

Village of Goodfield

SOLAR ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING October 15, 2019 at the Village Hall

Meeting was called to order at 5:00p.m. by Solar Energy Committee Chairman Nate Sauder. The following were present: Committee member Matt Ginder and Trustee Daryl Wilkendorf. Also present were President Edwards, Attorney Mike Gifford, Public Works Administrator Josh Nohl and Clerk Sheri Martin. Committee Member Roger Mullins arrived at 7:10pm.

The agenda for the meeting was to discuss the Solar Energy Ordinance.

Chairman Nate Sauder reviewed a draft Solar Energy Ordinance as prepared with Attorney Mike Gifford's input. He pointed out 2 typos -10.703 (b) should read, Solar Farm Energy Systems and 10.705 (a) should read, A Solar Farm Energy System.

Attorney Gifford had highlighted some possible changes.

1. 10.706 (b) Rear yards where a PSES is to be installed must be enclosed by fencing sufficient to restrict entry of children or animals into the installation area. Chairman Sauder looked at three other towns and their solar code which did not require fencing. This was discussed but decided at this time the Village would not make fencing mandatory.
2. 10.706 (d) Installation shall be by qualified solar energy installer. No property owner shall personally install a PSES unless she/he is, or is assisted and supervised by, a qualified solar energy installer who shall be responsible for the installation's compliance with this Code. A PSES shall not be operated unless first approved by the applicable electrical power company.
3. 10.708 Where appropriate, the Village may also seek declaratory and injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction to eliminate a violation which presents substantial risk of personal injury to persons.

PWA Nohl had questions regarding:

What drawings are required?

Who will inspect the system?

Who will review applications and plans?

How many inspections?

Will we inspect footings?

Will there be a Final Inspection to obtain Certificate of Occupancy?

Attorney Gifford said these questions all need to be answered by the Village. PWA Nohl feels he is not qualified to do the inspections. He will check with Village Building Inspector, Kris Swords, to see if he is comfortable doing inspections. Attorney Gifford suggested PWA check with other towns to see who does their solar inspections.

President Edwards asked about sending initial plans to Health, Safety & Maintenance Committee for review and then send on to Building Inspector.

PWA Nohl asked if we are going to charge the same price for residential as commercial for a permit? There was discussion on this and it was decided to charge \$250 for Residential and Commercial.

Other questions brought up by Mike Gifford included:

- Regulating trackers
- Regulating noise trackers make
- Shared systems: where 2-3 homeowners go together
- Farm definition – selling
- Post installation & specifications and certification

The name of the qualified solar installer should be included on the permit form.

In the code it specifies that the installation must be by a qualified solar energy installer. It was determined the definition of a Qualified Solar Installer will be: A trained and qualified electrical professional who has the skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of solar electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training on the hazards involved.

Attorney Gifford suggested attaching the application to the ordinance and say submitted in the form asked.

Trustee Wilkendorf asked if the intent of the Village is to encourage or discourage solar energy? Attorney Gifford replied according to the original code he was given the intent of this regulation is to protect public health safety and community welfare without undoing restricting the Development.

Chairman Sauder will make the changes reflected by this Committee meeting and send to Attorney Gifford. PWA Nohl and Clerk Martin will work on the permits.

Sec 10.705 (b) A solar energy system which is installed maintained, modified, or allowed by the landowner to exist in a manner that is dangerous to persons, property, including the land owner's and adjacent properties, or which presents an attractive nuisance reasonably anticipated to attract children or animals in such a way that it presents a risk of physical injury to such children or animals.

President Edwards asked who determines this? Attorney Gifford said the Village would determine this, and if it gets contested ultimately a judge would have to decide, just like any other code enforcement. President Edwards asked if we should add, "as determined by Building Inspector.". Attorney Gifford said we can add it but he doesn't feel it will ultimately make a lot of difference.

PWA said specific set-backs for ground mounts in back yards should be determined. A site inspection should also be done. After discussion it was determined to add, "Installation location shall comply with regulations in the Village Code for accessory buildings."

Attorney Gifford asked how or will the Village will allow for neighbor complaints based on aesthetics? That would go to the Board of Appeals.

Motion was made by Ginder, seconded by Mullins to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Sauder
Solar Energy Committee Chairman