations should be brought to the Town Board – not through a public hearing.
16. All items in Section V need the word "retail" replaced with the word "residential."
17. Troy needs to insert language that denies commercial solar systems.
18. Junie to research how much energy panels produce.
19. Caroline to ask Ron Wasmund as to who can install solar systems; how are they regulated, inspected.
20. The next joint meeting is Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
21. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caroline Spurgeon
Ravenna Township Clerk / Treasurer