

Clear Lake Township
Special Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2021

Approved minutes of the November 12, 2021 Special Meeting held at the Clear Lake Township Hall, 9:00 AM.

Members present were: Chairman Gary Gray, Supervisor Bud Stimmler, Supervisor Ross Imholte and Interim Clerk Gary Anderson. Others present were: Ed Lewis and Jan Lewis.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Gary Gray.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The purpose of this special meeting is to review the scope of work changes for the Sherco Solar Project and how these changes may affect Clear Lake Township.

Chairman Gary Gray noted that he is invited to a Public Utilities Commission meeting on November 12th, 2021 to discuss the Sherco Solar Project. Excel Energy may change the footprint of the Sherco Solar Project to accommodate the City of Becker.

Gary referred to the document, *Xcel reply to scoping comments (10-1-2021).pdf*, on page 5 showing a map of the Solar Project footprint, making note of two parcels colored in light-blue which the City of Becker wants to be eliminated from the project. Excel Energy wishes to include an alternate parcel of land into the footprint noted on page 9 of that same document and colored in yellow.

Bud agrees with the proposed changes and to allow the Public Utilities Commission to make their decision.

Gary referred to the document, *202111-179479-02.pdf*, describing the Staff Briefing Papers that will be discussed at the November 12th meeting with the PUC. Page 8 shows four options where only 'Option 1' and 'Option 2' are being considered.

Option 1: Evaluate a project footprint that does not include the land parcels that the City recommended excluding.

Option 2: Evaluate a project footprint that excludes the land parcels identified by the City and alternatively include the previously considered 900-acre Clear Lake site. Option 1 and Option 2 are agreeable to the Town Board.

Bud made a motion that the Township approve the Sherco Solar Project as presented by Xcel Energy and National Grid Renewable, and also supports any change of location within Clear Lake Township if the Public Utilities Commission so chooses or requests. Gary asked for a roll-call vote. Bud voted in favor of the motion. Ross said: "I have a conflict of interest and should abstain but under advice of township legal counsel I should vote, as this way the township has a voice in this very important issue; I vote in favor of the motion". Gary said: "I have a conflict of interest and should abstain but under advice of township legal counsel I should vote, as this way the township has a voice in this very important issue; I vote in favor of the motion". The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Gary read a statement he intends to give at the November 12th, 2021 Public Utilities Commission meeting.

Gary discussed the Advisory Task Force which he referred to in his statement to the PUC. None of the Town Board members were in favor of this Task Force. Bud made a motion that we do not support an Advisory Task Force for the Sherco Solar Project but if one is convened, that we are considered as a member. Ross second the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The Special Meeting ended at 9:13 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Anderson, Clear Lake Township Interim-Clerk