

# TOWN OF CHRISTIANA

## Minutes of the Virtual Special Town Board Meeting

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January 19, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

The virtual special town board meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Chair Maureen P. Lien. Among those attending were Board Supervisors Jim Lowrey and Jeff Notstad, Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Wilson, Dominic and Andrea Sopkovich, Dennis Lund, Bryan and Sarah Sonnenberg, Andrea Kendall, Karen Stenjem, Kerry Marren, Mark Sewell, Roxy Engelstad and Edward Lovell, John and Marcia Barnes, Cindy and Mike Cutrano, Scott Pollster, Janice Redford, David Smithback, Tracy Fillback, Aiden O'Connor, Dan Litchfield, and many others.

### PROCEDURAL

The meeting had been properly noticed and posted.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion/possible action regarding language for a referendum regarding funding the proposed expansion of the Cambridge Area Fire & EMS Facility.

*Board Supervisor Jim Lowrey made a motion to make the referendum regarding funding the proposed expansion of the Cambridge Area Fire & EMS Facility binding. Board Supervisor Jeff Notstad seconded the motion.*

**The motion passed 3 – 0.**

- b. Discussion/possible action regarding adoption of Resolution No. 2021-1, a resolution providing for submission of a non-binding referendum to be placed on the April 6, 2021 Spring Election ballot concerning funding of the proposed expansion of the Cambridge Fire/EMS Facility.

*Board Supervisor Jeff Notstad made a motion to approve adoption of Resolution 2021-1 with the words 'non-binding' stricken from the language. Board Supervisor Jim Lowrey seconded the motion.*

**The motion passed 3 – 0.**

- c. Discussion/possible action regarding Board strategy for working with the Public Service Commission while Invenergy seeks approval of its proposed solar farm.

Board Supervisor Jim Lowrey read a letter sent to him by Marcia and John Barnes, Scott Pollster, and Mark Cook requesting a referendum regarding the Invenergy project be placed on the April 6, 2021 ballot. Town Chair Maureen Lien stated that there was insufficient time for such a question to be placed on the ballot.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Aiden O'Connor, Lead Developer for the Koshkonong Solar Energy Project, delivered a short presentation (under 10 minutes) to the town. Although Invenergy has submitted a plan to the Wisconsin DNR, it has yet to appear before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, which has the power to grant approval to its proposed solar farm. Invenergy expects to appear before the PSC sometime in either March or April of this year. The review process will take at least one year, and town residents will be granted several opportunities to participate in public hearings on this matter.

Many Christiana residents spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm. Among the Christiana residents who spoke up at this meeting in opposition to the proposed solar installation were Roxy Engelstad, who stated that it's difficult for many to follow along at virtual meetings due to unreliable access to the internet. Others have suggested that there needs to be compensation for those whose property values may drop due to proximity to the solar arrays. Quality of life in the township is another consideration that needs to be addressed for those who feel the rural character of the community will suffer.

Dan Litchfield from Invenergy tried to address some of the concerns of town residents. Andrea Sopkovich echoed Mark Sewell's statement that collaborating with Invenergy will likely lead to better outcomes for the township. Aiden O'Connor added that Invenergy is opening an office in Cambridge where Tracy Fillback will serve as the local contact. Tracy's family has leased land in the Badger Hollow project in Iowa County, so she has firsthand knowledge of solar farms. The Invenergy representatives stressed that 'there is plenty of public process ahead.'

*Board Chair Maureen Lien made a motion to table action regarding strategy for working with the PSC while Invenergy seeks approval of the proposed solar farm. Board Supervisor Jim Lowrey seconded the motion.*

**The motion passed 3 – 0.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business, Board Supervisor Jeff Notstad moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Board Supervisor Jim Lowrey seconded the motion.*

**The motion passed 3 – 0.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilson, Clerk/Treasurer*