



**Board Meeting Minutes  
Special Master Plan Meeting  
July 26, 2022  
5:30 P.M.**

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 5:31 pm by Supervisor Hutchings.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- **Roll Call**  
The following Board Members were present: Treasurer Genung, Clerk Louis, Supervisor Hutchings and Trustees Sulka, Langshaw, Bekes and Harmon. No members absent. Approximately five interested Residents were present.
- **Approval of Agenda**  
Trustee Bekes moved to approve agenda. Second by Trustee Harmon. Motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Hutchings provided a brief introduction and overview of the meeting.

- The Township Board is having a special meeting tonight because we sent revised language to the Planning Commission, including language regarding solar energy facilities for their inclusion into the Master Plan
- The language we requested allows solar energy facilities in zoned industrial only
- The Planning Commission met last night and among other duties, added this desired language into the Master Plan revision
- If you are here tonight because of rumors on social media stating the word "RURAL" has been removed from the Master Plan, this is false, and it is complete misinformation.
- I do not know why the individual is posting rumor and false information, perhaps for political positioning, but removing the word "RURAL" from our Master Plan is untrue.

- The changes made yesterday by the Township Board and Planning Commission, with regard to solar energy facilities absolutely strengthens maintaining the rural nature of Ross Township.

As far as questioning when the Master Plan was open for public participation, comments:

- January 24<sup>th</sup> – Planning Commission held a Public Hearing where many several Ross Twp residents attended and participated
- Feb 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25 – the Master Plan has been discussed by the Planning Commission

In the Summer 2022 Newsletter mailed out with tax bills July 1, there was a notice of a planned meeting in September which also references the Master Plan re-write, community surveys, townhalls and seeking community input. The Newsletter also talked about PC working on new language imposing zoning restrictions on medical marijuana caregiver cultivations, which is NOT allowing for new marijuana operations, but rather placing restrictions on caregiver cultivation which was previously unrestricted by law. Again, this is work being done to protect, promote and support the “OVERRIDING GOAL – is that Ross Township will preserve its rural character” – *Section 6, pages 7-17 of the Master Plan*

Please sign up on the Ross Township website to receive factual information directly from the Township and please attend Planning Commission and Township Board meetings to stay up to date on Township matters. There are copies of newsletters on the counter by the ambo, please take one with you.

Please see open letter to the Board from Kerry Lynn Elieff as well as screen prints attached.

- **Public Comment**

Supervisor Hutchings opened the floor to Public Comment at 5:34pm.

Jean Hanson of Gull Lake expressed her thanks to the Board and Planning Commission for their work on the issue of industrial solar land use and keeping it in industrial areas. Supervisor Hutchings closed the floor at 5:35pm.

- Trustee and PC Liaison Bekes stated the requested Master Plan revisions were completed by the Planning Commission at last nights meeting. The verbiage “designated areas” were changed to industrial and this change allows for locational control.

Trustee Sulka thanked the Planning Commission for their understanding and the ordinance that will be in effect as the next step will set the controls on location and enforcement.

Trustee Bekes stated it has been a long process to bring the Master Plan to this point. He then moved to accept the Master Plan by Resolution 72622-1 which will allow the Planning Commission to work on the Solar ordinance. Second by Trustee Sulka. A roll call vote was held. The following members voted Aye: Bekes, Genung, Harmon, Hutchings, Langshaw, Louis and Sulka. The following members voted Nay: None. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Trustee Harmon suggested the Board visit the Master Plan re-writes in April 2023 after budget.

Supervisor Hutchings stated that the Ross Township Newsletter is the source for official and truthful Township information. She is looking forward to September's townhall meeting for community input on ARPA spending.

Trustee Sulka stated that the Master Plan's 5-year plan should include minor revisions.

Trustee Bekes asked if the Board should use ARPA Funds for the next Master Plan re-write? He wants to allow for community input as to the needs of the Township.

Supervisor Hutchings answered that townships do use ARPA funds for Master Plans and Surveying.

Trustee Sulka stated Medical Marijuana needs tighter restrictions to assist with trouble spots.

Trustee Harmon stated the Townhall in September will help determine ARPA spending. She then asked in light of the vandalism that occurred, what further security measures could be put in place to secure election mail?

Clerk Louis suggested internal security cameras to monitor inside of the building.

Supervisor Hutchings confirmed that they are in place and will be activated in August as the installation is not yet complete.

Trustee Bekes moved to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Langshaw. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carin Louis  
Township Clerk