

AUGUST 10TH, 2023 PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

VIRGINIA: at the REGULAR MEETING of the Tazewell County Planning Commission held August 10th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Tazewell County Administration Building, Tazewell, Virginia -- 197 Main Street

**PRESENT: Ann Robinson-Chairperson
Robert "Bob" Moss-Vice Chairman
Hayden Lyons-Member
Jason Herndon-Member (Late Arrival)**

OTHERS

**PRESENT: Kenneth Dunford, Jr., --Director of County Engineering
Chase Collins—County Attorney
Kimberly Hilbert-Executive Secretary
Jim Talbert-Press
Warren Hinkle-Press
Jim Best—Visitor
Robert Carlson—Visitor
Bernard Keith—Visitor
Jessica Lawrence—Visitor
Linda Keith—Visitor
Allan Gorospe—Visitor
Johnny Lawrence--Visitor**

**ABSENT: Darrel Addison-Member
Maggie Asbury—Member
Anthony Ramella-Member**

Chairperson Robinson called the August 10th, 2023 regular meeting to order and presided at approximately 6:43 p.m.

She then welcomed all visitors and all those in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Chairperson Robinson gave the invocation, followed by, the Pledge of Allegiance to the US flag by Member Moss.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FORMAT

Upon motion of Member Herndon, seconded by Vice-Chair Moss, and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Members: Addison, Asbury and Ramella absent from the meeting; the Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the agenda with the deletion of Subdivision -Craig & Frances Osborne and the addition of Pure Salmon Transmission Line becoming item 6 a.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 13TH, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Moss and seconded by Member Herndon, and voted on by a vote of 4 to 0, with Members: Addison, Asbury and Ramella absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **APPROVE** the July 13th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

PURE SALMON TRANSMISSION LINES

Chase Collins, County Attorney presented the Pure Salmon Transmission Lines. The Comprehensive Plan sets actions for the next six (6) years. AEP and Pure Salmon want to set a sub-station for the project. The current lines run from Russell County. Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia sets forth the plan steps for such sub stations. The Planning Commission can waive the requirements or a Public Hearing can be held and have public input.

Mr. Collins recommends waiving compliance and allow the project to move forward. All right of ways have been received and the project can be included in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan.

Kenneth Dunford, Jr., Director of Engineering has no recommendations at this time.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Moss, seconded by Member Herndon and voted on by a vote of 4 to 0, with Members: Addison, Asbury and Ramella absent from the meeting, the

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Tazewell County Planning Commission does hereby **waive** the Comprehensive Plan requirement as submitted by AEP and **APPROVE** the Pure Salmon Transmission Lines.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing at this time.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has done all that they can at this time. The Comprehensive Plan has been sent out to all members for review. Please review, mark up and send to Ms. Hilbert to start incorporating into the plan. Please return comments by September 1st.

MEMBER CONCERNS

Vice Chairman Moss—Lusk & the Soil & Water Conservation received a grant from the Upper Tennessee Round Table and took in seven (7) dumpsters of tires, approximately 22,000 at the Fairgrounds.

Member Lyons—None at this time.

Chairperson Robinson—None at this time.

Member Herndon—Apologized for being late. Find somewhere to recycle those tires. Mr. Dunford stated that Lusk recycles.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jim Best-- 1001 Shelor Rd SW, Meadows of Dan, Virginia 24120—(4 Minutes Leland Vaughn gave his 2 minutes)

- Energix—International Company
- 60% of products produced overseas
- EPS Study-Leaching
- Decommissioning/Resold
- VDOT-Inspections-Compliance
- Would like copy of Proposed Solar Ordinance

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Robert Carlson—1142 Lake Witten Road, North Tazewell, VA

- Panels close to Lincolnshire Branch
- Hail & Wind damage
- Not a US Company-Foreign Entity
- Would like copy of the Proposed Solar Ordinance

Bernard Keith—1168 Lake Witten Rod, North Tazewell, VA

- No Zoning—Residential Area
- Water/Soil Hazards
- Not enough sun to generate electrical service

Jessica Lawrence—1050 Cavitts Creek Road, North Tazewell, VA

- Real Estate Agent—Home values with solar farm in close proximity
- Water Soil Hazards on lakes & the Aqua Park
- Cancer in Children

Allan Gorospe—1186 Lake Witten Road, North Tazewell, VA

- He is a Disabled Vet from Hawaii
- Contaminated water for children
- Chemicals in water
- Effects our Future
- Reasons for wanting/Not wanting

Linda Keith—1168 Lake Witten Road, North Tazewell, VA

- Real Estate Property Values decreasing

Some of the visitors made the suggestion of getting a petition to address their concerns and having educational sessions to educate the residents of the county on solar farming.

Mr. Collins stated that the proposed Solar Ordinance is a Zoning Ordinance and it would be zoning a particular project. There would be need to be adequate demand for such an ordinance. He has tried to take the strengths from other counties and incorporate into Tazewell County's Ordinance. Stringent setbacks, fenced areas, and vegetative buffers are some of the items addressed within the ordinance.

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Member Herndon stated that the board hears their concerns and the board wants to do what is in the best interest of the county and its citizens.

ADJOURNED MEETING

Upon motion of Vice-Chairman Moss, seconded by Member Lyons, and adopted by a vote of 4 to 0, with Members: Addison, Asbury and Ramella absent from the meeting, the Tazewell County Planning Commission Regular Meeting is hereby adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m. until Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Hilbert

Kimberly Hilbert- Executive Secretary


Ann Robinson -Chair
Tazewell County Planning Commission

