

**Regular Meeting Sunrise Township  
Thursday, June 18, 2015  
Royal Wilcox Community Center**

Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson called the Regular Sunrise Township Board Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Board Members Present:**

Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson, Chair  
Jeske Noordergraaf, Vice Chair  
Gerald Bjork  
Eric Leivian  
Joel Peterson

Treasurer: Karen Anderson  
Clerk: Wendy S. Kowalke

**Others Present:**

Lynn Wolleat, Lead Maintenance  
Nathan Franzen, Geronimo Energy  
Tena Rytel, Geronimo Energy  
Cheryl Ramberg  
Lori Anderson  
Fred Carey  
Dick Daniels  
Patrice Zangs  
Dan Rehm

Greg Strom  
Chris Sauro, County Mutual Insurance  
Richard  
Rick Ramberg  
Tina Carey  
Mark Bossard  
Glen  
Bob Zangs

**Ring Bell:** Bell was rung by Mark Bossard.

**Approve Agenda** Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Joel Peterson to accept the June 2015 agenda. Motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes** Motion by Jeske Noordergraaf, second by Eric Leivian approve the May 2015 minutes. Motion Carried.

**Clerk Update:** Clerk Kowalke distributed Association cards, Gave Census population information, informed the Town Board and Citizens regarding a broadband survey and informed the Board that Sunrise is next on the list to receive a can cage.

**Treasurer Report** Treasurer Karen Anderson went over the treasurer report.. Motion by Joel Peterson, second by Gerald Bjork to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented by Treasurer Anderson with claims list 4524 through 4546 and additional expenditures as follows:

Eric Bauman (141 pair gopher feet at \$2 per pair) .....	\$282.00
Country Mutual Insurance .....	\$4,686.68
Motion by Eric Leivian, second by Joel Peterson to pay additional expenditures of:	
Ziegler .....	\$1,425.31
Chuck’s Service .....	\$953.00

Motion carried.

**Commissioner Rick Greene Update:** Chisago County Board approved reconstruction of the South parking lot at the Chisago County Government Center. Approved plans on Phase 2 of the courthouse with costs of \$1.5 m. Cold storage facility for a HWY Dept in Harris has also been approved.

**Country Mutual Insurance Annual Insurance Review – Chris Sauro:** Sunrise Town Board will be dropping coverage on bathrooms at park and concession stand, fences and dug out. The value on fuel tank to \$30,000. Sunrise Board to drop the value of product inside the Park Storage shed to \$2,400. Old Town Hall (Mr. Sauro will give a quote of \$75,000). Increase value of park shelter to \$25,000. Mr. Sauro will give a quote on a \$500 deductible instead of a \$250.00. Place on July agenda. Motion by Joel Peterson, second by Eric Leivian. Motion carried.

**Geronimo – Community Gardens Solar Field:** Tena Rytel, Geronimo Energy, was present to present the Sunrise Community Solar Gardens Project which is an Excel Energy project. Ms. Rytel said that they are going to send a notification to neighboring home owners regardless of what Chisago County does. BHE (Berkshire Hathaway) will own and operate the project in the long term. It is a solar facility and the difference is how the power is sold. The whole facility is proposing up to 6 gardens, each community garden is 1 megawatt. This area is 40 acres. Each garden can give enough energy for approximately 200 homes which will be a total of about 1,200 homes. Solar fields are federally mandated. It will be maintained and operated professionally and contract life is approximately 25 years. The Community Garden is proposed to have seed under it and will have a stable habitat. There is also a landscape plan in place. Houses have approximately 600 feet to the array. This project is estimated to run approximately \$7 million. There will be only 1 full time job because solar gardens tend to take care of themselves once they are built. Panels can be up to 12 feet tall. Perimeter fence is approximately 6 foot chain link with 1 foot barbed wire. There is nothing within the panels for environmental concerns. Pilings are done during daytime hours which are estimated to be 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. which will also have truck traffic. Citizens are concerned that the housing is going to be unsalable because of the solar field.

The remaining acreage of 130 additional acres will be a phase 2 development (all together will be additional 360 acres.) Mr. Daniels said that Balsam and Black Hill spruce would be a better tree and will need to be maintained for 3 years and they need to be at least 8 to 10 feet tall when planted. Ms. Rytel said that Ponderosa Pines are not going to be planted.

Home owners are concerned about the traffic this is going to cost and do not want to be assessed to pay for a blacktop road.

There will need to be another CUP for the additional 170 acres.

There is 2 taxes: production tax and property tax which 80% goes to Chisago County and 20 % to Sunrise Township.

North side, fencing at 25 feet and 75 feet to panels and another 50 feet to inverter. Traffic is assumed of 25 trucks to 35 trucks daily during construction. If oversized trucks required they get all permits required. The road is 16 feet. All wires buried on-site to right of way.

Fred Carey: subscription: can't go over 120% of annual use. If a person subscribes to that you do not know who is using. A subscriber would get a credit on their bill.

Greg Strom: 320 acres has options on it by Geronimo. Greg Strom provided information stating that Xcel Energy does not approve these plan. Xcel Energy does not want 1 mw site clustered. Xcel Energy is fighting multiple sites. Up to 50 on this site in the future. State PUC has approved these clusters, not Xcel.

Patrice Zangs: Ms. Zangs said that there is a solar plant behind and in front of their house. North Star has also proposed a development which is 1,000 acres. There is continuous sound from the inverters and can hear them in the country. Entire area stripped of nature, financial well-being. World Health Organization said there is not enough research done. There are concerns childhood leukemia, glare. Owls, eagles, hawks. Financially will not be able to sell homes. There is already a minimum of 30% loss. Nathan Franzen from Geronimo said their project is 40 acres. Ms. Zangs asked what are the purchasing property options: Geronimo will not buy homes.

Mr. Ramberg said that Geronimo has an option on Norelius.

Dick Daniels: Geronimo has a lease on a piece of property in North Branch and that is all farmland. This could be an alternative option.

Bob Zangs: There is a total of 320 acres that Geronimo has options on everything.

Patrice Zangs: Would like to see other options: Would like to see health and wellness studies. Buy our homes. The public is taking all the risks. Mrs. Zangs said that Geronimo wants to change our complete environment. We are a low density population that is why they are putting them here. The government should pay for the negative impact.

All lines will be buried which make EMS minimal. Geronimo will tap into an already existing line. There is a lot of pressure here for energy.

Dan Rehm said there is not a state site permit environmental assessment.

Brad Hunter: Wanted to know if the township has any say. It is ultimately Chisago County's decision. Mr. Hunter wants to know why this is moving so fast without any answers to questions and factual information.

July 2, 7 p.m. at Chisago County Courthouse. Jeske Noordergraaf read the Solar Energy Ordinance. James McCarthy talked about Section 7 of Chisago County Ordinance.

*Motion by Gerald Bjork, second by Joel Peterson to deny the CUP on the basis of the adverse affect that it would have on the property for the home owners adjacent to it and in the general vicinity; based on the county condition section 8.04, section C #8. Motion carried.*

*Chisago County Ordinance as follows:*

*[8.04: Conditional Use Permit (CUP). C: The Planning Commission shall consider possible effects of the proposed conditional use based upon (but not limited to) the following general factors and any other requirements set forth in*

*this or deemed otherwise relevant. # 8.: Existing nearby properties shall not be adversely affected by intrusion of noise, glare or general unsightliness.]*

Need to have a better spot and listen to the citizens that are being affected. The citizens have given suggestions for other land options. The Citizens asked Commissioner Rick Greene to hear the citizens that are being affected.

**Community Night Out:** Flyers going out. July Township meeting will meet 45 minutes early to discuss Community Night Out plans. Meet at 6:15 pm

**Chisago County Road Agreement:** Place on July meeting. Ask Joe Triplett to come to meeting.

**Plaque – Manley Olson:** Place on July agenda.

**Homeland Security – Disaster Grant (Joel Peterson):** Joel Peterson to contact Homeland Security to finish paperwork

**Conference Tables:** No action taken.

**Citizens forum:** Board Member will talk with Dianne Johnson regarding gravel contract. Pete talked with Mike Caron regarding River Road.

**Sign Kip Rydberg & Sons, Inc. Gravel Contract:** Signed by Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson.

**Land Options:** Lynn Wolleat will obtain building quotes then land will be discussed further. Place on July agenda.

**Maintenance Update:** Three culverts on Kost Trail and 1 on Kost DamRoad has been replaced.

Motion by Joel Peterson, second by Eric Leivian, to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. Motion carried.

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Clerk Wendy Kowalke

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Carl Peter “Pete” Johnson, Chair