IN THE MATTER OF: CHRISTIAN COUNTY

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FEBRUARY 27, 2024

## CHRISTIAN COUNTY

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6:00 P.M.

Mr. Joe Door

PRESENT:

Mr. Blake Tarr, Zoning Administrator
Ms. Mary Barry, Christian County Assistant State's Attorney

Ms. Bonnie Mizeur
Mr. Mike Mizeur

Mr. Larry Mizeur
Mr. Rod Carls
Mr. Luke Standerfer
Mr. Andrew Evans
Mr. Joe Gaon
Ms. Sandra K. Haines, Court Reporter, CSR No. 084-002423

MR. BLAKE TARR: It is 6 o'clock. I would like to call the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to order.

The first order of business I talked with Chairman Overholt, and he is sick, and he is not going to be able to attend tonight. So, I would like to ask the Board to nominate someone as acting chairperson for tonight.

MR. DORR: Adrian would love to do it.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Do we have a second?

MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will
second it.

MS. ADCOCK: Do we have to vote?

MS. MARY BARRY: I think I would prefer a vote.

MR. BLAKE TARR: We will do it. I
guess with who we have here we will do a quick roll-call. So, the motion is on the floor. Joann Howard.

MS. HOWARD: Present.
MR. GOODRICH: Say yes or no.
MS. HOWARD: Was I supposed to vote?
MR. BLAKE TARR: For Adrian being
temporary chairperson.
MS. HOWARD: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Okay, Glen?
MR. GOODRICH: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
MR. DORR: Yes.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock.
MS. ADCOCK: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Motion carries.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The first order of business this evening is to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2023 meeting that was held at 6:00 P.M. Is there any discussion on this matter?

MR. DORR: I will make the motion to approve the minutes from the November 29 th meeting.

MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will second it.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We have a first and a second. Can we have a voice vote? All in favor.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The motion
carries. The minutes from November 29th, 2023 at 6:00 are approved.

We had another meeting that was November 30th, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. Is there any discussion regarding those minutes?

MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will make a motion we accept the minutes at the 1 o'clock meeting.

MR. DORR: I will second it.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All in favor?
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Motion carries.
Next item on the agenda is there was a zoning text amendment from the Christian County Board.

The Board would like to have added to Appendix D on the battery storage systems, section four, paragraph $I$ the following text in red. In addition, the applicant will also be responsible to provide annual training to the local fire departments, local fire code officials, and emergency responders. Records of the annual training will be maintained by the EMA Director.

I believe this was discussed at the October meeting by Mr. Copenbarger to have this section clarified. Are there any additional questions from the Board?

Okay. At this time is there any public comment regarding this particular item on the agenda?

The public comment section is closed.
Any further discussion from the Board? If not, $I$ will take a motion.

MR. GOODRICH: I will make the motion to add the text as stated in this.

MS. HOWARD: I will second that.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. Roll-call vote, please. MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard.

MS. HOWARD: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich.
MR. GOODRICH: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
MR. DORR: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Motion carries.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Next item on the agenda is a zoning variance application from Sloan Implement Company.

Blake, is the application complete?
MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Has the filing fee been paid in full?

MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes, it has.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Some background on
this. The parcel number affected by this application is 03-07-24-100-008-00, which is located at the corner of 2050 North Road and Illinois State Route 29 in Edinburg in Buckhart Township.

Sloan Implement Company is proposing to construct a new John Deere dealership with
attached shop. Property is currently zoned as AG-1. Sloan Implement would like to have the zoning changed to $\mathrm{C}-2$.

Do we have a representative from Sloan's this evening?

MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Could you please stand up before and --

MR. ROD CARLS: I am Rod Carls. I am representing Sloan's. I am the store manager at the current location here in Taylorville, and we are basically looking at moving out there because where we are at is just -- we have just outgrown it. Probably in the last ten years we have outgrown it. So, the opportunity has come up to purchase some land. Logistics wise, financial wise this area has worked out really perfect, we believe. So, we are ready to pursue and get the permits rolling and everything.

I have got Luke Standerfer here. He is the general contractor with us. So, he can answer any questions as far as building size, all that stuff.
I will say that we are currently looking at
talking with the Village of Edinburg. We want to try to be good neighbors with them. We are looking at having them try to annex us into the city.

So, the reasoning why we are here is that's
taking a little time. My owner, Tom Sloan,
likes to get things done ASAP, and he wants to get all avenues set up to where there is no delays. So, if something doesn't happen there, we want to be able to rely on the county to allow us to have permits and stuff and build there.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Anything
additional?
MR. ROD CARLS: I think that's about it.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there any questions from the Board?

MR. GOODRICH: So, basically you will close the Taylorville store?

MR. ROD CARLS: Yes, we will close it.
It will be for sale. We have some current individuals interested in it already that's going to be possibly business -- will be a
business in there.
MR. DORR: What's in this little area right here?

MR. ROD CARLS: There is a house there.
We are currently in negotiations with buying that entire property, and $I$ am pretty confident that they are going to get that done. What we will do is probably tear it all down, and that's probably where we are going to have our, we would like to have our main entrance.

MR. DORR: So, there is just going to be access off of Springfield Road?

MR. ROD CARLS: Well, there will be access off of Route 29.

MR. DORR: Oh, there will be?
MR. ROD CARLS: Yes, there are turn
lanes on each side.
MR. DORR: Well, to Springfield.
MR. ROD CARLS: Well, to the store there will be, yes, correct. It will be off of Old 29, or they call it Wildcat Way. The entrance has to be at least 300 feet --

MR. LUKE STANDERFER: We have to stay 300 feet off of Route 29. Because of traffic
interference we can't have a commercial entrance there, so 300 feet. This 300 feet is right to that house property. So, we are either going to try to get it bought, or we are going to have to go around the house on the west side for the approach.

MR. DORR: Are the people that own the house here tonight? But you have been in negotiation with them?

MR. ROD CARLS: Yes. Tom Sloan has.
MR. DORR: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: If there are no other questions from the Board, at this time we will take any public comments regarding Sloan Implement project. So, is there any public comment for Sloan Implement?

Okay. Public comment section is closed. Miss Howard.

MS. HOWARD: I just wondered if there are any neighbors that are opposed.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: No one has commented.

MR. BLAKE TARR: No one has called into the Zoning Office. There doesn't seem to be any
so far this evening.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Any other
questions, or comments, or discussion from the Board?

MR. DORR: I will make the motion to approve the variance for the application from Sloan's.

MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will second.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We have a first and a second. Roll-call vote, please.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
MR. DOOR: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich.

MR. GOODRICH: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard.
MS. HOWARD: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Motion carries.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I would like to
state for the record Len Corzine is on FaceTime right now listening into the meeting, but he will not be making any comment.

All right. Thank you for your presentation.

MR. ROD CARLS: Yes, thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The next item on the agenda is a zoning special use application from North Pana Solar, LLC.

Blake, is the application complete?
MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Has the filing fee been paid in full?

MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes, it has.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: This is where we picked up from the November meeting, but as a reminder the parcel number of the property that is affected by the application is 11-25-09-400-004-00, and the property is located along North 2400 East Road approximately 2,000 feet north of the intersection of East 400 North Road and North 2400 East Road, Section 9, Township 11N Pana Township.

The applicant is proposing to construct a 35 acre commercial solar energy facility for the purpose of generating electric power from the sun on a 37 acre tract of land. The solar
facility will consist of solar panels, racking, foundation piles, inverters, and overhead poles and lines.

Is there any representative from North Pana Solar here this evening?

MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Yes, my name is
William Shay. For those of you who don't remember, I am the attorney from Peoria who was here on November 29. We have a representative of the company here, an official with the company. So, I would just make brief remarks, and then turn it over to him.

So, just to recount what happened last time is there was discussion about notification to adjoining landowner and residents next to the property and to the City of Pana, which is within a mile and a half of the site, and apparently notification hadn't been provided. So, the matter was tabled so that notification could be provided, and it is my understanding that notification has now been provided.

So, I am here mainly tonight in a legal role to help answer any questions that anybody might have about the State siting standards that
were passed in January of 2023, and also I have read the amended zoning ordinance applicable to solar projects effective November 7th, the County's amended zoning ordinance. Along with State's Attorney Barry $I$ would be happy to answer any questions about that.

So, with that $I$ will turn it over to Mr. Joe Gaon, who is an official with the company, who will provide an update and answer any questions you might have.

MR. JOE GAON: Good evening, members of
the Board. As Mr. Shay said, my name is Joe Gaon. I am a representative of Green Key Solar. We are developing the project that we are here for you tonight.

I just want to say a couple brief things, and then $I$ am happy to answer any questions. We filed this application back on September $29 t h$. Since that time we do have an interconnection agreement with Ameren, and that has changed since the filing of our application. The County has also adopted a solar ordinance, and $I$ just want to reiterate that even though we came before the newly adopted solar ordinance our
project complies with all of the setback requirements that were in the new solar ordinance including setbacks from residential structures, which is 150 feet from residential structures. So, even though we predated that ordinance, we still complied with those setback requirements that are mandated by State law.

With that $I$ am really here to answer any questions that you may have, and we will defer to you all.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there any
questions from the Board?
MR. DORR: I have a question. On our sheet here it says County Zoning Administrator certifies the following, and there is three things, and there is only two checked off. The first one being that this application for special use is complete. Is it complete or not complete?

MR. BLAKE TARR: So, at the first meeting, Joe, we typically, the providers typically send all of the notifications out, and the reason that wasn't marked is because it wasn't complete, and then Mary basically said
that we would provide that before the next meeting. So, we are caught up in that front. MR. DORR: So, that is complete, okay. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes.
MR. DORR: So, is this within a mile and a half of the City limits of Pana or not?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.
MR. JOE GAON: Yes.
MR. DORR: Has the City of Pana put any input into this?

MR. JOE GAON: The City has been notified, and they haven't sent us any comments. We have reached out to them, and they haven't exercised any jurisdiction outside of their boundaries.

MR. DORR: Do you have any --
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay. What does that exactly mean, hasn't exercised their jurisdiction? They didn't respond back or --

MR. JOE GAON: In order for the City to actually regulate solar facilities they have to affirmatively exercise jurisdiction and say we are going to regulate these things within a mile
and a half of the City. They haven't affirmatively exercised any jurisdiction outside of the borders of the City of Pana. Thus they don't control -- they have no control over the site of the solar facility outside of the municipal boundaries.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there any other questions?

> So, is this within the enterprise zone?

MR. JOE GAON: I am not sure.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Have you had any concerns from any landowners or the applicant that you needed to work through?

MR. JOE GAON: I know that the property owner has been in contact with the neighbors of the residential structure there. They are related, and we have kind of left that contact up to them since it is a bit of a family matter.

MR. DORR: Family matter, what does that mean?

MR. JOE GAON: They are cousins.
MR. DORR: From the property owner
that --
MR. JOE GAON: The property owner and
the residential structure -- I believe they are cousins. I don't want to speak to the actual family relationship because $I$ don't know. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Have you been in contact with any of the drainage districts to see if there was any water flow concerns?

MR. JOE GAON: We have not, but we will comply with all Illinois laws regarding drainage. We know there is -- from what we have been told from the landowner there is no drainage tile on the property. We have executed an AIMA with the Illinois Department of Agriculture that kind of outlines what's required from a drainage perspective regarding if we end up damaging any drainage tile that's on the property.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Well, $I$ know you have included a few maps here, but like the entrance into the property and easements are you crossing any drainage ditches that would potentially impact the flow of water?

MR. JOE GAON: We would drive -- the entrance would put a culvert in there anywhere where you would cross any drainage ditch. So,
you wouldn't impact the flow of anything into the drainage ditch.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Have you guys performed a storm water pollution prevention plan?

MR. JOE GAON: That is generally done prior to issuance of the building permit because it is a construction matter, and we haven't even fully designed construction drawings yet because we don't have entitlements yet, but that is something that will likely be required as part of any building permit process for the project.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: You do not have the entitlements? What does that mean?

MR. JOE GAON: We don't have our special use permit yet.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: When did you believe you would start construction on the project?
MR. JOE GAON: It is all going to
depend on whether or not we get approval of the project, but $I$ think the intent is -- $I$ know it was a warm day today, but once it warms up a little bit in the springtime.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yet this year? MR. JOE GAON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, say you are
approved tonight, what's your timeline?
MR. JOE GAON: Probably around spring. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: And completion would be?

MR. JOE GAON: Nine months after.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: When would you
guys begin the road use agreement process?
MR. JOE GAON: We have reached out to the township, and they haven't indicated whether they require a road use agreement; but if they require one, as we get further along in the process we are happy to enter into one with the township if they require it.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: One of the checklist items was to perform a financial kind of analysis of the properties not providing guarantees. So, is there any kind of support for that?

MR. JOE GAON: We cited one study in our narrative that it was shown that solar does not devalue neighboring property owners. It has
also been the same true with wind, and that's just, that's been our experience throughout Illinois and in Oregon as well. We do developments in Oregon, Pennsylvania. It is the same in every jurisdiction that we construct projects in.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Were you guys going to participate in the pollinator program? MR. JOE GAON: We are happy to, yes. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: What kind of fencing were you going to install with the green screen?

MR. JOE GAON: So, when we filed the application, there was no requirement for an evergreen buffer when we filed it. So, we didn't address that in our application materials. Right now we have proposed a seven foot tall fence, which is a requirement of the National Electric Code. That's what we have proposed for now. MR. DORR: So, no green screen? MR. JOE GAON: If that's a requirement of the County, we are happy to provide any green screen that the County may require.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: You mentioned in the, somewhere in these packets that there is about a $\$ 219,000.00$ benefit to the County. Is that gross or net?

MR. JOE GAON: I believe it said that there was a $\$ 219,000.00$-- that's how much the property would be valued at and assessed at after the solar. That's not how much property taxes that we are going to be paying. The anticipated property taxes is about $\$ 32,000.00$ a year. That's over -- that's over the life of a facility. That's about 30 years. So, 30 years times 32,000 is the net benefit to the county. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Net or gross benefit? It is going to be gross, right? MR. JOE GAON: Gross, sorry. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Do you by chance have what the net benefit to the county is?

MR. JOE GAON: I don't know off the top of my head what they currently pay per year in property taxes.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there
additional questions from the Board?
MR. DORR: At this time $I$ do not. MR. GOODRICH: No.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Thank you for your time.

We are going to open up to the public comment. At this time we are going to open the floor for public comment. Just so we are clear on the procedures Blake will announce your name, and we will go in that order. You will have three minutes to speak. Please address the Board, and then we will proceed. MR. BLAKE TARR: First up Bonnie Mizeur. MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: My comments that I had were good evening, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I am Bonnie Mizeur, and I am a Pana resident. I live due north in rural Pana. My home is located on the very property we are here to discuss.

I am opposed to putting the large solar panel farm on this property. I have not been notified by Green Key, who put in the application; but $I$ did receive a lovely letter certified from the County, from the Zoning Board telling me about this.

My concern is if this company cannot comply with the simple request of notifying the adjacent landowners or neighbors, that $I$ am not sure we can trust them moving forward if this is approved.

This parcel of land is exactly 1.5 miles from the heart of Pana. It is -- if you leave my driveway and you drive south down the road, when you reach 1.5 miles, you will be at the corner of Third and Locust, which is where the People's Bank is located. The City Hall is a half a block down the road.

This location is well within the zone of any incorporated area that they want to expand. If we build that large solar farm there, that can inhibit any City growth to the north in the future.

I am sure you are all thinking $I$ have a case of not in my back yard, which is partially true. However, $I$ have other bigger concerns.

I am concerned that we are sacrificing perfectly good farm ground to build these large solar panel farms. My husband and his family have farmed this property for almost 75 years.

Farms like this are how we feed this Country and the world. I don't believe world hunger has been eliminated yet.

I also have concerns about the water, watershed and run-off. Solar panels deteriorate over time and become damaged, and they then leak hazardous chemicals that will ooze into the soil contaminating our well water and groundwater. There is also the issue of any herbicides that would be used to control vegetation around and under the panels. This will also contaminate wells and groundwater. Another concern is watershed. During heavy rains depending on how these panels are positioned can cause massive and heavy erosion, all of the water running down, going to one spot. This brings up run-off. All that chemical laced water from the herbicides, the panel leakage will go south towards my neighbors and towards the City of Pana ending up in their yards, their ditches, their wells. One of my bigger concerns is that all of these companies involved are LLCs, meaning they are limited liability corporations. Since this
is a green energy project $I$ am assuming they are receiving subsidies from the federal government. Therefore, their actual investment is minimal. Money from the government comes from taxpayers, basically we will be paying to construct this project. And $I$ had in here to enable Ameren to collect and transmit this, but $I$ just heard this gentleman say they no longer have their agreement with Ameren.

MS. MARY BARRY: I think he -MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: No, go ahead. MR. JOE GAON: No, we do have an agreement.

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I thought I heard you say that that was no longer true. MR. JOE GAON: No, when we filed it, we didn't have the interconnection agreement yet, but we do now.

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Oh, okay, my
mistake then. Thank you.
So, then it will be collected by Ameren, and then they will transmit that energy. The energy will not stay in central Illinois. It will be transmitted someplace else.

Again my biggest concern is the destruction of perfectly good farm ground. I can't imagine that there isn't another piece of property, a better location for this project.

I am reminded of something my Grandpa Fraley used to always say, any ground you have you need to take care of. There is only so much of it, and they are not making any more.

So, we need to stop and think is sacrificing this perfectly good farmland for solar panels the best use of those resources. I don't think that using it, that that is using it to its fullest potential. Thank you.

I also have some petitions that I have had people sign. Do I submit them to you guys now?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, please submit them for the record.

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Who do I --
MR. BLAKE TARR: Just bring them up here.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can you provide a brief description of what this record is?

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: This petition, the undersigned residents of Christian County,

Illinois are opposed to the approval of a special use application to permit the installation of a large solar panel array at or on the parcel referred to as tax ID number 11-25-09-400-004-00 at East 41 North Road, Pana, Illinois.

MR. BLAKE TARR: How many signatures?
MS. MARY BARRY: I haven't counted
them. I have about five or six pages that are full. I apologize. I didn't think about totalling them.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Thank you for your testimony.

MR. BLAKE TARR: We will count them up. Every sheet is full. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can we provide a rough estimate to the Board?

MR. DORR: I would like to know how many signatures.

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I can count them for you.

MR. BLAKE TARR: The full page is 25.
MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: One page I had marked two off because they live in Shelby

County.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Okay. Thank you. MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: So you are aware. MR. BLAKE TARR: Next we have Mike Mizeur.

MR. MIKE MIZEUR: My name is Mike
Mizeur. Good evening and thank you. I had a speech, but I am going to go off key: Inaction, inaction, inaction. That's what they have done.

When they were here in November, they had to notify adjoining landowners. They haven't even done that; inaction. Inaction, inaction, inaction; they are in 1.5 miles of the Pana City limits, and they haven't even made contact with the City of Pana.

The City of Pana has not approved or denied this. Just because Pana does nothing doesn't mean they approve the project.

Do the residents of the City of Pana in the 1.5 miles that City has jurisdictional code over, do they want solar farms backing up to these residences? I think we should ask the City and their residents.

I am here to speak tonight for my family,
who is all here tonight. They live at the site. They own ground near the site, and they have farmed in the area for over 75 years. We respectfully ask you to deny your recommendation to the County Board of the zoning special use permit.

The applicant is North Pana Solar, LLC, otherwise known as Green Key Solar. Green Key is a solar company based out of Portland, Oregon. The address on the application it is a mailbox at a USPS store in Portland. Green Key's website they do not have a physical address. They don't even list a single phone number on their website.

Green Key is here strong-arming the County for your approval for this special use. Just on the surface this is extremely bad optics. We are not here to argue against renewable energy, but it has to be completed with practicality and responsibility, with engagement from all, from all vested stakeholders. We as the community are the stakeholders. We will be here when Green Key is long gone. Green Key is trying to plant their first solar
seed in this County. I will tell you it is a sporadic dart board approach targeting easy landowners, and not with an overall master plan, of just where they could get approval.

Where is the plan? Where is the master plan? Where is the overall development? A 35 acre site doesn't make much sense to me. The reason they are trying to plant this first solar seed in our County it is an easy seed to plant. There is an Ameren substation across the street, and the landowners live out of state. Neither Green Key nor the landowners are vested stakeholders in our future. They have no ties to our City, our County, or most importantly our people.

Please continue to protect our property values and the aesthetic conditions through our County. Do not let them plant this first seed here.

This 35 acre commercial, commercial solar energy facility surrounds a residential property on three sides. I have asked for you to look at your plans in your packets, but the plans are hard to read, not even professionally done. I
printed them out on a larger sheet; still very hard to read. I have a full size copy if you guys would like. Any sane person would look at that plan and say this is not a good idea. This is not where you plant the first seed for solar.

Common sense has to prevail. What would you do if your family, or friends, or if you lived at this site that was going to be surrounded on three sides by a solar farm?

Green Key has great aerial photos of large solar farms, beautiful solar farms. Not one has a private residence near it let alone adjoining it. Do you think they would take a picture of this site they are proposing in Christian County for their website; hell, no.

On the application as we have previously discussed Green Key was supposed to list the names and addresses of any bordering landowners or homeowners impacted by the project, not done. The County had to make those notifications.

Green Key's response in their informational
packet, there will be no impact on neighboring landowners or homeowners and quote, no anticipated adverse effects. How can a
professional firm not -- how can a professional
firm not list, not notify impacted landowners.
You know why, it is easy. It is an easy thing
to do.
Why engage local vested interests?
Substantial infrastructure improvements pride or
public take engagement, planning, design,
construction with the commitment and a path
forward for all stakeholders.
Please deny your recommendation to the
County Board on the basis of practical,
responsible site selection. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: If there is
anything else, you can submit your language to
the County Board.
MR. MIKE MIZEUR: No, that's it.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Would you guys
care for a copy of the handout that he has?
MR. DORR: I am good.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: If you would like
to submit the copy of the map for the record, we
will accept that as well.
MR. MIKE MIZEUR: I would like to
submit the pictures from the Green Key website
of the solar farms. I would also like to submit an oversized view of the solar farm plan depicting the residential property that will be surrounded on an oversized sheet.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Thank you for your comments, sir.

Per the sign-in sheets there are no neutral or pro. So, the public comment section of this meeting is closed.

I would like to state for the record there were 237 signatures on Miss Mizeur's petition. At this time is there any further discussion from the Board?

MR. DORR: I have a question for the developer. So, it is still a mystery, you said you contacted Pana, but they have never contacted you?

MR. JOE GAON: We have been in contact with the City of Pana. They have told us they do not exercise jurisdiction outside of their municipal limits. That's what they told us.

MR. DORR: Have you guys talked to the City of Pana?

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I have talked to
the Mayor. I called him. He told me that he is opposed to it, but he says he doesn't think he has any jurisdiction out there.

MR. MIKE MIZEUR: He doesn't know. MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I was going to say that's what $I$ was told.

MR. DORR: Was he doing any more research to determine if they do or don't? MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I don't know the answer to that.

MR. DORR: How long ago did you talk to him?

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: Oh, probably three weeks ago, maybe four. He is a very hard person to get ahold of. He has a regular job, and you can get him but --

MR. DORR: Have you been to a Pana City Council meeting?

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I have not. I can do that.

MS. HOWARD: I have a question. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, Miss Howard. MS. HOWARD: It is about notification. We are talking about three residents that
weren't notified by the company. Does the County Zoning Board of Appeal notification qualify?

MR. DORR: Not on their behalf. I mean you took that on your own to notify these people, right?

MS. MARY BARRY: I would have to go back and look at the minutes, but $I$ think what we said was because it hadn't happened before the November meeting we were going to make sure it did happen regardless.

MR. DORR: Remember the last meeting they did not notify anybody.

MS. HOWARD: I know, but weren't they supposed to today?

MR. DORR: Well, they were supposed to in the original application, but apparently that hadn't been done yet, and the County did it.

MS. HOWARD: I understand that.
MR. JOE GAON: The County did it because we asked them if we should handle it, or if they should handle it; and we were told that they were going to handle the notifications. If we were told that we would have to handle the
notifications, we would have gladly sent out notifications.

MS. MARY BARRY: It is a weird set of circumstances. We had said we are going to just take care of it.

MR. JOE GAON: It wasn't because we didn't want to notify anybody.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Excuse me. So, I should have been clear. I apologize for this, but now that we are in deliberation if the Board addresses a person to answer the question, then we will have that person. Otherwise we do not want to have any chiming in during our discussion time. Mr. Door.

MR. DORR: So, the original application there was no notification of the neighbors?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That is correct.
MR. DORR: Then after you spoke with
them did they say they would or wouldn't, or why did the County do it?

MR. BLAKE TARR: I think what I remember, Mary, like I said I don't have the minutes in front of me, but there was an agreement made at the meeting that we would take
the steps for notification prior to this meeting.

MR. DORR: Okay.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Which I sent out
letters to all of the local, any adjacent residences, landowners, and the City of Pana.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, Miss Howard.
MS. HOWARD: So, the notification by
the company is what's holding things up?
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: At the last
meeting there was no notification. We had no one from the municipality. In addition there was not a representative -- there was legal representation, but $I$ believe there was not a representative from Green Key to give a presentation as to what they intended to do on this project. So, it was continued from the last meeting, or it was tabled. I would have to check the meeting minutes.

MR. DORR: I do have a question. Is this plan set in stone, or is there any variation?

MR. JOE GAON: There is variation there, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can you elaborate, please.

MR. JOE GAON: We continue to do due diligence. Like after we get -- before we commit all of the money to this project we make sure that we get our entitlements in place, and we continue to do additional diligence on the property. We do geotechnical engineering. We do all of those things, and we figure out exactly where the best place to place this is. So, there is some wiggle room there. We give ourselves a little bit of a buffer in case we have to -- in case there are areas on the property that are not suitable for solar panels, but yes, there is some wiggle room there. MR. DORR: So, I mean that's all set in stone, but as far as being a good neighbor, being part of the community, would you consider dropping this -MR. JOE GAON: Can $I$ come over and see what you are pointing to, do you mind? MR. DORR: -- the strip to the south of their residence?
pointing at?
MR. DORR: This strip right here
because you are surrounding their entire
property except for the east side.
MR. JOE GAON: I mean I would consider
that, yes, for sure.
MR. DORR: You would consider a green
screen?
MR. JOE GAON: Definitely.
MR. DORR: Okay. I just wanted that on
the record.
So, I am not too far from this location
where I live, and $I$ went by the property last
week trying to talk to you guys, and beautiful
house, beautiful garage, great location, and I
understand your concern being surrounded by
solar panels.
But just so you guys know, used to it
was our recommendation would go to the county
Board, the County Board has the final say so.
Now our illustrious Governor and our State
administration has pretty much taken this out of
our hands, and very limited us to what we can
do. But according to their rules, which are
very sketchy, $I$ mean we have a little bit of wiggle room.

So, I am glad to see your 237 signatures against this. This to me that pulls a lot of weight.

So, like I said, we can make a
recommendation, send it to the County, the County can do whatever they want, but once again we are fighting the State of Illinois. That's becoming a bigger and bigger issue especially with all this green energy because all of the federal money that they are throwing at it. They don't care about your property, my property. They care about getting that federal money, and trying to make a buck.

So, I mean that's consideration that we have. Our hands are really, really tied, and there is a lot of lawsuits going out, but the County of Christian cannot afford to be part of some of these early lawsuits. There is other counties out there doing it. We are just kind of wait and see what happens.

So, I just want you to know that we can only do so much. So, that's why I want to get
some of these things out there because in the past we have made the company do considerations like not putting it there, so at least you have one view besides your front door that doesn't have solar panels blocking you, and a green screen so instead of looking through a chain link fence if there is some shrubbery there that's -- I mean that's a possibility, but they have to be willing to do it. So, we do have a few, but according to the State we can't require that. But if they want to be good neighbors and something happens, that might be an alternative. But once again we can only do so much. There is a lot of questions. MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I have a question, and $I$ don't know whether $I$ can ask you. When we were making statements earlier, you asked him about completion of the project or someone did. He said I believe nine months. Okay, that's going to put us if they start in the spring, which I am going to say April, May, that's going to put us to the end of the year, and him just bringing up the money the federal government puts in, say in November we don't have the same

President after this election, and that money is gone, and that field is not completed. Are the funds there that it will be completed, or are we going to have just a big mess?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We need to keep this as deliberation. So, this is just for us. MR. DORR: So, if the administration changes, will there be funds available for this project in the future?

MR. JOE GAON: Yes. What we have to do prior to starting any construction, we have to post a bond for any removal and restoration work that will guarantee that if for whatever reason this project doesn't happen, that anything that we do we will have to restore the property to its condition in the present day. So, that bond is held by the County. You guys will have a bond. It is part of our AIMA agreement with the State of Illinois that we are required to post a bond prior to the start of construction. So, that guarantees that -- let's say Green Key Solar stops existing tomorrow or whatever it may be. There is a bond, and there is a way to bring the land back to its current condition.

So, you are not just left holding the bag.
MR. DORR: You said that if this does get approved, it would be, you will start this in the spring, and finish by fall, correct?

MR. JOE GAON: Nine months it takes.
MR. DORR: All right. So, I have sat on this Board for years. How many of these have we approved?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Several.
MR. DORR: Ten, twelve, a dozen, you
how, know many of them have actually been started?

MR. BLAKE TARR: None.
MR. DORR: One, they put up three posts
in the ground, and that was four years ago, and nothing has been done since then.

MR. JOE GAON: A lot of those projects
are part of the adjustable block program, which doesn't guarantee that they are actually ever going to be built. We are not part of that adjustable block program. We don't require anything else to make sure that this is interconnected to the grid and that the power can be sold to the grid.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can you please explain that for the Board what an adjustable block program is?

MR. JOE GAON: So, for community solar there is a program where they say we are going to have this amount of megawatts that are going to be part of that program. You basically apply to be part of that program, and you are not guaranteed that you are ever going to be part of that program; but for us we are not part of that program. So, there is less likelihood that this project isn't going to come to fruition.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Is that because you have already sold these megawatts? MR. JOE GAON: We have an interconnection agreement with Ameren already, but we haven't -- I mean we don't sell anything until it is actually --

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, you don't
already have it sold to Google, or Facebook, or something like this?

MR. JOE GAON: No. We don't have an off taker for the power.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Mr. Dorr, did you
have additional?
MR. DORR: My only other question is if for whatever reason this does get approved now or eventually, are you open to concessions?

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I am sure that would depend on what the concessions would be, of course.

MR. DORR: Not putting that on the southern part of the property, and a green screen around there if there was no way to change this.

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: You cannot stop it.
MR. STEVE MIZEUR: If we can't stop it, we would have to do something.
(Court reporter asked for speaker's name.)
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We really need to --

MR. DORR: It is my question. I mean we let them speak, but we still can discuss this as a board member. I can still ask them questions the same as $I$ can ask them questions.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, sir.
MR. DORR: So, to be on the record the same thing, would you consider concessions to
appease them?
MR. JOE GAON: I am not going to say
that $I$ am open to every single concession, but if we come up with some, you know --

MR. DORR: No, but would you consider
reasonable concessions?
MR. JOE GAON: Of course.
MR. DORR: I just wanted that on the record as well, and sorry, one more question. Do you think maybe you should go to a Pana City Council meeting?

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: It wouldn't be a bad idea.

MR. DORR: I am just asking because that could stir up some stuff later.

MS. BONNIE MIZEUR: I haven't because I don't live in the City limits.

MR. DORR: I know, but you can still get on the agenda because you are within that mile and a half. So, my suggestion would be go to the Pana City Council meeting just so we can have that on record as well. Thank you. That's it. I am done.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there any
additional questions?
UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can the public ask a question or no?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The public comment portion is closed.

Okay. What additional discussion points does the Board have? Do you feel that you have sufficient information?

MR. DORR: No.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I agree.
MR. DORR: I would still like to have input from the City of Pana on this.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Per their code when you look at the appeals process, it specifically states that the municipality, whether that be the mayor, the council, or the trustees need to have some comment. That's what the process is that we are using with Taylorville, and so I guess I don't understand how that differs for the community of Pana.

MR. DORR: Well, to me like you said it is precedence. So, they can either issue a statement that they have no comment, or be here present at a future date to put in their opinion
on it. It is their enterprise zone. So, I mean like I said through this agreement from our State we have limited -- our Board has limited abilities, and one of the major things is is it in the best general welfare of the community. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Correct. MR. DORR: So, I would like to have a representative from the Pana community, the City of Pana to make a statement. Either a no comment, we don't want anything to do with this, or at least make an official statement.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: It is in the
municipal code it talks about their concerns with water, and the watershed, and things like that. And if that is, the water flow is towards the City of Pana, there may need to be some kind of agreement with how those easements or the drainage district will have to manage the flow of water, et cetera. But all of those conversations should have been had prior to starting these hearings. MR. DORR: I agree. MS. HOWARD: I have a question. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, ma'am.

MS. HOWARD: My concern is this doesn't seem too well planned, and it seems like we have been making exceptions, several of them, and I am not saying I am pro or con. I am just saying look at the circumstances.

MR. DORR: I agree, but like I said the Sinclair thing that the State forced us to pass to me is the big question. I mean before we knew where we stood. Right now we do not have any idea what we can do, what we can't do. A lot of these questions need to be answered.

So, I would like to get all of the information $I$ can get before $I$ make any kind of decision on any of these special requests. So, at this point $I$ make the motion to table this. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, I agree with you, Mr. Dorr, that the City of Pana has to comment whether it is written or in person absolutely.

I think looking at our code and what we had there was a severability clause in the ordinance that specifically highlighted that if there was anything invalid in any section, subdivision, paragraph, or other part of this ordinance shall
not affect the validity or the effectiveness of the remainder of the ordinance, and so with the application there was quite a bit of language about how we just didn't comply with the State code, and it was 50 feet on a setback.

So, I guess I would have liked to have seen to Miss Howard's point a bit more of a complete project of what the plan was, how we are working with the community, and being a good neighbor, how are we going to partner. That's part of the spirit of the code that we were supposed to uphold is to make sure that we attract businesses to this area that are also going to be good neighbors. So, I agree with your motion that we need to have comment from the City of Pana.

I guess I would recommend to the applicant that they speak with the surrounding or with the homeowner, and see on your own if there are some items that you can agree upon, and that you present that at the next Board meeting.

MR. DORR: Okay. So, once again my motion to table is on the floor.

MS. MARY BARRY: Tabling or continuing?

MR. DORR: I say it needs to be tabled because we don't know what the City of Pana has on their schedule, and she is going to have to get on their agenda.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Motion to table is accepted. Is there a second motion?

MR. GOODRICH: I will make a motion to table it, second it.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: First and second. Role call vote, please.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich.
MR. GOODRICH: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard.
MS. HOWARD: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.
MR. DORR: Yes.
MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.
Thank you for everyone's time and input
this evening. We appreciate it.
The last item on the agenda is zoning special use application from Solar Provider Group, LLC, or excuse me, Provider Group Illinois, LLC.

Mr. Tarr, is this application complete? MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Has the filing fee been paid in full?

MR. BLAKE TARR: Yes, it has.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I understand this
is also something that was heard in March of last year.

Can we have the discussion out in the hall, please.

MR. WILLIAM SHAY: Sorry.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, there are two
parcels and addresses that will be affected by this application. Parcel number one is 17-12-11-400-002-04 at North 800 East Road, Taylorville, and parcel number two is 15-12-14-200-002-00 North 800 East Road, Taylorville.

The proposed special use is to develop a 5 megawatt $A C$ community solar $P V$ system in an agricultural district. This application is resubmitted due to design revisions that have added an access point to the south of the project onto Illinois 104 .

Is there any representative from Solar
Provider Group, LLC?
MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: We are going to take a five minute recess while he sets up for the presentation. So, please come back at 7:05.
(Whereupon the ZBA meeting was in recess.)

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The meeting is back in session. Would you like to present the presentation.

MR. ANDREW EVANS: My name is Andrew Evans. I am asking the Board if you would like me to give an overview of the project again, or if you would just like me to go to the site plan changes and just go over those changes?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, the question was to the Board whether you would like for him to review the entire project, or would you prefer the site plan change? MR. DORR: The site plan change, please. I mean that's my opinion. MR. ANDREW EVANS: So, I am here tonight, and thank you for having me here. Just
to -- we have resubmitted due to a site plan revision that was necessary at the site, and as you can see here the approved design from last year, it was approved by this Board in March, and it was also approved by the County Board in April of last year.

Following that approval after some further assessment on the site, as you can see here the access road goes to that wooded area, and we discovered that -- it is hard to see in the area -- we discovered that it is quite a steep gully where the wooded area is, and it would require quite a lot of grading and earth moving, and also cutting more trees down than we would like. So, we decided it would be best to find an alternative way to connect to arrays or access the southern array. So, after some -after some discussion and deliberation we came to the conclusion that accessing the site, the site from the side from IL 104 would be the best. So, we decided it would be best to access the site from IL 104. So, we reached out to the southern neighbors, and we got, we came to an agreement with them to access the site through
their property and also to build a road, the access road through their property.

So, move onto the revised site design, as you can see we have removed the road from the wooded area. We have kept the overhead line for it. So, we have removed the road that connects the two arrays. We have kept the electricity line, the overhead line, and connected the arrays electrically. The system design as you can see if $I$ flip between the two, the actual project area remains the same. We haven't changed the fenced area, and we have kept the visual screening, and the visual screening that got approved last year. It is hard to see on the map. It might be easier to see on the printed out version the visual screening where there isn't really existing visual screening. It is pretty much obscured from every angle in the view of the site. We have slightly changed the northern access road just due to constraints, or not constraints, just due to, it is sort of a better shape than proposed before. The point of interconnection to the electricity grid remains in the northeast of the project.

The only change really is the access point to the south, and move onto a zoomed view of that, and as you can see it is going through their property, the property of the neighbor who we have agreed to access through. It will be similar to the northern access road. It will be about 15 feet in width, and it will be a gravel surface, and it will access IL 104 at the already existing access point. Yet I have also actually reached out to the Illinois Department of Transportation, and they have stated that there will be no issue with any access permits. We haven't signed any access permit as of yet. They haven't sent us out any proposal because they said there won't be any issues, and of course, we are happy to agree to whatever requirements they have. Yes, so that pretty much covers it all, and any questions or comments the Board has?

MR. DORR: So, it is really not an access off of 104. It is an access off of their lane going back?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: I suppose it is, and I know this shows it stopping there, but we will
probably have to improve where their access, the access point. There is a culvert there, which we would probably have to reinforce. So, the road will extend onto the IL 104.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: At this point are there any additional questions from the Board before we do public comment?

MR. DORR: So, the only thing that has changed since what we approved last time is the south access road?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes. That's the only change we have made. We have kept the system, the site design the same, the fenced area is exactly the same as it was. And when it was approved by the County Board, we had slightly changed it from in between the Zoning Board meeting last year and the County Board meeting, and just due to all of the wooded areas are quite steep. So, you can't develop on them, and so this is what was approved, excuse me, this was approved by the County Board. Yes, the footprint of the project remains the same. We have just removed the road in between the two arrays, and we have added on this southern
access.

MR. DORR: So, basically we are approving or disapproving a change to the original because it has already been approved. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The red line that connects the two arrays is that above ground? MR. ANDREW EVANS: So, it will be underground until you get to where the wooded area is, and then it will be an above ground to the other side of the wooded area.

MR. BLAKE TARR: The white one.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can you show -- is
it the white line or the red line?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: The red line. I
will do a pointer on this. So, it will be underground until this point, and then it will be above ground, and then it will be underground from here onwards.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, that above ground area you will still have to clear some trees, correct?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes. Some trees will have to be cleared, and we have estimated the total tree clearing for the whole site at
about three acres tree clearing, and that's what's been estimated at the moment. And when we were to build the road in between the two arrays, I don't have a figure of how much more, but there would be more trees that need to be cleared, and we would like to avoid -- we would like to avoid cutting trees if at all possible, but at the moment three acres is the estimate. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Can you point on there where that acreage would be cleared outside of the transmission line.

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes, due to shading we will have to cut along here, and along here, and also along this western portion, and the southern portion here. So, just where the sun is going to be shaded from the trees we will have to do some tree clearing. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: For the transmission line about how many feet do you have to clear specifically for that?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: So, that will be about 15 feet either side. It is about 30 feet. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: How wide is the new access way?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: How wide?
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The new road access that you are asking about what's the width of that?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: So, that will be 15 feet.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: On the gully can we elaborate on what's exactly the terrain that concerns this.

MR. ANDREW EVANS: So, in that wooded area it is about $I$ would say 25 feet drop, and it is like an intermittent stream at the bottom of the gully; and so $I$ suppose when it rains, there is water there, but when it is dry, there is no water there. It is about a 30 feet drop, and it rises again, and it is approximately 30 feet from, I suppose 50 feet, $I$ am not sure on the exact, but 30 to 50 feet wide, and so it is not impossible to build around. It is just it would require a lot more disturbance of the environment, and also it would be costly. So, I think in all aspects it would be best to avoid that option. We are already using an access point that's there, and $I$ believe there is
already an easement in place for the
agricultural land. I believe it is already used by agricultural and vehicles to access the parcel, the southern parcel. So, it is just we would be building the road so we would be making a gravel surface. I think it would be a better option than trying to connect the two arrays with a road just from all aspects.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Are there
additional questions from the Board?
MS. HOWARD: Is access the major
revision?
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Correct.
MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes.
MS. HOWARD: No others?
MR. ANDREW EVANS: No other revisions.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: The easement that you have received from the southern landowner does that landowner own both properties? If we zoom in on that a little bit it looks like -MR. ANDREW EVANS: So, this resident here owns this one parcel that goes to approximately here, and then there is another parcel, and they own both. They own both
parcels.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: So, what is this?
Are those trails that they have there that they are using?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yeah, I believe they
use it for ATVs, but $I$ am not sure exactly.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: When was this
agreement signed?
MR. ANDREW EVANS: We signed the agreement in December of 2023.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Is this filed with the County Clerk?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: No, not filed.
MR. DORR: Why not?
MR. ANDREW EVANS: We didn't think we would have to file it at this stage of the project, and we thought that would be later down the line, and we are doing a building permit, but if $I$ need to file it before the County Board meeting, $I$ am happy to get that in motion. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: With your equipment that's coming in it appears that you are accessing off of 104. You are coming in at a pretty good angle. Is your equipment going to
be able to make that bend?
MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes. So, it should be possible to -- this will be about 30 feet wide at the access point, and it will be sufficient $I$ think to -- even if we can't get an articulated tractor trailer in, we could use smaller vehicles to bring the equipment, if needed, and it should be sufficient to turn. It should be sufficient space. You would be surprised what the turn angle of these larger vehicles, and like we may have to come in from sort of this direction to make it work, and we probably will have to come in from this direction, but $I$ don't think it would be any issue.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Did you guys
review any proposal where you would have your own access point on Illinois 104?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: No. This is the only proposal that we really went for. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Is this a typical practice to use another homeowner's driveway to access a project?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: My own experience I
haven't seen it before, but $I$ don't think it is something that's never been done. It is not a problem from the Illinois Department of Transportation's point of view, and also the landowners have agreed to it, and also there are provisions in the easement agreement that we have to give appropriate notice that they have agreed upon. And so, if any work is being done, they need to be given prior notice, and be informed of what exactly is going to be going, and what's going to be happening like if it is being constructed, if there is construction vehicles coming, or if it is operation and maintenance, and people are coming to maintain the project.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I am sorry.
MR. DORR: I don't think the State of Illinois would give them an access point. That's hard to get.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: What is part of the agreement in case of an emergency for the homeowner so the emergency vehicles could get to the home?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Yes, the notice has
to be given in cases of just maintenance and things like that. In case of an emergency then there wouldn't be any notice required. Like if there was an emergency in case the Fire Department were needed, there wouldn't be any notice required.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Okay, to the solar arrays. How about in the case of the homeowner, if you were constructing the project and there was an emergency in their home, and your equipment was blocking, does the agreement cover that portion?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: SO, I am not a hundred percent sure on that. I would have to review the easement agreement again, but we wouldn't be leaving any equipment, or no vehicles would be staying in this location here. I believe they will always have access. There won't be any gate erected on our part. The gate to access the site would be up here. So, this will be open roadway the whole way down to the road, and $I$ would have to check the easement agreement to see if there is anything in place regarding an emergency.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Any additional questions?

MR. DORR: I don't have any.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I didn't ask for public comment. Is there any public comment? I apologize? No. Public comment is closed.

Is there any other discussion from the Board?

MR. DORR: Do you think we should make this if we approve this change as long as the agreement is filed with the County Clerk prior to?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think it would be prudent for us to have that from a completeness perspective already reviewed before we send it to the County Board.

MR. DORR: So, what $I$ am saying is we can approve the change as long as that wording is in there has to be done prior to.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I guess I still have kind of a lingering question about what is going to happen if there is an emergency on the property.

MR. DORR: Well, $I$ mean it is a
transport road. It is not like -- the way I am looking at it that's a parking lot up there for all of the trucks that are coming in and storage. It would be no different than traffic on a street in town here. Red lights, get the heck out of the way. I mean they are not going to be stopping there. I mean how wide is their entrance to their property? Is there enough room for a semi and an ambulance to get, one coming out, one going in?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: I am not sure exactly how wide that is, but once we construct our road it will be about 30 feet and right at the road.

MR. DORR: Is that a problem?
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: It was just at one of our prior meetings that's one of the things we talked about, the emergency responders being able to.

MR. ANDREW EVANS: I believe from like a health and safety perspective when it comes to construction, that would all be considered as well. I think the contractor would have to
follow OSHA requirements, which $I$ am sure would have to maintain enough space for the residents. That's just a general comment. Could I ask as well about the filing the easement agreement? CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes, with the County Clerk.

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Is that just to file
it so that they can review it?
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All easements I
understand have to be filed with the county Clerk as being part of this, and then it would be recorded with the Recorder's Office.

MS. MARY BARRY: I guess are you asking
to see the agreement before you approve? I understand the filing of the easement. He is saying he is going to do it as part of the building permit, but if you want it beforehand. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: He was asking to understand.

MS. MARY BARRY: Oh, sorry, I
misunderstood.
MR. ANDREW EVANS: I don't think we would at this point because the easement agreement isn't necessarily active until we
begin construction.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Is this a right for an easement then?

MR. ANDREW EVANS: Well, it is an easement agreement. So, I think it is once we get our building permit, we will have the easement agreement because there is no point of us having -- they don't want us to have access to their property until we actually need it. At the moment we don't need that access. So, it would be inappropriate for us to have an agreement to have access to their property because there is no need for us to drive through their property as it is. It is just an agricultural field currently.

Of course, I am happy to file and have the County review the easement agreement. Just $I$ am not sure on the recording side of things.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Any additional questions for him? Thank you.

Again additional deliberation?
MR. DORR: So, Mary, do you think that needs to be done prior to, or after if it is approved?

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think we got into trouble -- I think that's what we were talking about with battery storage is that there was a right to an agreement. There wasn't actually an agreement. So, what project are we actually approving because it is a right, not a signed agreement.

MR. DORR: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: That's how it was viewed in the battery storage, correct?

MS. MARY BARRY: I recall that on the battery, but what $I$ am recalling on the battery storage is they had a right, but there was already a right granted to somebody else on file.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: No, that was there was an existing lease, but then on top of that was they only had a right to enter it.

MS. MARY BARRY: I don't recall on that. I mean if you want a requirement, I have no problem requiring it.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Has this been something in the past that you guys have gotten the landowner's discussion?

MR. DORR: No, it has never been an issue before, but $I$ am just saying that if you think it is, you can always add that to the language that if it is approved, then they have to get this done prior to. But like you said you can't really start the project until you get that approved anyway.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.
MR. DORR: I don't think it needs to be in there, but $I$ am just asking your opinion.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I think it begs
the question of are the projects complete for us to review. We have had several applicants that have needed to come back with revisions as they have gotten further in.

MR. DORR: Well, I mean that's what this is, it is a revision. So, if they revise it again, it is going to be the same thing over. But if they stick to that plan and they have approval and they start, then they can get their agreement with the County Clerk, and be recorded, and everything is good. It is no different than a building permit.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Right.

MR. DORR: Basically we are just asking if we are going to approve the changes to this plan. Like $I$ said the project has already been approved.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: I agree. Is there
a motion?
MR. DORR: I will make a motion we approve the changes to this plan. MS. HOWARD: I will second that. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Roll-call vote, please. MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich. MR. GOODRICH: Yes. MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard. MS. HOWARD: Yes. MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr. MR. DORR: Yes. MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: No. MR. BLAKE TARR: Three to one, passes. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All right. MS. MARY BARRY: Wait. I have the Zoning Board procedures, and I can't find them. I am looking at Section 7.19 of the articles of
rules and procedures. The concurring vote of four members shall be necessary for granting a variance, affirming an appeal, or recommending in favor of a special use permit or zoning amendment. If a motion fails to receive four votes in favor of the application, a motion denying the application shall be formally entered on the record. However, if the votes of the absent but eligible members when added to the number of voting in favor of the petition would total four or more, the matter shall be postponed until the next meeting of the Board. If the motion to approve an application fails to receive four affirmative votes at the next regular meeting, a motion denying the application shall be formally entered onto the record. By my count we only had three votes affirmative this evening. I don't know if we know of --

MR. DORR: But then that says for special use. This isn't special use.

MS. MARY BARRY: We are changing a special use I mean. MR. DORR: Special use has already been
granted for this project. The only thing we are doing is a revision to a road.

MS. MARY BARRY: I would interpret that as kind of changing the special use permit personally.

MS. HOWARD: Is the issue we don't have a quorum?

MR. DORR: No, we have a quorum. We don't have four votes. So, then what you are saying is this needs to be continued until the next meeting where we have --

MS. MARY BARRY: If we go to the next meeting, if you think it is possible that if enough eligible voters are going to be there that might approve this, we can continue this over to the next meeting; but if it is not approved at the next meeting by four votes, then it shall fail. I guess the question would be if somebody wants to make a motion to continue it over to the next meeting based on that.

MR. DORR: Well, we have to according
to the rules. So, I will make the motion to continue to the next meeting.

MR. GOODRICH: I will second that.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Roll-call vote. MR. BLAKE TARR: Joe Dorr.

MR. DORR: Yes.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Glen Goodrich.

MR. GOODRICH: Yes.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Joann Howard.

MS. HOWARD: Yes.

MR. BLAKE TARR: Adrian Adcock.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Yes.

There are no additional items on the
agenda. Do $I$ have a motion to adjourn?

MR. DORR: I will make the motion to adjourn.

MR. GOODRICH: Glen Goodrich, I will second.

CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: All those in favor.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEMBERS: Aye. CHAIRPERSON ADCOCK: Meeting adjourned at 7:39.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (Which were all of the proceedings } \\
& \text { had on this meeting as of this } \\
& \text { date.) }
\end{aligned}
$$

| STATE OF ILLINOIS | ) $S$ S |
| :--- | :--- |
| COUNTY OF CHRISTIAN | ) |

I, Sandra K. Haines, a Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that on February 27, 2024 the foregoing Zoning Board of Appeals was taken down stenographically by me and afterwards reduced to typewritten form by me, and that the foregoing transcript contains a true and accurate translation of all such shorthand notes. Given under my hand and seal this $29 t h$ day of February, 2024 at Taylorville, Illinois.
\$219,000.00 [2] - 23:3, 23:6
\$32,000.00 [1] - 23:10
03-07-24-100-008-00 [1] 7:19
084-002423[3]-1:21, 3:8, 78:23
1 [1] - 5:17
1.5 [4]-25:6, 25:9, 30:13, 30:20
104 [8]-54:24, 56:20, 56:22, 58:8, 58:21, 59:4, 64:23,
65:18
11-25-09-400-004-00 [2] -
13:16, 29:5
11N [1] - 13:20
1400 [1] - 2:20
15 [3] - 58:7, 61:22, 62:5
15-12-14-200-002-00 [1] 54:17
150 [1] - 16:4
17-12-11-400-002-04 [1] 54:15
1:00 [1] - 5:14
2,000 [1] - 13:17
2023[5]-4:22, 5:11, 5:14, 15:1, 64:10
2024[4]-1:12, 2:3, 78:6, 78:13
2050[1] - 7:20
217)824-8558 [1] - 1:21

237 [2]-35:11, 42:3
2400 [2] - 13:17, 13:19
$25[2]-29: 22,62: 11$
27[3]-1:12, 2:3, 78:6
29 [6] - 4:22, 7:21, 10:14, 10:21, 10:24, 14:9
29th [4]-5:2, 5:11, 15:18, 78:12
30 [8]-23:12, 61:22, 62:15,
62:16, 62:18, 65:3, 69:14
$300[4]-10: 22,10: 24,11: 2$
30th [1] - 5:14
32,000 [1] - 23:13
$35[3]-13: 22,32: 6,32: 20$
37[1]-13:24
$400[1]-13: 18$
41 [1] - 29:5
411 [1]-2:20
5 [1] - $54: 19$
$50[3]-52: 5,62: 17,62: 18$
$6[1]-3: 12$
61602 [1]-2:21
6:00 [3] - 2:4, 4:23, 5:12
7.19 [1]-74:24

75 [2] - 25:24, 31:3
7:05 [1] - 55:6
7:39 [1] - 77:20
7th [1]-15:3
800 [2] - 54:15, 54:17
9 [1] - 13:19
abilities [1] - 50:4
able [4] - 3:17, 9:10, 65:1,

69:20
absent [1] - 75:9
absolutely [1] - 51:19
AC ${ }_{[1]}$ - 54:20
accept [2]-5:17, 34:22
accepted $[1]$ - 53:6
access [36]-10:12, 10:14, 54:23, 56:9, 56:17, 56:21, 56:24, 57:2, 57:20, 58:1, 58:5, 58:6, 58:8, 58:9, 58:12, 58:13, 58:21, 59:1, 59:2, 59:10, 60:1, 61:24, 62:3, 62:23, 63:3, 63:11, 65:4, 65:18, 65:23, 66:18, 67:18, 67:20, 71:8, 71:10, 71:12
accessing $[2]-56: 19,64: 23$ according [3] - 41:24, 43:10, 76:21
accurate [1]-78:10
acre [4]-13:22, 13:24, 32:7, 32:20
acreage ${ }_{[1]}-61: 10$
acres [2]-61:1, 61:8
Acting [1]-2:9
acting $[1]-3: 19$
active [1] - 70:24
actual $[3]-19: 2,27: 3,57: 10$
ADCOCK ${ }_{[131]}-3: 24,4: 18$,
4:20, 5:6, 5:10, 5:20, 5:22, 6:22, 7:7, 7:9, 7:14, 7:17, 8:7, 9:13, 9:17, 11:12,
11:21, 12:2, 12:10, 12:13,
12:21, 13:4, 13:9, 13:12,
16:11, 17:8, 17:18, 18:7,
18:11, 19:4, 19:17, 20:3,
20:13, 20:17, 21:1, 21:3,
21:6, 21:9, 21:17, 22:7,
22:10, 23:1, 23:14, 23:17,
23:22, 24:2, 28:16, 28:21,
29:12, 29:16, 34:13, 34:17,
$34: 20,35: 5,36: 22,38: 8$,
38:17, 39:7, 39:10, 40:1,
44:5, 45:9, 46:1, 46:13,
46:19, 46:24, 47:16, 47:22,
48:24, 49:4, 49:10, 49:13,
50:6, 50:12, 50:24, 51:16,
53:5, 53:9, 53:18, 54:3,
54:6, 54:12, 55:4, 55:9,
55:17, 59:5, 60:5, 60:12,
60:19, 61:9, 61:18, 61:23, 62:2, 62:7, 63:9, 63:13,
63:17, 64:2, 64:7, 64:11,
64:21, 65:16, 65:21, 66:16, 66:20, 67:7, 68:1, 68:4,
68:13, 68:20, 69:17, 70:5, 70:9, 70:18, 71:2, 71:19, 72:1, 72:9, 72:16, 72:22, 73:8, 73:11, 73:24, 74:5, 74:10, 74:19, 74:21, 77:1, 77:9, 77:16, 77:19
Adcock[7]-2:9, 4:17, 7:6, 12:12, 53:17, 74:18, 77:8
add [2] - 6:20, 73:3
added [4]-6:1, 54:23, 59:24, 75:9
addition [2]-6:4, 39:12
additional $[13]-6: 11,9: 14$, 23:23, 40:7, 47:1, 49:1, 49:6, 59:6, 63:10, 68:1, 71:19, 71:21, 77:10
address [4]-22:16, 24:9,
31:10, 31:13
addresses [3]-33:18, 38:11, 54:13
adjacent ${ }_{[2]}-25: 3,39: 5$
adjoining [3]-14:15, 30:11, 33:12
adjourn [2]-77:11, 77:13
adjourned ${ }_{[1]}$ - 77:19
adjustable [3]-45:18, 45:21, 46:2
administration [2]-41:22, 44:7
Administrator [2]-2:17, 16:14
adopted [2]-15:22, 15:24
adrian [1]-12:12
Adrian [8]-2:9, 3:20, 4:10, 4:17, 7:6, 53:17, 74:18, 77:8
adverse [1] - $33: 24$
aerial ${ }_{[1]}-33: 10$
aesthetic [1]-32:17
affect ${ }_{[1]}-52: 1$
affected [3]-7:18, 13:15, 54:13
affirmative ${ }_{[2]}-75: 14,75: 18$
affirmatively ${ }_{[2]}$ - 17:23, 18:2
affirming ${ }_{[1]}-75: 3$
afford [1]-42:19
afterwards [1] - 78:8
AG-1 [1] - 8:2
agenda [8]-5:23, 6:15, 7:10, 13:5, 48:19, 53:4, 53:21, 77:11
ago [3]-36:11, 36:14, 45:15
agree [8]-49:10, 50:22,
51:6, 51:16, 52:14, 52:20, 58:16, 74:5
agreed $[3]-58: 5,66: 5,66: 8$
agreement [31] - 15:20,
21:10, 21:13, 27:9, 27:13,
27:17, 38:24, 44:18, 46:16,
50:2, 50:17, 56:24, 64:8, 64:10, 66:6, 66:21, 67:11, 67:15, 67:23, 68:11, 70:4,
70:14, 70:24, 71:5, 71:7,
71:12, 71:17, 72:4, 72:5,
72:7, 73:21
agricultural $[4]-54: 21,63: 2$, 63:3, 71:15
Agriculture [1] - 19:13
ahead [1]-27:11
ahold [1] - 36:15

AIMA [2] - 19:12, 44:18
allow [1]-9:11
almost ${ }_{[1]}-25: 24$
alone $[1]-33: 12$
alternative ${ }_{[2]}-43: 13,56: 16$
ambulance [1] - 69:10
amended ${ }_{[2]}$ - 15:2, 15:4
amendment [2] - 5:24, 75:5
Ameren [6] - 15:20, 27:6,
27:9, 27:21, 32:10, 46:16
amount [1] - 46:6
analysis [1]-21:19
ANDREW [30] - 55:3, 55:12,
55:23, 58:23, 59:11, 60:7, 60:14, 60:22, 61:12, 61:21, 62:1, 62:5, 62:10, 63:14, 63:16, 63:21, 64:5, 64:9,
64:13, 64:15, 65:2, 65:19,
65:24, 66:24, 67:13, 69:12,
69:21, 70:7, 70:22, 71:4
Andrew [2] - 3:6, 55:12
angle $[3]-57: 18,64: 24$, 65:10
annex [1]-9:3
announce [1]-24:7
annual [2]-6:5, 6:7
answer [8]-8:21, 14:23, 15:6, 15:9, 15:17, 16:8, 36:10, 38:11
answered [1]-51:11
anticipated [2]-23:10, 33:24
anyway [1]-73:7
apologize $[3]-29: 10,38: 9$, 68:6
appeal [1]-75:3
Appeal [1] - 37:2
APPEALS[5]-1:11, 2:2, 5:9, 5:21, 77:18
Appeals [2]-3:13, 78:7
appeals [1]-49:14
appease [1]-48:1
Appendix [1] - 6:1
applicable $[1]-15: 2$
applicant $[5]-6: 4,13: 21$,
18:12, 31:7, 52:17
applicants $[1]-73: 13$
application [27]-7:10, 7:12,
7:19, 12:6, 13:5, 13:7, 13:15, 15:18, 15:21, 16:17, 22:14, 22:16, 24:22, 29:2,
31:10, 33:16, 37:17, 38:15,
52:3, 53:22, 54:1, 54:14,
54:21, 75:6, 75:7, 75:13,
75:16
apply [1]-46:7
appreciate [1] - 53:20
approach [2]-11:6, 32:2
appropriate ${ }_{[1]}-66: 7$
approval [6]-20:21, 29:1, 31:16, 32:4, 56:7, 73:20
approve $[11]-4: 21,5: 2$,
12:6, 30:18, 68:10, 68:18,

70:14, 74:2, 74:8, 75:13, 76:15
approved [21]-5:12, 21:4, 25:5, 30:16, 45:3, 45:8, 47:3, 56:3, 56:4, 56:5, 57:14, 59:9, 59:15, 59:20, 59:21, 60:4, 71:24, 73:4, 73:7, 74:4, 76:17
approving [2] - 60:3, 72:6
April [2]-43:21, 56:6
area [16]-8:17, 10:2, 25:14,
31:3, 52:13, 56:9, 56:11,
56:12, 57:5, 57:11, 57:12,
59:14, 60:9, 60:10, 60:20,
62:11
areas [2]-40:13, 59:18
argue $[1]-31: 18$
arming [1] - 31:15
array [2]-29:3, 56:17
arrays [8]-56:16, 57:7, 57:9, 59:24, 60:6, 61:4, 63:7, 67:8
articles [1] - 74:24
articulated [1]-65:6
ASAP ${ }_{[1]}$-9:7
aspects [2]-62:22, 63:8
assessed [1] - 23:7
assessment ${ }_{[1]}-56: 8$
Assistant ${ }_{[1]}$ - 2:18
assuming [1]-27:1
attached $[1]$ - 8:1
attend ${ }_{[1]}$ - 3:17
attorney ${ }_{[1]}$ - 14:8
Attorney ${ }_{[2]}$ - 2:18, 15:5
attract $[1]$ - 52:12
ATVs [1] - 64:6
AUDIENCE [1] - 49:2
available [1] - 44:8
avenues $[1]$ - 9:8
avoid [3] - 61:6, 61:7, 62:22
aware [1] - 30:3
Aye [1] - 5:9
aye [2]-5:21, 77:18
back [9]-15:18, 17:20,
25:19, 37:8, 44:24, 55:6,
55:10, 58:22, 73:14
background [1] - 7:17
backing [1] - 30:21
bad [2] - 31:17, 48:13
bag [1] - 45:1
Bank [1] - 25:11
BARRY ${ }_{[14]}-4: 1,27: 10$,
29:8, 37:7, 38:3, 52:24,
70:13, 70:20, 72:11, 72:19,
74:22, 75:22, 76:3, 76:12
Barry ${ }_{[2]}-2: 18,15: 5$
based [2] - 31:9, 76:20
basis [1] - 34:11
battery [5]-6:2, 72:3, 72:10, 72:12
beautiful [3]-33:11, 41:14, 41:15
become [1] - 26:6
becoming [1] - 42:10
beforehand $[1]-70: 17$
begin [2]-21:10, 71:1
begs $[1]-73: 11$
behalf $[1]$ - $37: 4$
bend [1]-65:1
benefit [4]-23:3, 23:13, 23:15, 23:18
best $[7]-28: 11,40: 10,50: 5$,
56:15, 56:21, 62:22
better [3] - 28:4, 57:22, 63:6
between [4]-57:10, 59:16,
59:23, 61:3
big [2] - 44:4, 51:8
bigger [4]-25:20, 26:22, 42:10
biggest [1]-28:1
bit $[7]$ - 18:18, 20:24, 40:12,
42:1, 52:3, 52:7, 63:20
Blake [4]-2:17, 7:12, 13:7, 24:7
BLAKE [52] - 3:12, 3:21, 4:3, $4: 10,4: 13,4: 15,4: 17$, 4:19, 6:24, 7:2, 7:4, 7:6, 7:8, 7:13, 7:16, 8:6, 11:23, 12:12, 12:14, 12:16, 12:18, 12:20, 13:8, 13:11, 16:20, 17:5, 24:11, 28:19, 29:7, 29:14, 29:22, 30:2, 30:4, 38:21, 39:4, 45:13, 53:11, 53:13, 53:15, 53:17, 54:2, 54:5, 60:11, 74:12, 74:14, 74:16, 74:18, 74:20, 77:2, 77:4, 77:6, 77:8
block [4]-25:12, 45:18, 45:21, 46:3
blocking [2] - 43:5, 67:11
board [2] - 32:2, 47:20
Board [45]-3:13, 3:18, 5:24, 6:1, 6:12, 6:17, 9:18, 11:13, 12:4, 15:12, 16:12, 23:23, 24:10, 24:23, 29:17, 31:5, 34:11, 34:15, 35:13,
37:2, 38:10, 41:20, 45:7,
46:2, 49:7, 50:3, 52:21,
55:13, 55:18, 56:4, 56:5,
58:19, 59:6, 59:15, 59:17,
59:21, 63:10, 64:19, 68:8,
68:16, 74:23, 75:12, 78:7
BOARD [6] - 1:11, 2:2, 2:7,
5:9, 5:21, 77:18
bond [5]-44:12, 44:16, 44:18, 44:20, 44:23
Bonnie [2]-24:11, 24:15
bonnie [1]-2:22
BONNIE [19]-24:13, 27:11, 27:14, 27:19, 28:18, 28:23, 29:20, 29:23, 30:3, 35:24, 36:5, 36:9, 36:13, 36:19, 43:15, 47:5, 47:12, 48:12, 48:16
bordering [1] - 33:18
borders [1] - 18:3
bottom [1]-62:12
bought $[1]-11: 4$
Boulevard [1] - 2:20
boundaries [2]-17:16, 18:6
brief [3]-14:11, 15:16, 28:22
bring [3]-28:19, 44:24, 65:7
bringing [1] - 43:23
brings [1]-26:16
buck [1] - 42:15
Buckhart [1]-7:21
buffer [2]-22:15, 40:12
build [6] - 9:11, 25:15, 25:22,
57:1, 61:3, 62:19
building $[8]-8: 22,20: 7$, 20:12, 63:5, 64:18, 70:17, 71:6, 73:23
built [1] - 45:20
business [4]-3:15, 4:21, 9:24, 10:1
businesses [1] - 52:13
buying [1]-10:5
C-2 [1] - 8:3
cannot [3]-25:1, 42:19, 47:12
care [5]-28:7, 34:18, 38:5, 42:13, 42:14
Carls [2] - 3:4, 8:9
CARLS ${ }_{[9]}-8: 9,9: 15,9: 21$, 10:4, 10:13, 10:16, 10:19, 11:10, 13:3
carries [5]-4:19, 5:11, 5:22, 7:8, 12:20
case [7]-25:19, 40:12, 40:13, 66:21, 67:2, 67:4, 67:8
cases [1]-67:1
caught [1]-17:2
central ${ }_{[1]}$ - 27:23
certified [1]-24:23
Certified ${ }_{[1]}-78: 5$
certifies [1]-16:15
certify ${ }_{[1]}-78: 5$
cetera ${ }_{[1]}-50: 19$
chain [1]-43:6
Chairman [2]-2:9, 3:16
chairperson [4]-3:19, 4:11, 55:4, 77:19
CHAIRPERSON ${ }_{[127]}-4: 20$,
5:6, 5:10, 5:20, 5:22, 6:22, 7:7, 7:9, 7:14, 7:17, 8:7, 9:13, 9:17, 11:12, 11:21, 12:2, 12:10, 12:13, 12:21, 13:4, 13:9, 13:12, 16:11, 17:8, 17:18, 18:7, 18:11, 19:4, 19:17, 20:3, 20:13, 20:17, 21:1, 21:3, 21:6, 21:9, 21:17, 22:7, 22:10, 23:1, 23:14, 23:17, 23:22, 24:2, 28:16, 28:21, 29:12, 29:16, 34:13, 34:17, 34:20, 35:5, 36:22, 38:8, 38:17,

39:7, 39:10, 40:1, 44:5, 45:9, 46:1, 46:13, 46:19, 46:24, 47:16, 47:22, 48:24, 49:4, 49:10, 49:13, 50:6, 50:12, 50:24, 51:16, 53:5, 53:9, 53:18, 54:3, 54:6, 54:12, 55:9, 55:17, 59:5, 60:5, 60:12, 60:19, 61:9, 61:18, 61:23, 62:2, 62:7, 63:9, 63:13, 63:17, 64:2, 64:7, 64:11, 64:21, 65:16, 65:21, 66:16, 66:20, 67:7, 68:1, 68:4, 68:13, 68:20, 69:17, 70:5, 70:9, 70:18, 71:2, 71:19, 72:1, 72:9, 72:16, 72:22, 73:8, 73:11, 73:24, 74:5, 74:10, 74:19, 74:21, 77:1, 77:9, 77:16
chance [1]-23:17
change $[8]-47: 11,55: 20$,
55:21, 58:1, 59:12, 60:3, 68:10, 68:18
changed [6]-8:3, 15:20, 57:12, 57:19, 59:9, 59:16
changes [5] - 44:8, 55:16, 74:2, 74:8
changing ${ }_{[2]}-75: 22,76: 4$
check [2]-39:19, 67:22
checked [1]-16:16
checklist [1] - $21: 18$
chemical ${ }_{[1]}-26: 17$
chemicals [1]-26:7
chiming [1] - 38:13
CHRISTIAN ${ }_{[2]}-1: 6,78: 2$
CHRISTIAN ${ }_{[1]}-2: 1$
Christian [5]-2:18, 5:24,
28:24, 33:14, 42:19
circumstances [2]-38:4, 51:5
cited [1]-21:22
city [1] - 9:4
City $[30]-14: 16,17: 7,17: 10$, 17:12, 17:21, 18:1, 18:3, 25:11, 25:16, 26:19, 30:13, $30: 15,30: 16,30: 19,30: 20$, 30:23, 32:14, 35:19, 35:23, 36:17, 39:6, 48:11, 48:17, 48:21, 49:12, 50:8, 50:16, 51:17, 52:15, 53:2
clarified [1]-6:11
clause [1]-51:21
clear $[4]-24: 6,38: 9,60: 20$, 61:20
cleared [3] - 60:23, 61:6, 61:10
clearing [3] - 60:24, 61:1, 61:17
Clerk [5]-64:12, 68:11, 70:6, 70:11, 73:21
close [2]-9:20, 9:21
closed [5]-6:16, 11:17, 35:9, 49:5, 68:6
Code [1]-22:19
code [7] - 6:6, 30:20, 49:13,
50:13, 51:20, 52:5, 52:11
collect ${ }^{[1]}-27: 7$
collected [1] - 27:21
coming [6] - 64:22, 64:23, 66:13, 66:14, 69:3, 69:10 comment [19]-6:14, 6:16, 11:16, 11:17, 12:24, 24:5, 24:6, 35:8, 49:4, 49:17, 49:23, 50:10, 51:18, 52:15, 59:7, 68:5, 68:6, 70:3
commented [1] - 11:22
comments [6]-11:14, 12:3,
17:13, 24:13, 35:6, 58:19
commercial [4]-11:1, 13:22, 32:20
commit [1] - 40:5
commitment ${ }_{[1]}$ - 34:8
common [1] - 33:6
community [8] - 31:22,
40:18, 46:4, 49:20, 50:5, 50:8, 52:9, 54:20
companies [1]-26:23
Company [2] - 7:11, 7:23
company [8]-14:10, 14:11, 15:9, 25:1, 31:9, 37:1, 39:9, 43:2
complete [10]-7:12, 13:7, 16:18, 16:19, 16:24, 17:3, 52:7, 54:1, 73:12
completed [3]-31:19, 44:2, 44:3
completeness [1] - 68:15
completion [2]-21:6, 43:18
complied [1] - 16:6
complies [1] - 16:1
comply [3] - 19:8, 25:1, 52:4
con [1] - 51:4
concern [5] - 25:1, 26:12,
28:1, 41:16, 51:1
concerned [1] - 25:21
concerns [7]-18:12, 19:6, 25:20, 26:4, 26:22, 50:13, 62:9
concession [1] - 48:3
concessions [4] - 47:4, 47:6, 47:24, 48:6
conclusion [1]-56:19
concurring [1] - 75:1
condition [2]-44:16, 44:24
conditions [1] - 32:17
confident [1] - 10:6
connect [2] - 56:16, 63:7
connected [1] - 57:8
connects [2] - 57:6, 60:6
consider [5] - 40:18, 41:5,
41:7, 47:24, 48:5
consideration [1] - 42:16
considerations [1] - 43:2
considered [1] - 69:23
consist [1] - 14:1
constraints [2]-57:21
construct $[5]-7: 24,13: 21$, 22:5, 27:5, 69:13
constructed ${ }_{[1]}-66: 12$
constructing [1] - 67:9
construction [9]-20:8, 20:9, 20:18, 34:8, 44:11, 44:20, 66:12, 69:23, 71:1
contact [5] - 18:15, 18:17, 19:5, 30:14, 35:18
contacted [2]-35:16, 35:17
contains [1] - 78:10
contaminate [1] - 26:11
contaminating [1] - 26:8
continue [6] - 32:16, 40:3,
40:7, 76:15, 76:19, 76:23
CONTINUED ${ }_{[1]}-3: 1$
continued [2]-39:17, 76:10
continuing [1] - 52:24
contractor ${ }_{[2]}-8: 21,69: 24$
control [3]-18:4, 26:10
conversations [1] - 50:20
Copenbarger ${ }_{[1]}-6: 10$
copy [3]-33:2, 34:18, 34:21
corner ${ }_{[2]}-7: 20,25: 10$
corporations [1]-26:24
correct [7]-10:20, 38:17,
45:4, 50:6, 60:21, 63:13, 72:10
Corzine ${ }_{[1]}-12: 22$
costly [1] - 62:21
Council [3]-36:18, 48:11, 48:21
council [1]-49:16
count [3]-29:14, 29:20, 75:17
counted [1] - 29:8
counties [1] - 42:21
Country [1] - 26:1
COUNTY $[3]-1: 6,2: 1,78: 2$
County [45]-2:18, 5:24,
9:10, 15:21, 16:14, 22:23,
22:24, 23:3, 23:13, 23:18,
24:23, 28:24, 30:1, 31:5,
31:15, 32:1, 32:9, 32:14,
32:18, 33:14, 33:20, 34:11,
34:15, 37:2, 37:18, 37:20,
38:20, 41:19, 41:20, 42:7,
42:8, 42:19, 44:17, 56:5,
59:15, 59:17, 59:21, 64:12,
64:19, 68:11, 68:16, 70:6,
70:10, 71:17, 73:21
County's [1] - 15:4
couple [1]-15:16
course [4]-47:7, 48:7,
58:16, 71:16
Court [2] - 3:8, 47:15
cousins [2]-18:21, 19:2
cover [1]-67:11
covers [1] - 58:18
cross [1] - 19:24
crossing [1] - 19:20
CSR [3] - 1:21, 3:8, 78:22
culvert [2]-19:23, 59:2
current [3]-8:11, 9:22, 44:24
cut [1]-61:13
cutting [2]-56:14, 61:7
damaged [1]-26:6
damaging $[1]$ - 19:15
dart [1] - 32:2
date [2] - 49:24, 77:23
dealership [1]-7:24
December [1]-64:10
decided [2]-56:15, 56:21
decision [1]-51:14
Deere [1]-7:24
defer [1]-16:9
definitely [1] - 41:9
delays [1]-9:9
deliberation [4]-38:10,
44:6, 56:18, 71:21
denied [1]-30:16
deny [2]-31:4, 34:10
denying [2]-75:7, 75:15
Department [4]-19:12,
58:10, 66:3, 67:5
departments ${ }_{[1]}-6: 6$
depicting $[1]-35: 3$
description [1]-28:22
design [6] - 34:7, 54:22,
56:3, 57:3, 57:9, 59:13
designed [1]-20:9
destruction [1]-28:1
deteriorate [1]-26:5
determine [1] - 36:8
devalue ${ }_{[1]}-21: 24$
develop [2] - 54:19, 59:19
developer [1] - 35:15
developing ${ }_{[1]}-15: 14$
development [1]-32:6
developments [1]-22:4
different [2]-69:4, 73:23
differs [1]-49:20
diligence [2]-40:4, 40:7
direction [2] - 65:12, 65:14
Director [1]-6:8
disapproving ${ }_{[1]}$ - 60:3
discovered [2] - 56:10, 56:11
discuss [2]-24:18, 47:19
discussed [2]-6:9, 33:17
discussion [12] - 4:23, 5:14,
6:17, 12:3, 14:14, 35:13,
38:14, 49:6, 54:9, 56:18,
68:7, 72:24
district ${ }_{[2]}-50: 18,54: 21$
districts [1]-19:5
disturbance ${ }_{[1]}$ - 62:20
ditch [2]-19:24, 20:2
ditches [2]-19:20, 26:20
done [15]-9:7, 10:7, 20:6,
30:9, 30:12, 32:24, 33:19,
37:18, 45:16, 48:23, 66:2,
66:8, 68:19, 71:23, 73:5
DOOR ${ }_{[1]}$ - 12:15
door [2] - 38:14, 43:4
Door [1] - 2:12
DORR [87] - 3:20, 4:16, 5:1, 5:19, 7:5, 10:2, 10:11, 10:15, 10:18, 11:7, 11:11, 12:5, 16:13, 17:3, 17:6, 17:10, 17:17, 18:19, 18:22, 22:21, 23:24, 29:18, 34:19, 35:14, 35:22, 36:7, 36:11, 36:17, 37:4, 37:12, 37:16, 38:15, 38:18, 39:3, 39:20, 40:16, 40:22, 41:2, 41:7, 41:10, 44:7, 45:2, 45:6, 45:10, 45:14, 47:2, 47:8, 47:18, 47:23, 48:5, 48:8, $48: 14,48: 18,49: 9,49: 11$, 49:21, 50:7, 50:22, 51:6, 52:22, 53:1, 53:16, 55:21, 58:20, 59:8, 60:2, 64:14, 66:17, 68:3, 68:9, 68:17,
68:24, 69:16, 71:22, 72:8,
73:1, 73:9, 73:16, 74:1,
74:7, 74:17, 75:20, 75:24,
76:8, 76:21, 77:3, 77:12
Dorr [8]-4:15, 7:4, 12:14,
46:24, 51:17, 53:15, 74:16, 77:2
down [8]-10:8, 25:8, 25:12, 26:16, 56:14, 64:17, 67:21, 78:7
dozen [1]-45:10
drainage [9]-19:5, 19:9,
19:11, 19:14, 19:15, 19:20,
19:24, 20:2, 50:18
drawings ${ }_{[1]}-20: 9$
drive $[3]$ - 19:22, 25:8, 71:13
driveway ${ }_{[2]}-25: 8,65: 22$
drop ${ }_{[2]}-62: 11,62: 15$
dropping [1] - 40:19
dry [1]-62:14
due [8]-24:16, 40:3, 54:22, 56:1, 57:20, 57:21, 59:18, 61:12
during [2]-26:13, 38:13
early [1] - 42:20
earth $[1]-56: 13$
easement [12]-63:1, 63:17, 66:6, 67:15, 67:22, 70:4, $70: 15,70: 23,71: 3,71: 5$, 71:7, 71:17
easements [3] - 19:19,
50:17, 70:9
easier [1]-57:15
East [6]-13:17, 13:18, 13:19, 29:5, 54:15, 54:17
east [1]-41:4
easy $[4]-32: 2,32: 9,34: 3$
Edinburg [2] - 7:21, 9:1
effective ${ }_{[1]}$ - 15:3
effectiveness ${ }_{[1]}$ - 52:1
effects [1] - 33:24
either [4]-11:3, 49:22, 50:9, 61:22
elaborate [2]-40:1, 62:8
election [1] - 44:1
Electric [1]-22:19
electric [1]-13:23
electrically ${ }_{[1]}$ - 57:9
electricity ${ }_{[2]}$ - 57:7, 57:23
eligible [2] - 75:9, 76:14
eliminated [1]-26:3
EMA [1] - 6:8
emergency [9] - 6:7, 66:21,
66:22, 67:2, 67:4, 67:10,
67:24, 68:22, 69:19
enable [1]-27:6
end [2] - 19:15, 43:22
ending [1]-26:20
energy $[7]$ - 13:22, 27:1,
27:22, 27:23, 31:18, 32:21,
42:11
engage $[1]-34: 5$
engagement [2]-31:20, 34:7
engineering ${ }_{[1]}-40: 8$
enter ${ }_{[2]}$ - 21:15, 72:18
entered [2] - 75:8, 75:16
enterprise $\left.{ }^{2}\right]$ - 18:9, 50:1
entire [3] - 10:6, 41:3, 55:19
entitlements [3]-20:10,
20:14, 40:6
entrance [6] - 10:10, 10:22,
11:1, 19:19, 19:23, 69:8
environment ${ }_{[1]}$ - 62:21
equipment $[5]$ - 64:22,
64:24, 65:7, 67:11, 67:16
erected ${ }_{[1]}-67: 19$
erosion [1]-26:15
especially [1] - 42:10
estimate [2]-29:17, 61:8
estimated [2] - 60:23, 61:2
et ${ }_{[1]}-50: 19$
EVANS $[30]-55: 3,55: 12$,
55:23, 58:23, 59:11, 60:7, 60:14, 60:22, 61:12, 61:21, 62:1, 62:5, 62:10, 63:14, 63:16, 63:21, 64:5, 64:9, 64:13, 64:15, 65:2, 65:19, 65:24, 66:24, 67:13, 69:12, 69:21, 70:7, 70:22, 71:4
Evans [2] - 3:6, 55:13
evening [9] $-4: 21,8: 5,12: 1$, 14:5, 15:11, 24:14, 30:7, 53:20, 75:18
eventually ${ }_{[1]}-47: 4$
evergreen [1] - 22:15
exact $[1]$ - 62:18
exactly $[8]-17: 19,25: 6$, 40:10, 59:14, 62:8, 64:6, 66:10, 69:13
except $[1]$ - 41:4
exceptions [1] - 51:3
excuse [3] - 38:8, 53:23, 59:20
executed [1] - 19:11
exercise ${ }_{[2]}$ - 17:23, 35:20
exercised [3]-17:15, 17:19, 18:2
existing [4] - 44:22, 57:17, 58:9, 72:17
expand $[1]-25: 14$
experience [2] - 22:2, 65:24
explain [1] - 46:2
extend [1] - 59:4
extremely [1] - 31:17
Facebook [1] - 46:20
FaceTime [1]-12:22
facilities [1] - 17:22
facility [5] - 13:22, 14:1, 18:5, 23:12, 32:21
fail [1] - 76:18
fails [2]-75:5, 75:13
fall [1] - 45:4
family [6] - 18:18, 18:19, 19:3, 25:23, 30:24, 33:7
far $[4]-8: 22,12: 1,40: 17$, 41:12
farm [6]-24:20, 25:15, 25:22, 28:2, 33:9, 35:2
farmed [2]-25:24, 31:3
farmland [1]-28:10
farms [6] - 25:23, 26:1,
30:21, 33:11, $35: 1$
favor [6]-5:8, 5:20, 75:4, 75:6, 75:10, 77:17
February [2] - 78:6, 78:13
FEBRUARY [2] - 1:12, 2:3
federal [4]-27:2, 42:12, 42:14, 43:23
fee [3] - 7:14, 13:9, 54:3
feed [1]-26:1
feet $[19]-10: 22,10: 24,11: 2$, 13:18, 16:4, 52:5, 58:7, 61:19, 61:22, 62:6, 62:11, 62:15, 62:17, 62:18, 65:3, 69:14
fence [2]-22:18, 43:7
fenced [2] - 57:12, 59:13
fencing [1] - 22:11
few [2]-19:18, 43:10
field [2]-44:2, 71:15
fighting [1] - 42:9
figure ${ }_{[2]}$ - 40:9, 61:4
file $[5]-64: 16,64: 19,70: 7$,
71:16, 72:15
filed $[8]-15: 18,22: 13$,
22:15, 27:16, 64:11, 64:13, 68:11, 70:10
filing [6] - 7:14, 13:9, 15:21,
54:3, 70:4, 70:15
final ${ }_{[1]}-41: 20$
financial [2] - 8:17, 21:18
finish ${ }_{[1]}$ - 45:4
fire ${ }_{[2]}-6: 5,6: 6$
Fire [1] - 67:4
firm [2]-34:1, $34: 2$
first [12] - 3:15, 4:20, 5:6,

12:10, 16:17, 16:20, 24:11, 31:24, 32:9, 32:18, 33:5, 53:9
five [2] - 29:9, $55: 5$
flip [1] - 57:10
floor [3] - 4:5, 24:6, 52:23
flow [5] - 19:6, 19:21, 20:1,
50:15, 50:18
follow [1] - 70:1
following [3]-6:3, 16:15, 56:7
foot [1] - 22:18
footprint [1] - 59:22
forced ${ }_{[1]}$ - 51:7
foregoing [2] - 78:6, 78:9
form [1] - 78:8
formally [2] - 75:7, 75:16
forward [2]-25:4, 34:9
foundation [1]-14:2
four [9]-6:2, 36:14, 45:15, 75:2, 75:5, 75:11, 75:14, 76:9, 76:17
Fraley ${ }_{[1]}$ - 28:6
friends [1] - 33:7
front $[3]$ - 17:2, 38:23, 43:4
fruition [1] - 46:12
full $[7]-7: 15,13: 10,29: 10$,
29:15, 29:22, 33:2, 54:4
fullest [1]-28:13
fully [1] - 20:9
funds [2]-44:3, 44:8
further $[5]-6: 17,21: 14$, 35:12, 56:7, 73:15
future $[4]-25: 17,32: 13$, 44:9, 49:24
Gaon [3]-3:7, 15:8, 15:13
GAON [43]-15:11, 17:9,
17:12, 17:21, 18:10, 18:14, 18:21, 18:24, 19:7, 19:22, 20:6, 20:15, 20:20, 21:2,
21:5, 21:8, 21:11, 21:22,
22:9, 22:13, 22:22, 23:5,
23:16, 23:19, 27:12, 27:16,
35:18, 37:20, 38:6, 39:23,
40:3, 40:20, 40:24, 41:5,
41:9, 44:10, 45:5, 45:17,
46:4, 46:15, 46:22, 48:2,
48:7
garage [1] - 41:15
gate [2] - 67:19
general [3]-8:21, 50:5, 70:3
generally $[1]$ - 20:6
generating $[1]$ - 13:23
gentleman [1]-27:8
geotechnical [1] - 40:8
Given [1] - 78:12
given [2]-66:9, 67:1
glad [1] - 42:3
gladly ${ }_{[1]}-38: 1$
Glen [12] - 2:10, 3:22, 4:13,
5:4, 5:16, 7:2, 12:8, 12:16,
53:11, 74:12, 77:4, 77:14

GOODRICH [17]-3:22, 4:8, 4:14, 5:4, 5:16, 6:19, 7:3, 9:19, 12:8, 12:17, 24:1, 53:7, 53:12, 74:13, 76:24, 77:5, 77:14
Goodrich [11]-2:10, 3:22, 5:4, 5:16, 7:2, 12:8, 12:16, 53:11, 74:12, 77:4, 77:14
Google [1] - 46:20
government [3]-27:2, 27:4, 43:23
Governor [1] - 41:21
grading [1] - 56:13
Grandpa [1]-28:5
granted [2]-72:14, 76:1
granting [1] - 75:2
gravel ${ }_{[2]}-58: 7,63: 6$
great [2]-33:10, 41:15
Green [15] - 15:13, 24:21, 31:8, 31:11, 31:15, 31:23, 31:24, 32:12, 33:10, 33:17, 33:21, 34:24, 39:15, 44:21
green [8]-22:11, 22:21,
22:23, 27:1, 41:7, 42:11, 43:5, 47:9
grid [3] - 45:23, 45:24, 57:24
gross [4]-23:4, 23:14, 23:15, 23:16
ground [9]-25:22, 28:2, 28:6, 31:2, 45:15, 60:6, 60:9, 60:17, 60:20
groundwater [2]-26:8, 26:12
Group [3]-53:23, 55:2
growth [1]-25:16
guarantee [2]-44:13, 45:19
guaranteed [1] - 46:9
guarantees [2]-21:20, 44:21
guess [7]-4:4, 49:19, 52:6, 52:17, 68:20, 70:13, 76:18
gully $[3]-56: 12,62: 7,62: 13$
guys [12]-20:3, 21:10, 22:7, 28:15, 33:3, 34:17, 35:22, 41:14, 41:18, 44:17, 65:16, 72:23
Haines [4]-1:20, 3:8, 78:4, 78:22
half $[5]-14: 17,17: 7,18: 1$, 25:12, 48:20
hall [1] - 54:9
Hall [1]-25:11
Hamilton [1]-2:20
hand [1] - 78:12
handle [4]-37:21, 37:22, 37:23, 37:24
handout [1] - 34:18
hands [2]-41:23, 42:17
happy $[8]-15: 5,15: 17$, 21:15, 22:9, 22:23, 58:16, 64:20, 71:16
hard [6]-32:24, 33:2, 36:14,

56:10, 57:14, 66:19
hazardous [1] - 26:7
head [1] - 23:20
health [1]-69:22
heard [3]-27:7, 27:14, 54:7
hearings [1]-50:21
heart [1]-25:7
heavy [2]-26:13, 26:15
heck [1] - 69:6
held [2]-4:22, 44:17
hell ${ }_{[1]}-33: 15$
help [1]-14:23
herbicides [2]-26:9, 26:18
hereby ${ }_{[1]}-78: 5$
highlighted ${ }_{[1]}-51: 22$
holding [2]-39:9, 45:1
home $[3]$ - 24:17, 66:23, 67:10
homeowner [3]-52:19, 66:22, 67:8
homeowner's [1] - 65:22
homeowners [2]-33:19, 33:23
house [5] - 10:4, 11:3, 11:5, 11:8, 41:15
HOWARD ${ }_{[21]}-4: 7,4: 9$, 4:12, 6:21, 7:1, 11:19, 12:19, 36:21, 36:23, 37:14, 37:19, 39:8, 50:23, 51:1, 53:14, 63:11, 63:15, 74:9, 74:15, 76:6, 77:7
Howard [10]-2:11, 4:6, 6:24, 11:18, 12:18, 36:22, 39:7, 53:13, 74:14, 77:6
Howard's [1] - 52:7
hundred [1] - 67:14
hunger [1]-26:2
husband [1]-25:23
ID [1] - 29:4
idea [3] - 33:4, 48:13, 51:10
IL [4]-56:20, 56:22, 58:8,
59:4
ILLINOIS [1] - 78:1
Illinois [17]-2:21, 7:21, 19:8, 19:12, 22:3, 27:23, 29:1, 29:6, 42:9, 44:19, 53:24, 54:24, 58:10, 65:18, 66:3, 66:18, 78:13
illustrious [1] - 41:21
imagine [1] - 28:2
impact [3]-19:21, 20:1, 33:22
impacted [2] - 33:19, 34:2
Implement [5] - 7:11, 7:23, 8:2, 11:15, 11:16
importantly [1] - 32:15
impossible [1] - 62:19
improve [1]-59:1
improvements [1] - 34:6
$\mathbf{I N}_{[1]}$ - 1:6
inaction [7]-30:8, 30:9, 30:12, 30:13
inappropriate [1] - 71:11
included [1] - 19:18
including [1] - 16:3
incorporated [1]-25:14
indicated [1] - 21:12
individuals [1] - 9:23
information [2]-49:8, 51:13
informational [1] - 33:21
informed [1] - 66:10
infrastructure $[1]$ - 34:6
inhibit [1]-25:16
input [3]-17:11, 49:12, 53:19
install ${ }_{[1]}$ - 22:11
installation [1]-29:3
instead [1] - 43:6
intended [1]-39:16
intent [1]-20:22
interconnected ${ }_{[1]}$ - 45:23
interconnection [4]-15:19,
27:17, 46:16, 57:23
interested [1] - 9:23
interests [1] - 34:5
interference ${ }_{[1]}$ - 11:1
intermittent $[1]$ - 62:12
interpret ${ }_{[1]}$ - 76:3
intersection [1]-13:18
invalid ${ }_{[1]}-51: 23$
inverters [1] - 14:2
investment ${ }_{[1]}$ - 27:3
involved [1]-26:23
issuance [1]-20:7
issue $[7]-26: 9,42: 10$,
49:22, 58:12, 65:15, 73:2, 76:6
issues [1]-58:15
item $[5]-5: 23,6: 14,7: 9$, 13:4, 53:21
items [3]-21:18, 52:20, 77:10
January ${ }_{[1]}-15: 1$
Joann [7]-2:11, 4:6, 6:24,
12:18, 53:13, 74:14, 77:6
job [1] - 36:15
jOE [1] - 40:20
JOE [42] - 15:11, 17:9, 17:12, 17:21, 18:10, 18:14, 18:21, 18:24, 19:7, 19:22, 20:6, 20:15, 20:20, 21:2, 21:5, 21:8, 21:11, 21:22, 22:9, 22:13, 22:22, 23:5, 23:16, 23:19, 27:12, 27:16, 35:18, 37:20, 38:6, 39:23, 40:3, 40:24, 41:5, 41:9, 44:10, 45:5, 45:17, 46:4, 46:15, 46:22, 48:2, 48:7
Joe [11]-2:12, 3:7, 4:15, 7:4, 12:14, 15:8, 15:12, 16:21,
53:15, 74:16, 77:2
John [1]-7:24
Johnson [1]-2:20
jurisdiction [7] - 17:15,

17:20, 17:23, 18:2, 22:5,
35:20, 36:3
jurisdictional ${ }_{[1]}$ - 30:20
keep [1] - 44:5
Keller [1]-2:20
kept $[4]-57: 5,57: 7,57: 12$, 59:12
Key [13] - 15:13, 24:21, 31:8,
31:15, 31:23, 31:24, 32:12,
33:10, 33:17, 34:24, 39:15, 44:22
key [1] - 30:8
Key's [2]-31:12, 33:21
kind [10]-18:17, 19:13,
21:18, 21:20, 22:10, 42:21,
50:16, 51:13, 68:21, 76:4
known [1] - 31:8
laced [1]-26:17
land $[5]-8: 16,13: 24,25: 6$, 44:24, 63:2
landowner $[4]-14: 15,19: 10$, 63:18, 63:19
landowner's [1] - 72:24
landowners [11]-18:12,
25:3, 30:11, 32:3, 32:11,
32:12, 33:18, 33:23, 34:2,
39:6, 66:5
lane [1]-58:22
lanes [1] - 10:17
language $[3]-34: 14,52: 3$, 73:4
large $[5]-24: 19,25: 15$, 25:22, 29:3, 33:10
larger [2] - 33:1, 65:10
Larry [1] - 3:3
last $[13]-8: 14,14: 13,37: 12$,
39:10, 39:18, 41:13, 53:21,
54:8, 56:3, 56:6, 57:14,
59:9, 59:17
law [1]-16:7
laws [1]-19:8
lawsuits [2]-42:18, 42:20
leak [1]-26:6
leakage ${ }_{[1]}-26: 18$
lease [1] - 72:17
least $[3]-10: 22,43: 3,50: 11$
leave [1] - 25:7
leaving ${ }_{[1]}$ - 67:16
left ${ }_{[2]}$ - 18:17, $45: 1$
legal [2] - 14:22, 39:13
Len [1]-12:22
less [1] - 46:11
letter [1] - 24:22
letters [1] - 39:5
liability [1]-26:24
License [1] - 78:23
life ${ }_{[1]}-23: 11$
lights [1]-69:5
likelihood [1] - 46:11
likely [1] - 20:11
limited [4]-26:24, 41:23, 50:3
limits [4]-17:7, 30:14, 35:21, 48:17
line [10]-57:5, 57:8, 60:5, 60:13, 60:14, 61:11, 61:19, 64:18
lines [1]-14:3
lingering ${ }_{[1]}-68: 21$
link [1] - 43:7
list $[3]$ - $31: 13,33: 17,34: 2$
listening [1] - 12:23
little [6]-9:6, 10:2, 20:24,
40:12, 42:1, 63:20
live [6]-24:16, 29:24, 31:1,
32:11, 41:13, 48:17
lived [1] - 33:8
LLC [6]-2:20, 13:6, 31:7, 53:23, 53:24, 55:2
LLCs [1] - 26:23
local $[4]-6: 5,6: 6,34: 5,39: 5$
located [4]-7:20, 13:16, 24:17, 25:11
location [6]-8:11, 25:13, 28:4, 41:12, 41:15, 67:17
Locust [1] - 25:10
logistics [1] - 8:16
look [5]-32:22, 33:3, 37:8, 49:14, 51:5
looking ${ }_{[7]}-8: 12,8: 24,9: 3$, 43:6, 51:20, 69:2, 74:24
looks [1]-63:20
love [1] - 3:20
lovely [1]-24:22
LUKE [1] - 10:23
Luke [2]-3:5, 8:20
ma'am [1] - 50:24
mailbox [1] - 31:11
main [1] - 10:10
maintain [2]-66:14, 70:2
maintained [1] - 6:8
maintenance [2]-66:14, 67:1
major [2]-50:4, 63:11
manage $[1]$ - $50: 18$
manager ${ }_{[1]}-8: 10$
mandated $[1]-16: 7$
map [2] - 34:21, 57:15
maps [1]-19:18
March [2] - 54:7, 56:4
marked [2]-16:23, 29:24
MARY ${ }_{[14]}$ - 4:1, 27:10, 29:8, 37:7, 38:3, 52:24, 70:13,
70:20, 72:11, 72:19, 74:22,
75:22, 76:3, 76:12
Mary [4]-2:18, 16:24, 38:22, 71:22
massive [1] - 26:14
master [2]-32:3, 32:5
materials [1]-22:17
MATTER $_{[1]}-1: 6$
matter $[6]-4: 24,14: 19$, 18:18, 18:19, 20:8, 75:11
Mayor ${ }_{[1]}$ - 36:1
mayor ${ }_{[1]}-49: 16$
mean [21]-17:19, 18:20, 20:14, 30:18, 37:4, 40:16, 41:5, 42:1, 42:16, 43:8, 46:17, 47:18, 50:1, 51:8, 55:22, 68:24, 69:7, 69:8, 72:20, 73:16, 75:23
meaning [1]-26:23
meeting [37] - 3:14, 4:22,
5:3, 5:13, 5:18, 6:10,
12:23, 13:13, 16:21, 17:2, 35:9, 36:18, 37:10, 37:12, 38:24, 39:2, 39:11, 39:18, 39:19, 48:11, 48:21, 52:21, 55:7, 55:9, 59:17, 59:18, 64:20, 75:12, 75:15, 76:11, 76:13, 76:16, 76:17, 76:20,
76:23, 77:19, 77:22
meetings $[1]$ - 69:18
megawatt [1] - 54:20
megawatts [2] - 46:6, 46:14
member [1] - 47:20
MEMBER [1] - 49:2
members [3] - 15:11, 75:2, 75:9
MEMBERS $_{[3]}-5: 9,5: 21$, 77:18
mentioned [1]-23:1
mess [1]-44:4
might $[5]$ - 14:24, 15:10,
43:13, 57:15, 76:15
MIKE [4] - 30:6, 34:16, 34:23, 36:4
Mike [3] - 2:23, 30:4, 30:6
mile [4]-14:17, 17:6, 17:24, 48:20
miles [4]-25:6, 25:9, 30:13, 30:20
mind ${ }_{[1]}-40: 21$
minimal [1]-27:3
minute [1] - 55:5
minutes [9]-4:21, 5:2, 5:11, 5:15, 5:17, 24:9, 37:8, 38:23, 39:19
Miss [5] - 11:18, 35:11, 36:22, 39:7, 52:7
mistake [1]-27:20
misunderstood [1] - 70:21
MIZEUR [24] - 24:13, 27:11, 27:14, 27:19, 28:18, 28:23, 29:20, 29:23, 30:3, 30:6, 34:16, 34:23, 35:24, 36:4, 36:5, 36:9, 36:13, 36:19, 43:15, 47:5, 47:12, 47:13, 48:12, 48:16
Mizeur [7]-2:22, 2:23, 3:3, 24:12, 24:15, 30:5, 30:7
Mizeur's [1] - 35:11 moment [3]-61:2, 61:8, 71:10
money [6]-27:4, 40:5,
42:12, 42:15, 43:23, 44:1 months [3]-21:8, 43:19,

45:5
most [1] - 32:14
motion [28] - 4:5, 4:19, 5:1, 5:10, 5:17, 5:22, 6:18, 6:19, 7:8, 12:5, 12:20, 51:15, 52:14, 52:23, 53:5, 53:6, 53:7, 64:20, 74:6,
74:7, 75:5, 75:6, 75:13,
75:15, 76:19, 76:22, 77:11, 77:12
move [2] - 57:3, 58:2
moving [3]-8:12, 25:4, 56:13
MR [242] - 3:12, 3:20, 3:21, 3:22, 4:3, 4:8, 4:10, 4:13, 4:15, 4:16, 4:17, 4:19, 5:1, $5: 4,5: 16,5: 19,6: 19,6: 24$,
7:2, 7:3, 7:4, 7:5, 7:6, 7:8,
7:13, 7:16, 8:6, 8:9, 9:15,
9:19, 9:21, 10:2, 10:4, 10:11, 10:13, 10:15, 10:16, 10:18, 10:19, 10:23, 11:7, 11:10, 11:11, 11:23, 12:5, 12:8, 12:12, 12:14, 12:15, 12:16, 12:17, 12:18, 12:20, 13:3, 13:8, 13:11, 14:6, 15:11, 16:13, 16:20, 17:3, 17:5, 17:6, 17:9, 17:10, 17:12, 17:17, 17:21, 18:10, 18:14, 18:19, 18:21, 18:22, 18:24, 19:7, 19:22, 20:6, 20:15, 20:20, 21:2, 21:5, 21:8, 21:11, 21:22, 22:9, 22:13, 22:21, 22:22, 23:5, 23:16, 23:19, 23:24, 24:1, 24:11, 27:12, 27:16, 28:19, 29:7, 29:14, 29:18, 29:22, 30:4, 30:6, 34:16, 34:19, 34:23, 35:14, 35:18, 35:22, 36:4, 36:7, 36:11, 36:17, 37:4, 37:12, 37:16, 37:20, 38:6, 38:15, 38:18, 38:21, 39:3, 39:4, 39:20, 39:23, 40:3, 40:16, 40:20, 40:22, 40:24, 41:2, 41:5, 41:7, 41:9, 41:10, 44:7, 44:10, 45:2, 45:5, 45:6, 45:10, 45:13, 45:14, 45:17, 46:4, 46:15, 46:22, 47:2, 47:8, 47:13, 47:23, 48:2, 48:5, 48:7, 48:8, 48:14, 48:18, 49:9, 49:11, 49:21, 50:7, 50:22, 51:6, 52:22, 53:1, 53:7, 53:11, 53:13, 53:15, 53:16, 53:17, 54:2, 54:5, 54:11, 55:3, 55:12, 55:21, 55:23, 58:20, 58:23, 59:8, 59:11, 60:2, 60:7, 60:11, 60:14, 60:22, 61:12, 61:21, 62:1, 62:5, 62:10, 63:14, 63:16, 63:21, 64:5, 64:9, 64:13, 64:14, 64:15, 65:2, 65:19, 65:24, 66:17, 66:24,

67:13, 68:3, 68:9, 68:17, 68:24, 69:12, 69:16, 69:21,
70:7, 70:22, 71:4, 71:22,
72:8, 73:1, 73:9, 73:16,
74:1, 74:7, 74:12, 74:14, 74:16, 74:17, 74:18, 74:20, 75:20, 75:24, 76:8, 76:21, 76:24, 77:2, 77:3, 77:4, 77:5, 77:6, 77:8, 77:12, 77:14
MS [47] - 3:24, 4:1, 4:7, 4:9, 4:12, 4:18, 6:21, 7:1, 11:19, 12:19, 24:13, 27:10, 29:8, 35:24, 36:5, 36:9, 36:13, 36:19, 36:21, 36:23, 37:7, 37:14, 37:19, 38:3, 39:8, 43:15, 47:5, 47:12, 48:12, 48:16, 50:23, 51:1, 52:24, 53:14, 63:11, 63:15, 70:13, 70:20, 72:19, 74:9, 74:15, 74:22, 75:22, 76:3, 76:6, 76:12, 77:7
municipal $[3]-18: 6,35: 21$, 50:13
municipality $[2]-39: 12$, 49:15
mystery [1] - 35:15
name [6]-14:6, 15:12, 24:7,
30:6, 47:15, 55:12
names [1] - 33:18
narrative [1] - 21:23
National [1]-22:19
near [2] - 31:2, 33:12
necessarily [1] - 70:24
necessary ${ }_{[2]}-56: 2,75: 2$
need [14]-28:7, 28:9, 44:5,
47:16, 49:17, 50:16, 51:11,
52:15, 61:5, 64:19, 66:9,
71:9, 71:10, 71:13
needed [4]-18:13, 65:8, 67:5, 73:14
needs [4]-53:1, 71:23, 73:9, 76:10
negotiation [1] - 11:9
negotiations [1] - 10:5
neighbor [3]-40:17, 52:9, 58:4
neighboring $[2]-21: 24$, 33:22
neighbors [9]-9:2, 11:20, 18:15, 25:3, 26:19, 38:16, 43:12, 52:14, 56:23
net $[4]-23: 4,23: 13,23: 14$, 23:18
neutral [1]-35:7
never $[3]-35: 16,66: 2,73: 1$
new [4]-7:24, 16:2, 61:24,
62:2
newly [1] - 15:24
next $[15]-5: 23,7: 9,13: 4$,
14:15, 17:1, 30:4, 52:21,
75:12, 75:14, 76:11, 76:12,
76:16, 76:17, 76:20, 76:23

Nicoll [1] - 2:20
nine [3] - 21:8, 43:19, 45:5
nominate [1]-3:18
none [1]-45:13
North [10] - 7:20, 13:6, 13:17, 13:18, 13:19, 14:4, 29:5, 31:7, 54:15, 54:17
north [3]-13:18, 24:16, 25:16
northeast [1] - 57:24
northern [2]-57:20, 58:6
Notary [2] - 78:4, 78:22
notes [1] - 78:11
nothing [2] - 30:17, 45:16
notice [5] - 66:7, 66:9, 66:24, 67:3, 67:6
notification [10]-14:14, 14:18, 14:19, 14:21, 36:23, 37:2, 38:16, 39:1, 39:8, 39:11
notifications [5] - 16:22, 33:20, 37:23, 38:1, 38:2
notified [3]-17:13, 24:21, 37:1
notify $[5]-30: 11,34: 2,37: 5$, 37:13, 38:7
notifying [1] - 25:2
November [10]-4:22, 5:2, 5:11, 5:13, 13:13, 14:9, 15:3, 30:10, 37:10, 43:24
number $[7]-7: 18,13: 14$, 29:4, 31:14, 54:14, 54:16, 75:10
o'clock [2] - 3:12, 5:18
obscured [1] - 57:18
October [1]-6:9
OF ${ }_{[8]}-1: 6,1: 11,2: 2,5: 9$, 5:21, 77:18, 78:1, 78:2
Office ${ }_{[2]}$ - 11:24, 70:12
official [3]-14:10, 15:8, 50:11
officials [1]-6:6
Old [1] - 10:21
once [6]-20:23, 42:8, 43:13, 52:22, 69:13, 71:5
one [24]-11:21, 11:23, 16:17, 21:14, 21:15, 21:17, 21:22, 26:16, 26:22, 29:23, 33:11, 39:12, 43:4, 45:14, 48:9, 50:4, 54:14, 60:11, 63:22, 69:10, 69:17, 69:18, 74:20
onwards [1]-60:18
ooze [1]-26:7
open [5] - 24:4, 24:5, 47:4, 48:3, 67:21
operation [1] - 66:13
opinion [3] - 49:24, 55:22, 73:10
opportunity [2] -8:15, 24:15
opposed [4]-11:20, 24:19, 29:1, 36:2
optics [1] - 31:17
option [2]-62:23, 63:7
order [5]-3:14, 3:15, 4:20, 17:21, 24:8
ordinance $[9]-15: 2,15: 4$, 15:22, 15:24, 16:3, 16:6, 51:21, 51:24, 52:2
Oregon [3]-22:3, 22:4,
31:10
original [3]-37:17, 38:15, 60:4
OSHA [1] - 70:1
otherwise [2]-31:8, 38:12
ourselves [1] - 40:12
outgrown [2]-8:14, 8:15
outlines [1] - 19:13
outside [5] - 17:15, 18:2,
18:5, 35:20, 61:11
overall [2]-32:3, 32:6
overhead [3] - 14:2, 57:5, 57:8
Overholt [1] - 3:16
oversized [2] - 35:2, 35:4
overview [1]-55:14
own [9]-11:7, 31:2, 37:5, 52:19, 63:19, 63:24, 65:18, 65:24
owner [4]-9:6, 18:15, 18:22, 18:24
owners [1]-21:24
owns [1] - 63:22
P.M ${ }_{[3]}$ - 2:4, 4:23, 5:14
packet ${ }_{[1]}-33: 22$
packets [2]-23:2, 32:23
page $[2]$ - 29:22, 29:23
pages [1]-29:9
paid [3] - 7:15, 13:10, 54:4
Pana[33]-13:6, 13:20, 14:4, 14:16, 17:7, 17:10, 18:3, 24:16, 24:17, 25:7, 26:20, 29:5, 30:13, 30:15, 30:16, 30:17, 30:19, 31:7, 35:16, 35:19, 35:23, 36:17, 39:6, 48:10, 48:21, 49:12, 49:20, 50:8, 50:9, 50:16, 51:17, 52:16, 53:2
panel $[4]-24: 20,25: 23$, 26:18, 29:3
panels [8]-14:1, 26:5, 26:11, 26:14, 28:11, 40:14, 41:17, 43:5
paragraph [2]-6:3, 51:24
parcel [10]-7:18, 13:14,
25:6, 29:4, 54:14, 54:16, 63:4, 63:22, 63:24
parcels [2]-54:13, 64:1
parking [1]-69:2
part [17]-20:11, 40:18,
42:19, 44:18, 45:18, 45:20, 46:7, 46:8, 46:9, 46:10, 47:9, 51:24, 52:10, 66:20, 67:19, 70:11, 70:16
partially ${ }_{[1]}$ - 25:19
participate $[1]-22: 8$
particular ${ }_{[1]}-6: 14$
partner ${ }_{[1]}$ - 52:10
pass [1]-51:7
passed ${ }_{[1]}$ - 15:1
passes [1]-74:20
past ${ }_{[2]}-43: 2,72: 23$
path [1]-34:8
pay [1]-23:20
paying [2]-23:9, 27:5
Pennsylvania ${ }^{[1]}$ - 22:4
people [5] - 11:7, 28:15,
32:15, 37:6, 66:14
People's [1]-25:11
Peoria [2]-2:21, 14:8
per [3]-23:20, 35:7, 49:13
percent ${ }_{[1]}-67: 14$
perfect ${ }_{[1]}-8: 18$
perfectly [3]-25:22, 28:2, 28:10
perform [1]-21:18
performed [1] - 20:4
permit [12]-20:7, 20:12,
20:16, 29:2, 31:6, 58:13,
64:18, 70:17, 71:6, 73:23,
75:4, 76:4
permits [3]-8:19, 9:11, 58:12
person [5] - 33:3, 36:14,
38:11, 38:12, 51:18
personally [1] - 76:5
perspective[3]-19:14,
68:15, 69:22
petition [3]-28:23, 35:11, 75:10
petitions [1]-28:14
phone [1]-31:13
photos [1] - 33:10
physical [1]-31:12
picked ${ }_{[1]}$ - 13:13
picture ${ }_{[1]}$ - $33: 13$
pictures [1] - 34:24
piece [1]-28:3
piles [1]-14:2
place [5] - 40:6, 40:10, 63:1, 67:23
plan [15]-20:5, 32:3, 32:5, 32:6, 33:4, 35:2, 39:21,
52:8, 55:15, 55:20, 55:21,
56:1, 73:19, 74:3, 74:8
planned ${ }_{[1]}-51: 2$
planning [1] - 34:7
plans [2]-32:23
plant [5]-31:24, 32:8, 32:10, 32:18, 33:5
point [17]-51:15, 52:7, 54:23, 57:23, 58:1, 58:9, 59:2, 59:5, 60:16, 61:9, 62:24, 65:4, 65:18, 66:4, 66:18, 70:23, 71:7
pointer ${ }_{[1]}-60: 15$
pointing [2] - 40:21, 41:1
points [1]-49:6
poles [1]-14:2
pollinator [1]-22:8
pollution [1] - 20:4
portion [4]-49:5, 61:14,
61:15, 67:12
Portland [2]-31:9, 31:11
positioned [1]-26:14
possibility ${ }^{[1]}-43: 8$
possible [3]-61:7, 65:3, 76:13
possibly [1] - 9:24
post [2]-44:12, 44:19
postponed [1] - 75:12
posts [1]-45:14
potential ${ }_{[1]}$ - 28:13
potentially ${ }_{[1]}$ - 19:21
power [3]-13:23, 45:23, 46:23
practical ${ }_{[1]}$ - 34:11
practicality ${ }_{[1]}$ - $31: 19$
practice ${ }_{[1]}-65: 22$
precedence ${ }^{11]}$ - 49:22
predated ${ }_{[1]}$ - 16:5
prefer $[2]-4: 1,55: 20$
PRESENT ${ }_{[2]}$ - 2:15, 3:1
present [5] - 4:7, 44:16,
49:24, 52:21, 55:10
presentation [4]-13:2,
39:16, 55:6, 55:11
President [1]-44:1
pretty [5] - 10:6, 41:22,
57:18, 58:17, 64:24
prevail [1] - 33:6
prevention [1]-20:4
previously ${ }_{[1]}$ - 33:16
pride [1] - 34:6
printed [2]-33:1, 57:16
private [1]-33:12
pro [2]-35:8, 51:4
problem [3]-66:3, 69:16, 72:21
procedures [3]-24:7, 74:23, 75:1
proceed [1]-24:10
proceedings ${ }_{[1]}$ - 77:21
process [5]-20:12, 21:10, 21:15, 49:14, 49:18
professional [2] - 34:1
professionally [1] - 32:24
program [9]-22:8, 45:18, 45:21, 46:3, 46:5, 46:7, 46:8, 46:10, 46:11
project [32]-11:15, 15:14, 16:1, 20:12, 20:19, 20:22, 27:1, 27:6, 28:4, 30:18, 33:19, 39:17, 40:5, 43:18, 44:9, 44:14, 46:12, 52:8, 54:24, 55:14, 55:19, 57:11, 57:24, 59:22, 64:17, 65:23, 66:15, 67:9, 72:5, 73:6,

74:3, 76:1
projects [4]-15:3, 22:6,
45:17, 73:12
properties [2]-21:19, 63:19
property [41]-8:1, 10:6, 11:3, 13:14, 13:16, 14:16, 18:14, 18:22, 18:24, 19:11, 19:16, 19:19, 21:24, 23:7, 23:8, 23:10, 23:21, 24:18, 24:20, 25:24, 28:3, 32:16, 32:21, 35:3, 40:8, 40:14, 41:4, 41:13, 42:13, 42:14, 44:15, 47:9, 57:1, 57:2, 58:4, 68:23, 69:9, 71:9, 71:12, 71:14
proposal [3]-58:14, 65:17, 65:20
proposed [4]-22:17, 22:20, 54:19, 57:22
proposing [3]-7:23, 13:21, 33:14
protect [1]-32:16
provide [6]-6:5, 15:9, 17:1, 22:23, 28:21, 29:16
provided [3]-14:18, 14:20, 14:21
Provider [3]-53:22, 53:23, 55:2
providers ${ }_{[1]}$ - 16:21
providing $[1]$ - 21:19
provisions [1]-66:6
prudent [1]-68:14
public [15]-6:13, 6:16, 11:14, 11:15, 11:17, 24:4, 24:6, 34:7, 35:8, 49:3, 49:4, 59:7, 68:5, 68:6
Public [2]-78:4, 78:22
pulls [1]-42:4
purchase ${ }_{[1]}-8: 16$
purpose [1]-13:23
pursue [1]-8:18
put $[7]$ - 17:10, 19:23, 24:21, 43:20, 43:22, 45:14, 49:24
puts [1]-43:24
putting [3]-24:19, 43:3, 47:8
PV [1] - 54:20
qualify ${ }_{[1]}$ - $37: 3$
questions [23]-6:11, 8:22, 9:18, 11:13, 12:3, 14:23, 15:6, 15:10, 15:17, 16:9, 16:12, 18:8, 23:23, 43:14, 47:21, 49:1, 51:11, 58:18, 59:6, 63:10, 68:2, 71:20
quick [1]-4:4
quite $[4]-52: 3,56: 11,56: 13$, 59:19
quorum [2] - 76:7, 76:8
quote [1]-33:23
racking [1]-14:1
rains [2]-26:13, 62:13
reach [1]-25:9
reached [4]-17:14, 21:11,

56:22, 58:10
read [3]-15:2, 32:24, 33:2
ready [1] - 8:18
really $[10]-8: 17,16: 8,42: 17$,
47:16, 57:17, 58:1, 58:20,
65:20, 73:6
reason [4]-16:23, 32:8,
44:13, 47:3
reasonable [1]-48:6
reasoning [1] - 9:5
recalling ${ }_{[1]}-72: 12$
receive [3] - 24:22, 75:5, 75:14
received ${ }_{[1]}-63: 18$
receiving [1] - 27:2
recess [2] - 55:5, 55:8
recommend [1] - 52:17
recommendation [4]-31:4, 34:10, 41:19, 42:7
recommending [1] - 75:3
record [11] - 12:22, 28:17,
28:22, 34:21, 35:10, 41:11,
47:23, 48:9, 48:22, 75:8,
75:17
recorded [2]-70:12, 73:22
Recorder's [1] - 70:12
recording [1] - 71:18
records [1] - 6:7
recount [1] - 14:13
red [5]-6:3, 60:5, 60:13,
60:14, 69:5
reduced [1] - 78:8
referred [1] - 29:4
regarding $[6]-5: 15,6: 14$,
11:14, 19:8, 19:14, 67:24
regardless [1] - 37:11
regular [2] - 36:15, 75:15
regulate [2] - 17:22, 17:24
reinforce [1] - 59:3
reiterate [1] - 15:23
related [1]-18:17
relationship [1] - 19:3
rely [1]-9:10
remainder [1]-52:2
remains [3]-57:11, 57:24, 59:22
remarks [1]-14:11
Remember [1]-37:12
remember [2] - 14:8, 38:22
reminded [1]-28:5
reminder [1] - 13:14
removal [1] - 44:12
removed [3]-57:4, 57:6, 59:23
renewable [1] - 31:18
Reporter [2] - 3:8, 78:5
reporter [1]-47:15
representation [1] - 39:14
representative [8]-8:4, 14:4, 14:9, 15:13, 39:13, 39:15, 50:8, 55:1
representing $[1]-8: 10$
request [1] - 25:2
requests [1]-51:14
require [8]-21:13, 21:14, 21:16, 22:24, 43:11, 45:21, 56:13, 62:20
required [5] - 19:14, 20:11, 44:19, 67:3, 67:6
requirement $[4]-22: 14$,
22:18, 22:22, 72:20
requirements $[4]-16: 2$, 16:7, 58:17, 70:1
requiring [1] - 72:21
research [1] - 36:8
residence [2] - 33:12, 40:23
residences [2] - 30:22, 39:6
resident [2] - 24:16, 63:21
residential [6] - 16:3, 16:4,
18:16, 19:1, 32:21, 35:3
residents [6]-14:15, 28:24,
30:19, 30:23, 36:24, 70:2
resources [1] - 28:11
respectfully [1] - 31:4
respond [1] - 17:20
responders [2]-6:7, 69:19
response [1] - 33:21
responsibility [1] - 31:20
responsible [2] - 6:4, 34:12
restoration [1]-44:12
restore [1] - 44:15
resubmitted [2]-54:22, 56:1
review [6] - 55:19, 65:17,
67:15, 70:8, 71:17, 73:13
reviewed [1]-68:15
revise [1] - 73:17
revised [1]-57:3
revision [4]-56:2, 63:12, 73:17, 76:2
revisions [3]-54:22, 63:16, 73:14
rises [1] - 62:16
Road [8]-7:20, 10:12, 13:17,
13:19, 29:5, 54:15, 54:17
road [23]-21:10, 21:13,
25:8, 25:12, 56:9, 57:1,
57:2, 57:4, 57:6, 57:20,
58:6, 59:4, 59:10, 59:23,
61:3, 62:2, 63:5, 63:8,
67:22, 69:1, 69:14, 69:15, 76:2
roadway [1] - 67:21
ROD [9] - 8:9, 9:15, 9:21,
10:4, 10:13, 10:16, 10:19, 11:10, 13:3
Rod [2] - 3:4, 8:9
role [2] - 14:23, 53:10
roll [5] - 4:5, 6:22, 12:11,
74:10, 77:1
roll-call $[5]-4: 5,6: 22,12: 11$, 74:10, 77:1
rolling [1] - 8:19
room [4] - 40:11, 40:15, 42:2, 69:9
rough [1] - 29:17
Route [3]-7:21, 10:14, 10:24
rules [3]-41:24, 75:1, 76:22
run [2]-26:5, 26:17
run-off [2]-26:5, 26:17
running [1] - 26:15
rural [1] - 24:17
sacrificing [2] - 25:21, 28:10
safety [1]-69:22
sale [1] - 9:22
Sandra [3] - 1:20, 78:4, 78:22
sandra [1] - 3:8
sandra.k.haines@aol.com
[1]-1:22
sane [1]-33:3
sat [1] - 45:6
schedule [1] - 53:3
screen [6] - 22:12, 22:21,
22:24, 41:8, 43:6, 47:10
screening [4] - 57:13, 57:16, 57:17
seal [1]-78:12
second [14]-3:21, 3:23, 5:5, 5:7, 5:19, 6:21, 12:9, 12:11, 53:6, 53:8, 53:9, 74:9, 76:24, 77:15
Section [2] - 13:19, 74:24
section [6] $-6: 2,6: 10,6: 16$, 11:17, 35:8, 51:23
see [16] - 19:6, 40:20, 40:24, 42:3, 42:22, 52:19, 56:3,
56:8, 56:10, 57:4, 57:10, 57:14, 57:15, 58:3, 67:23, 70:14
seed [5] - 32:1, 32:9, 32:10, 32:18, 33:5
seem [2]-11:24, 51:2
selection [1] - 34:12
sell [1] - 46:17
semi [1]-69:9
send $[3]-16: 22,42: 7,68: 16$
sense [2]-32:7, 33:6
sent $[4]-17: 13,38: 1,39: 4$, 58:14
September [1]-15:18
session [1] - 55:10
set $[4]-9: 8,38: 3,39: 21$, 40:16
setback [3]-16:1, 16:6, 52:5
setbacks [1] - 16:3
sets [1]-55:5
seven [1]-22:17
severability [1] - 51:21
several $[3]-45: 9,51: 3$, 73:13
shaded [1] - 61:16
shading [1] - 61:12
shall [6] - 51:24, 75:2, 75:7,
$75: 11,75: 16,76: 18$
shape [1] - 57:22

Shay [3]-2:19, 14:7, 15:12
SHAY [2] - 14:6, 54:11
sheet [4]-16:14, 29:15, 33:1, 35:4
sheets [1] - 35:7
Shelby [1] - 29:24
shop [1] - 8:1
Shorthand [1] - 78:5
shorthand [1] - 78:11
show [1] - 60:12
shown [1]-21:23
shows [1] - 58:24
shrubbery [1] - 43:7
sick [1] - 3:16
side [7]-10:17, 11:5, 41:4, 56:20, 60:10, 61:22, 71:18
sides [2]-32:22, 33:9
sign [2] - 28:15, 35:7
sign-in [1] - 35:7
signatures [4]-29:7, 29:19, 35:11, 42:3
signed [4] - 58:13, 64:8, 64:9, 72:7
similar [1] - 58:6
simple [1] - 25:2
Sinclair [1]-51:7
single [2] - 31:13, 48:3
site [23]-14:17, 18:5, 31:1, $31: 2,32: 7,33: 8,33: 14$, 34:12, 55:15, 55:20, 55:21, 56:1, 56:2, 56:8, 56:19, 56:20, 56:22, 56:24, 57:3, 57:19, 59:13, 60:24, 67:20
siting [1] - 14:24
six [1] - 29:9
size [2]-8:22, 33:2
sketchy [1] - 42:1
slightly [2] - 57:19, 59:16
Sloan [7]-7:11, 7:23, 8:2,
9:6, 11:10, 11:14, 11:16
Sloan's [3] - 8:4, 8:10, 12:7
smaller [1] - 65:7
soil [1] - 26:7
Solar [8]-13:6, 14:5, 15:13, 31:7, 31:8, 44:22, 53:22, 55:1
solar [34] - 13:22, 13:24, 14:1, 15:3, 15:22, 15:24, 16:2, 17:22, 18:5, 21:23, 23:8, 24:19, 25:15, 25:23, 26:5, 28:11, 29:3, 30:21, $31: 9,31: 24,32: 9,32: 20$, 33:5, 33:9, 33:11, 35:1,
35:2, 40:14, 41:17, 43:5, 46:4, 54:20, $67: 7$
sold [3] - 45:24, 46:14, 46:20
someone [2]-3:18, 43:18
someplace [1] - 27:24
somewhere [1] - 23:2
sorry [5] - 23:16, 48:9, 54:11,
66:16, 70:20
sort [2]-57:22, 65:12
south [6]-25:8, 26:18, 40:22, 54:23, 58:2, 59:10 southern [7]-47:9, 56:17, 56:23, 59:24, 61:15, 63:4, 63:18
space [2] - 65:9, 70:2
speaker's [1] - 47:15
special [15]-13:5, 16:18,
20:16, 29:2, 31:5, 31:16,
51:14, 53:22, 54:19, 75:4,
75:21, 75:23, 75:24, 76:4
specifically [3] - 49:15,
51:22, 61:20
speech [1] - 30:8
spirit ${ }_{[1]}$ - $52: 11$
sporadic [1]-32:2
spot ${ }_{[1]}-26: 16$
spring $[3]-21: 5,43: 20,45: 4$
Springfield [2] - 10:12, 10:18
springtime $[1]$ - 20:24
SS [1] - 78:1
stage ${ }_{[1]}-64: 16$
stakeholders [4]-31:21,
31:22, 32:13, 34:9
stand ${ }_{[1]}-8: 8$
standards [1] - 14:24
STANDERFER ${ }_{[1]}$ - 10:23
Standerfer [2] - 3:5, 8:20
start [6]-20:18, 43:20,
44:20, 45:3, 73:6, 73:20
started ${ }_{[1]}-45: 12$
starting [2]-44:11, 50:21
STATE ${ }_{[1]}-78: 1$
State [11]-7:21, 14:24, 16:7, 41:21, 42:9, 43:11, 44:19,
50:3, 51:7, 52:4, 66:17
state [3]-12:22, 32:12, 35:10
State's [2]-2:18, 15:5
statement [3]-49:23, 50:9, 50:11
statements [1]-43:17
states [1]-49:15
stay [2] - 10:23, 27:23
staying ${ }_{[1]}$ - 67:17
steep [2]-56:11, 59:19
stenographically ${ }_{[1]}$ - 78:7
steps [1]-39:1
STEVE ${ }_{[1]}$ - 47:13
stick [1] - 73:19
still $[9]-16: 6,33: 1,35: 15$,
47:19, 47:20, 48:18, 49:11,
60:20, 68:20
stir [1] - 48:15
stone [2]-39:21, 40:17
stood ${ }_{[1]}-51: 9$
stop [3]-28:9, 47:12, 47:13
stopping ${ }_{[2]}-58: 24,69: 7$
stops [1] - 44:22
storage ${ }_{[5]}-6: 2,69: 4,72: 3$,
72:10, 72:13
store $[4]-8: 10,9: 20,10: 19$,

31:11
storm [1] - 20:4
stream [1]-62:12
street [2]-32:11, 69:5
strip [2] - 40:22, 41:2
strong [1] - $31: 15$
strong-arming [1] - 31:15
structure ${ }_{[2]}-18: 16,19: 1$
structures [2]-16:4, 16:5
study [1]-21:22
stuff $[3]-8: 23,9: 11,48: 15$
subdivision [1]-51:23
submit [6]-28:15, 28:16,
34:14, 34:21, 34:24, 35:1
subsidies [1] - 27:2
substantial ${ }_{[1]}-34: 6$
substation [1] - 32:10
sufficient [4]-49:8, 65:5, 65:8, 65:9
suggestion [1] - 48:20
suitable [1] - 40:14
Suite [1] - 2:20
sun [2]-13:24, 61:15
support [1]-21:20
suppose [3]-58:23, 62:13, 62:17
supposed $[5]-4: 9,33: 17$, 37:15, 37:16, 52:11
surface [3]-31:17, 58:8, 63:6
surprised [1]-65:10
surrounded [3] - 33:9, 35:4, 41:16
surrounding [2] - 41:3, 52:18
surrounds [1] - 32:21
system [3]-54:20, 57:9, 59:13
systems [1]-6:2
table [4]-51:15, 52:23, 53:5, 53:8
tabled [3]-14:19, 39:18, 53:1
tabling [1]-52:24
taker ${ }_{[1]}$ - 46:23
talks [1]-50:13
tall [1] - 22:18
targeting ${ }_{[1]}-32: 2$
TARR ${ }_{[52]}-3: 12,3: 21,4: 3$,
4:10, 4:13, 4:15, 4:17, 4:19, 6:24, 7:2, 7:4, 7:6,
7:8, 7:13, 7:16, 8:6, 11:23,
12:12, 12:14, 12:16, 12:18,
12:20, 13:8, 13:11, 16:20,
17:5, 24:11, 28:19, 29:7,
29:14, 29:22, 30:2, 30:4,
38:21, 39:4, 45:13, 53:11,
53:13, 53:15, 53:17, 54:2,
54:5, 60:11, 74:12, 74:14,
74:16, 74:18, 74:20, 77:2,
77:4, 77:6, 77:8
tarr [1]-54:1

Tarr [1] - 2:17
$\boldsymbol{t a x}[1]-29: 4$
taxes [3]-23:9, 23:10, 23:21
taxpayers [1]-27:4
Taylorville [6] - 8:11, 9:20,
49:19, 54:16, 54:18, 78:13
tear [1]-10:8
temporary ${ }_{[1]}-4: 11$
ten [2]-8:14, 45:10
terrain [1]-62:8
testimony ${ }_{[1]}-29: 13$
text [3]-5:24, 6:3, 6:20
THE [1]-1:6
therefore ${ }_{[1]}-27: 3$
thinking ${ }_{[1]}-25: 18$
Third [1]-25:10
three [11]-16:15, 24:9,
32:22, 33:9, 36:13, 36:24,
45:14, 61:1, 61:8, 74:20,
75:17
throughout [1]-22:2
throwing [1] - 42:12
tied ${ }_{[1]}-42: 17$
ties [1]-32:14
tile [2]-19:11, 19:15
timeline ${ }_{[1]}-21: 4$
today [2]-20:23, 37:15
Tom [2]-9:6, 11:10
tomorrow [1] - 44:22
tonight $[9]-3: 17,3: 19,11: 8$,
14:22, 15:15, 21:4, 30:24,
31:1, 55:24
took [1]-37:5
top [2]-23:19, 72:17
total ${ }_{[2]}-60: 24,75: 11$
totalling [1]-29:11
towards $[3]-26: 19,50: 15$
town [1]-69:5
township [2]-21:12, 21:16
Township [3]-7:22, 13:20
tract ${ }_{[1]}$-13:24
tractor ${ }_{[1]}$ - 65:6
traffic [2]-10:24, 69:4
trailer [1]-65:6
trails [1]-64:3
training [2]-6:5, 6:8
transcript [1] - 78:9
translation [1]-78:10
transmission [2]-61:11, 61:19
transmit [2] - 27:7, 27:22
transmitted [1]-27:24
transport [1]-69:1
Transportation [1] - 58:11
Transportation's [1] - 66:4
tree [3]-60:24, 61:1, 61:17
trees [6]-56:14, 60:21,
60:22, 61:5, 61:7, 61:16
trouble [1]-72:2
trucks [1]-69:3
true $[4]-22: 1,25: 20,27: 15$, 78:10
trust [1]-25:4
trustees [1] - 49:17
try $[3]-9: 2,9: 3,11: 4$
trying [5]-31:24, 32:8,
41:14, 42:15, 63:7
turn [5]-10:16, 14:12, 15:7, 65:8, 65:10
twelve [1] - 45:10
two [10]-16:16, 29:24, 54:12, 54:16, 57:7, 57:10, 59:23, 60:6, 61:3, 63:7
typewritten [1]-78:8
typical ${ }_{[1]}$ - 65:21
typically [2]-16:21, 16:22
under [2]-26:11, 78:12
underground $[3]-60: 8$, 60:16, 60:17
undersigned [1] - 28:24
uNIDENTIFIED [1] - 49:2
up $[23]-8: 8,8: 16,9: 8,13: 13$, 17:2, 18:18, 19:15, 20:23,
24:4, 24:11, 26:16, 26:20,
28:19, 29:14, 30:21, 39:9,
43:23, 45:14, 48:4, 48:15,
55:5, 67:20, 69:2
update [1]-15:9
uphold [1]-52:12
USPS [1] - 31:11
validity ${ }_{[1]}-52: 1$
valued [1]-23:7
values [1]-32:17
variance [3]-7:10, 12:6, 75:3
variation [2]-39:22, 39:23
vegetation [1] - 26:10
vehicles [6] - 63:3, 65:7, 65:11, 66:13, 66:22, 67:17
version [1] - 57:16
vested [3]-31:21, 32:13, 34:5
view [5]-35:2, 43:4, 57:19, 58:2, 66:4
viewed [1] - 72:10
Village [1]-9:1
visual $[4]$ - 57:13, 57:16, 57:17
voice [1] - 5:7
vote [10]-3:24, 4:2, 4:9, 5:7, $6: 23,12: 11,53: 10,74: 10$, 75:1, 77:1
voters [1] - 76:14
votes [6]-75:6, 75:8, 75:14, 75:17, 76:9, 76:17
voting [1]-75:10
wait [2] - 42:22, 74:22
wants [2]-9:7, 76:19
warm [1]-20:23
warms [1]-20:23
water [12]-19:6, 19:21, 20:4, 26:4, 26:8, 26:15, 26:17, 50:14, 50:15, 50:19, 62:14, 62:15

```
watershed [3] - 26:5, 26:13,
    50:14
website [4]-31:12, 31:14,
    33:15, 34:24
week [1] - 41:14
weeks [1] - 36:14
weight [1] - 42:5
weird [1] - 38:3
welfare [1] - 50:5
wells [2]-26:12, 26:21
west [1] - 11:5
western [1]-61:14
Westervelt [1] - 2:20
white [2] - 60:11, 60:13
whole [2]-60:24, 67:21
wide [6] - 61:23, 62:1, 62:18,
    65:4, 69:8, 69:13
width [2]-58:7, 62:4
wiggle [3] - 40:11, 40:15,
    42:2
Wildcat [1] - 10:21
William [2]-2:19, 14:7
WILLIAM [2] - 14:6, 54:11
willing [1] - 43:9
wind [1] - 22:1
wise[2]-8:16, 8:17
wondered [1]-11:19
wooded [7] - 56:9, 56:12,
    57:5, 59:18, 60:8, 60:10,
    62:10
wording [1] - 68:18
work [4] - 18:13, 44:12,
    65:12, 66:8
worked [1] - 8:17
working [1] - 52:8
world [2]-26:2
written [1]-51:18
yard [1] - 25:19
yards [1] - 26:20
year [9]-21:1, 23:11, 23:20,
    43:22, 54:8, 56:4, 56:6,
    57:14, 59:17
years[7]-8:14, 23:12,
    25:24, 31:3, 45:7, 45:15
ZBA[1] - 55:7
zone [3]-18:9, 25:13, 50:1
zoned [1] - 8:1
ZONING[5]-1:11, 2:2, 5:9,
    5:21,77:18
zoning [10]-2:7, 5:23, 7:10,
    8:3, 13:5, 15:2, 15:4, 31:5,
    53:21, 75:4
Zoning [9]-2:17, 3:13,
    11:24, 16:14, 24:23, 37:2,
    59:16, 74:23, 78:6
zoom [1]-63:20
zoomed [1] - 58:2
```

