

Jonesfield Township Special Board Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2020

Supervisor Larry Tibbits called the Special Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag – meeting held via video conferencing as allowed by the Governor’s COVID-19 Executive Order.

PRESENT: Tibbits, Nock, Buckley, Parker, Stanley

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Jim Gray – Zoning Administrator, Richard Bluemer – Planning Commission Chair, Jason Hannath & Brittney Headley – DTE Representatives, Barry Playford, James Scheloske, Lee Glazier, Michael Buza, Ruth Coppens, Mark Gath, Brendan Miller, and Stanley Brown – Jonesfield Township residents.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comments – None.
- III. At the regular meeting of this board on Monday, May 18, 2020, it was determined that this Special Meeting was necessary to consider the Planning Commission’s recommendation for an engineering firm, selected at their May 20, 2020 meeting, to assist the PC during the anticipated special use application from DTE. In addition, it was asked that our legal firm, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes provide a disclosure statement concerning the firm’s work with DTE
 - a) Planning Commission engineering firm recommendation – Richard Bluemer, Planning Commission Chair – PC Chair Bluemer presented to the board the recommendation of Spicer Group to be used with the anticipated special use application from DTE. Spicer comes with 14 years of experience with assisting local agencies with wind projects, over 200 employees, certified planning and engineering planners and have handled five other wind projects. Spicer Manager, Alan Dean, is also familiar with the Saginaw GIS systems and will use it on this project. Trustee Buckley asked questions regarding timeline for the application process and presented questions regarding Chapter 6 of the Zoning Ordinance.

- b) Motion and Board Vote – Supervisor Tibbits made motion to accept the recommendation of Spicer Group Consultants. Second by Treasurer Parker. Clerk Stanley held roll call vote – Ayes: Tibbits, Nock, Buckley, Parker, and Stanley. Nays – none. Carried.
 - c) Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes disclosure statement and discussion – The board was supplied with a copy of the disclosure statement from Christopher Patterson from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes to review regarding their response to the possibility of a conflict of interest. Discussion was held by board members regarding this response.
- IV. Extended Public Comment - Trustee Buckley made a request for training, with all parties present, on the correct procedures for the future steps regarding this anticipated special use permit application. He also stated that he thought it would be helpful if we had legal counsel present at all future meetings to help with any questions or concerns regarding this process. He also made the following requests for the June 15, 2020 board meeting:
- 1) Answer as to if the May 15th letter from DTE is legally binding.
 - 2) Answer to questions regarding 175’ height limits in the current zoning ordinance.
 - 3) Conflict Disclosure - Answer to concerns regarding Special Permit being approved by Planning Commission – Can Planning Commission members vote on permit if they have family members that have signed contract with DTE?
 - 4) Should the board have something in writing from DTE regarding what litigation fees they will be willing to cover.

Other Jonesfield Township residents also made comments regarding the wind turbine project and their concerns- pro and con.

Motion made by Treasurer Parker to adjourn meeting at 6:55 p.m. Second by Clerk Stanley. Carried.

Signed,

Marcia J. Stanley
Jonesfield Township Clerk