

**Speaker Township**  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 December 5, 2023

Meeting at Speaker Township Hall at 7630 Brockway Road, Melvin, Michigan called to order by Maitland at 7:04 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by all present.

	Maitland	Stevens	Brown	Risdon	Moss
Members Present	√	√	√	√	√

Also Present: Shelley O'Brien (Deputy Clerk), Bonnie Sproul (Zoning Administrator), Jeff Withey (Acting Fire Chief), Mike Homier (Lawyer) via Zoom, Public


Motion	Description	Made By	2 <sup>nd</sup> By	Disposition	Maitland	Stevens	Brown	Risdon	Moss
23-12-5-1	Motion to approve the agenda	Maitland	Moss	MC			Unanimous		
23-12-5-2	Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from Regular Board Meeting November 8, 2023	Maitland	Risdon	MC			Unanimous		
23-12-5-3	Motion to approve amended Meeting Minutes from Special Board Meeting November 28, 2023 1. Amended to include adjournment time	Maitland	Stevens	MC			Unanimous		
23-12-5-4	Motion to approve oral Treasurer's report indicating tax bills were sent out and no funds received.	Maitland	Moss	MC			Unanimous		
23-12-5-5	Motion to accept Clerk's General Fund Report (attached)	Maitland	Stevens	MC			Unanimous		
23-12-5-6	Motion to accept Clerk's Fire Fund Report (attached)	Maitland	Risdon	MC			Unanimous		
--	Received Oral Fire Report 1. 3 runs in November, 2 medical, 1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	structure assist in Elk Twp 2. Did not receive Jaws grant 3. Speaker Twp grant equipment is on order 4. 6040 Form must be completed by 12/31 5. Ordered CO <sub>2</sub> monitors and replacement smoke detectors for hall 6. Frontline Repair service will be through this week									
--	Received Oral Planning Report 1. Special land use meetings scheduled for 12/6, 12/7, 12/8 are canceled. 2. Next regular meeting is 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January at 7:00pm	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	Received Confidential Written Zoning Report 1. Nothing from October, land split requested in November	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Old Business</b>										
Resolution 23-12-5-7	Motion to approve the resolution to adopt an ordinance to impose a moratorium on the issuance of permits, licenses, or approvals for, or for any construction of commercial wind and solar energy projects numbered 23-02	Risdon	Moss	MC	Nay	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
--	Received request from Withey to participate in the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) due to lack of personnel and no municipal water system. Tabled until next meeting.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>New Business</b>										
--	Received report from Zoning Administrator:	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	1. Can she still contact Brian Garner for matters outside the wind turbines. Yes 2. What are the office hours of the clerk and treasurer? Please contact us for the time being. 3. Should she continue to keep things confidential and only deal with properties where there is a complaint? Yes 4. Permission requested for next step on the final confidential address on her report. Permission granted. 5. Township needs a procedure to address zoning and building violations.									
23-12-5-8	Received Public Comment Motion to adjourn at 8:09 pm	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

MC - Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle L Brown  
Speaker Township Clerk



**Checking**

**12/6/2023**

**Tri-County Bank**

Fire Truck Fund 0435 \$ 85,190.21  
Operating Fund 0242 \$ 33,498.26

Liberty Exp. Reimb 3293 \$ 44,526.75  
ARPA Funds 5040 \$ 131,194.32

**Choice One Bank**

General Fund 0128 \$ 195,210.57  
Social Security 9110 \$ 1,041.71  
Tax Fund 7556 \$ 10,906.89

**Petty Cash**

Change for Taxpayers \$ 300.00

**CD's**

**Tri-County Bank**

CD3844 \$ 51,220.72  
CD3852 \$ 51,220.72  
CD4166 \$ 51,107.17

Speaker Township - General Fund  
Account QuickReport  
As of December 5, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance	
Checking Account - 128								
Deposit	11/30/2023						202,357.78	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12735	Amy Mousseau	Deposit	664 - Interest ...	170.85	202,528.63	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12725	Becky Cumper	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-160.86	202,367.77	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12726	Cindy Muxlow	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-278.58	202,089.19	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12727	Colleen Mitchell	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-136.73	201,952.46	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12728	Denise Schreel	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-128.17	201,824.29	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12729	DTE Energy	Account Num...	Accounts Paya...	-257.62	201,566.67	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12730	Frontier	Account: 810...	Accounts Paya...	-153.75	201,412.92	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12731	Janice Bartle	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-19.99	201,392.93	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12732	Madelvne Bartle	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-1,720.08	199,672.85	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12733	Nicole Abney	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-261.55	199,411.30	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12734	Phil Bartle	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-240.62	199,170.68	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12734	Phil Bartle	November 20...	Accounts Paya...	-136.00	199,034.68	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/02/2023	12724	Quadrant	Account: 790...	Accounts Paya...	-400.00	198,634.68	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	12737	Frontier	Account: 810...	Accounts Paya...	-19.99	198,614.69	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	12738	GFL Environmental	Invoice J1000...	Accounts Paya...	-99.00	198,515.69	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	12739	Kenneth Kaliski	Project 231277	Accounts Paya...	-988.29	197,527.40	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	12740	Mitel	Account 2604...	Accounts Paya...	-92.71	197,434.69	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	12741	Semco Energy	Account 0228...	Accounts Paya...	-124.87	197,309.82	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	12742	View Newspaper Gr...	Invoice 345475	Accounts Paya...	-2,099.25	195,210.57	
Total Checking Account - 128							-7,147.21	195,210.57
TOTAL							-7,147.21	195,210.57

Speaker Township - Fire Fund  
 Account QuickReport  
 As of December 5, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance	
0242 Fire Operating								
Deposit	11/30/2023					40.66	34,139.56	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3042	Bronze Wadsworth	Interest	664 - Interest ...	-159.80	34,180.22	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3043	Brown City Auto Parts	Fire Safety D...	Accounts Paya...	-88.50	34,020.42	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3044	DTE Energy	Account: 910...	Accounts Paya...	-75.68	33,931.92	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3045	Frontier	Account: 910...	Accounts Paya...	-89.98	33,856.24	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3046	Michigan State Fire...	2024 Member...	Accounts Paya...	-75.00	33,766.26	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3047	Mitel	Account: 260...	Accounts Paya...	-23.00	33,691.26	
Bill Pmt -Check	12/03/2023	3048	Municipal Emergenc...	Invoice: IN19...	Accounts Paya...	-170.00	33,668.26	
Total 0242 Fire Operating							-641.30	33,498.26
TOTAL							-641.30	33,498.26

# **Speaker Township Zoning Report**

## **December 5, 2023**

11/6/23 Chris – question re: zoning on a building.

11/6/23 Complaint re: 151 W. Fremont Rd; caller states house was demolished down to subfloor and rebuilt; inquiring if permit was granted for that activity; states owner has been burning vinyl siding along with other materials taken from building. After research, a LUP was given to add a second story to home only; no permit given for demolishing or rebuilding the home. Caller states they have photos for proof. Caller has been instructed to forward those to me for possible follow up with twp attorney. (copy of LUP attached)

12/1/23 Richard Monday called requesting if a land split could be done on 10 acres at 7914 Arendt Rd.

**\*\*NOTE:** property at 8620 Melvin Road has been sent two violation notices for blight. The situation has not been corrected on the property owners part. I did speak with Joe Emond who states he is property owners husband previously about this situation as well. I would like to send a final notice to the owner with 10 days notice to correct; if not corrected; I am asking permission from the Board to forward this paperwork directly to our township attorney for further legal action. We have received many complaints regarding this property and this needs to be addressed immediately.\*\*\*

Bonnie Sproul

Zoning Administrator



**SPEAKER TOWNSHIP  
TOWNSHIP BOARD  
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE  
ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR, OR FOR ANY  
CONSTRUCTION OF, COMMERCIAL WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS**

**Resolution No. 23-12-05-7**

At a meeting of the Township Board for the Township of Speaker, Sanilac County, Michigan, held on the 5th day of December, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bill Maitland, Rochelle Stevens, Michelle Brown, Jeremie Risdon, Fred Moss

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Jeremie Risdon and seconded by Fred Moss.

WHEREAS, Public Act 246 of 1945, MCL 41.181 *et seq.*, as amended, authorizes a township board to adopt and amend ordinances that regulate the public health, safety and general welfare of persons and property and to codify such ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board finds that establishing a moratorium upon the issuance of any and all permits, licenses, and approvals, or for any construction of, for any property in the Township for the establishment and use of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects for a period of six months, with the ability to extend the moratorium for up to an additional six months by the adoption of a resolution for extension by the Township Board, is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare to ensure that the Planning Commission and the Township Board have sufficient time and space during which to thoughtfully consider such regulations without the added pressure of pending applications or proposed developments involving Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Township Board of the Township of Speaker resolves as



EXHIBIT A

SPEAKER TOWNSHIP  
TOWNSHIP BOARD

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS,  
LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR, OR FOR ANY CONSTRUCTION OF,  
COMMERCIAL WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS

SPEAKER TOWNSHIP ORDAINS:

**Section 1: Definition.** A “Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Project” is a utility-scale commercial facility that converts energy into electricity, whether by wind, photovoltaics (PV) or various solar technologies, for the primary purpose of wholesale or retail sales of generated electricity. “Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Project” includes a utility-scale solar energy facility, a utility-scale wind energy facility, or both.

**Section 2. Purpose and Findings.** The purpose of this moratorium is to provide sufficient time for Speaker Township to fully explore, analyze, research, and make informed decisions regarding Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects. In support of this Ordinance, the Speaker Township Board has determined the following:

- A. The integration of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects within the Township requires suitable regulations and controls for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of all of the Township’s residents.
- B. The Township wishes to consider whether amendments to its Zoning Ordinance to regulate the establishment and use of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects are reasonable and necessary in order to better protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Township residents.
- C. Imposing a moratorium, on a limited temporary basis, to allow the Township time and space to fully and thoughtfully explore, analyze, research and develop any proposed zoning amendments regarding potential amendments to the Township's Zoning Ordinance applicable to Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects, is in the best interests of the public’s health, safety, and welfare.
- D. A moratorium should be imposed upon the issuance of any and all permits, licenses, and approvals for any property in the Township for the establishment and use of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects for six months, subject to further extension by resolution adopted by the Township Board.

**Section 3: Moratorium.** A moratorium is hereby imposed upon the issuance any and all permits, licenses, and approvals for any property in the Township for the establishment and use of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects, so long as this Ordinance is in effect.

**Section 4: Term of Moratorium; Renewal.** The moratorium imposed by this Ordinance remains in effect for six months following the effective date of this Ordinance. Before this moratorium expires, the Township may, by resolution, extend the moratorium for up to six additional months, if necessary. If an extension is adopted, the Township will publish notice of the extension.

**Section 5. Validity and Severability.** Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

**Section 6. Repealer Clause.** Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 7: Effective Date.** This Ordinance is effective immediately following publication.

follows:

1. The Township Adopts Ordinance No. 2023-12-05, An Ordinance to Impose a Moratorium on the Issuance of Any and All Permits, Licenses, and Approvals, or For Any Construction of, Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects (the "Ordinance," attached as **Exhibit A**).

2. The Ordinance will be filed with the Township Clerk.

3. The Township Clerk is to publish notice of adoption of the Ordinance (in substantially the form of **Exhibit B**) in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township.

4. Additionally, the Township Board petitions the Township Planning Commission to consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to codify the moratorium set forth in the attached Ordinance. The Township Board requests that the Planning Commission thereafter make a recommendation to the Township Board regarding any such proposed amendments in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended.

A vote on the above Resolution was taken and was as follows:


ADOPTED:

YEAS: Stevens, Brown, Risdon, Moss

NAYS: Maitland

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SANILAC        )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Township Clerk of the Township of Speaker, Michigan, CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a meeting held on the 5th day of December, 2023.

  
Michelle Brown, Township Clerk



**EXHIBIT B**

**SPEAKER TOWNSHIP  
TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION:  
AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS,  
LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR, OR FOR ANY CONSTRUCTION OF  
COMMERCIAL WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS**

On December 5, 2023, Speaker Township (the "Township") adopted Ordinance No. 2023-02, An Ordinance to Impose a Moratorium on the Issuance of Permits, Licenses, or Approvals for, or for Any Construction of, Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects (the "Ordinance"). The following is a summary of the Ordinance. A true copy of the Ordinance is available at the Township Hall, 7630 North Brockway Road (M-19), Melvin, MI 48454.

**Section 1. Definition.** This section defines "Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects."

**Section 2. Purpose and Findings.** This section describes the purpose and findings of the Ordinance made by the Township Board. This section further states that imposing a moratorium, on a limited temporary basis, to allow time for the Township to fully explore, analyze, research, and make informed decisions regarding potential regulation of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects, is in best interests of the public's health, safety, and welfare.

**Section 3. Moratorium.** This section imposes a moratorium upon the issuance of any and all permits, licenses, or approvals for any property in the Township for the establishment or use of Commercial Wind and Solar Energy Projects, so long as this Ordinance is in effect.

**Section 4: Term of Moratorium; Renewal.** The moratorium imposed by this Ordinance remains in effect for six months following the effective date of this Ordinance. Before this moratorium expires, the Township may by resolution extend the moratorium for up to six months, if necessary. If an extension is adopted, the Township will publish notice of the extension.

**Section 5. Validity and Severability.** This section provides that if any portion of this Ordinance is found invalid for any reason, such holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

**Section 6. Repealer Clause.** This section provides that any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give the Ordinance full force and effect.

**Section 7: Effective Date.** This section provides that the Ordinance is effective immediately following publication.

















