



# Castle Rock Township

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2537 240th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024    castlerocktownship.com

## PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

7.21 Solar Electric Systems

June 19, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

A Public Hearing Meeting of the Planning Commission of Castle Rock Township was held on Monday June 19, 2023. Those participating were Jim Heiman, Norbert Kuhn, Max Litvinov, Ken Betzold and Molly Weber. Braden Schuenke was absent. Others in attendance were Pete Schaffer, Jon Juenke, Sandy Weber, and Dave Nicolai.

Jim Heiman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the hearing is to consider, hear from the public, and act to make a recommendation to the Township Board regarding amendments to Ordinance 7.21 Solar Electric Systems. All persons desiring to be heard in person or in writing will be heard at this time.

Norbert Kuhn stated by adding solar the land is no longer Agriculture so the zoning should be changed on wholesale or ground mount solar that is not for personal use. The intent is not to change the Comp Plan.

Discussion was had in regards to the changes to 7.21 Solar Electric Systems Ordinance. Per our Building Official if a large solar project comes in it would not be treated as one big permit, that each individual resident would need to have their own and each would have to meet the proper setbacks.

40 megawatts is about 300 acres. Utility commission would give permits for this.

It is hard for Solar companies to find people that want to do solar. Some contracts are 35 years and they can be extended for up to 10 additional years. The contract states the State governs where the equipment must go at the end of the contract. Unless we rezone the land to commercial the MET Council has nothing to say about it. The Solar Company will pay the difference of how much taxes go up for changing to solar.

Norbert Kuhn made a motion to recommend what Bolton and Menk sent us as written with the addition of changing the use of the land to Commercial for wholesale and ground mount solar (that is not for personal use) and the Township should review the Solar Ordinance every 5 years. Max Litvinov seconded. Motion carried. Ken Betzold abstained.

Norbert Kuhn made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting at 7:13pm. Max Litvinov seconded. Motion carried.

Date Signed

07/24/23

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Weber, Clerk

Attest:

Jim Heiman, Chair - Castle Rock Planning Commission