Town of Vienna Web Site Address: www.vienna-wis.com

August, 2023

# **Solar Panel Project Update**

We had a meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 with the Lead Developer at Invenergy for the Great Dane Solar Project located only in Vienna. Recently Invenergy held a meeting with local landowners so we asked if they would meet with us to update the town officials on the status of the project. When the project was first presented in 2019, the plan was to secure 2,500 acres of land and generate 300 Megawatts of energy. Invenergy put their plans together and presented them to MISO, a Regional Transmission Organization that reviews how much electricity can be transferred to the GRID/ATC high wire lines for distribution. It was determined this was too much energy so Invenergy needed to downsize the project. This caused the project to need another two years to reconfigure the layout. It is now projected to need 600-700 acres and produce 100 Megawatts instead of 300MW. This is still regulated by the PSC (Public Service Commission) based on the size. This year they presented the new plans to MISO and receive confirmation that the 100MW would work for with transmitting the electricity to the GRID. The project schedule shows development through 2024-2025 with a start date of construction in 2025-2026. We were told this project will provide power to 20,000 homes and generate 200 jobs with an estimated at a cost of \$80M in the local economy. Due to the delay in Vienna, the Arlington-Leeds project named the High Noon Solar project will begin construction before Vienna. Invenergy has assigned a local representative to address any questions that arise. Her name is Melissa and she can be reached by email at melissa@highnoonsolarwi.com

## **Nature Valley Subdivision**

The town has been working with the town Engineer on plans for some road improvements within the first addition of Nature Valley subdivision. The Engineer completed a survey and gathered the findings to provide a report to the town board. After review, the plans were modified to focus on areas where the water does not drain properly. A few homes may have to remove landscaping in the road righ-of-way. that he town anticipates this project will commence in 2024 or 2025, depending on the costs and proposed improvements to be made. As this moves forward, open meetings will be held to discuss the plans with residents, the Homeowners Association and the town board.

## **Annual Windsor Kite Festival**

The DeForest Windsor Area Chamber and Village of Windsor are excited to bring the 2nd Annual Windsor Kite Festival on Saturday, August 5th at Windsor Sports Commons, 4174 CTH V, from 10am to 2pm! The Wisconsin Kiters will have some amazing displays of beautiful giant show kites, precision stunt teams performing mesmerizing aerial ballet with their dual and quad line kites, spectacular and colorful ground displays and activities for kids and adults!

# **August Brush Site Hours**

The brush site will be open on the following dates and times. Saturday, August 5th from 9AM to 2PM and Wednesday, August 9th from 4PM to 7PM. It will be open again on Saturday, August 19th from 9AM to 2PM and Wednesday, August 23rd from 4PM to 7PM. The key is available at the office during regular business office hours Monday–Friday, 8AM to 4PM. It is in the entrance way with a sign out sheet everyday during the week.

## **Real Estate Tax Payments**

The second installment of property tax was due Monday, July 31, 2023 and should have been payable to Dane County Treasurer. If you have missed this deadline, the full amount of tax will be penalized and accrue interest until paid, even if the first installment was paid timely. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Dane County Treasurer at 608-266-4151 to establish a payment plan.

## **Brush Site Piles**

At the brush site, there are sorted piles where items go. There is a pile for grass clippings and leaves. Another pile for fire logs and large cuts of tree trunks. Another pile if for tree limbs, sticks and brush. The sorting the items helps the town Public Works crew with disposing the items and cleaning up the brush site. Your efforts will help reduce the amount of time it takes to accomplish this, providing more time to focus on roads.

# Town of Vienna Board Minutes July 17, 2023

The regular meeting was called to order on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 7:00pm by Chair Jerry Marx. Supervisors Steve Ruegsegger, Sherri Meinholz, Tim Hoege, Gary Endres, PW Supervisor Scott Benson and Clerk Kathy Clark were present. Also present B & M Technical Service Bill & Mary Gruber, residents Nancy Caldwell and Ron Rupp.

### Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:** Ron Rupp asked if the Town Board would consider opening local roads to ATV/UTV usage. Several neighboring towns have adopted Ordinances to allow ATV/UTV to drive the local roads legally in town. Clark will pull information from other municipalities to see what steps were taken to implement the Ordinance. After gathering more information, Clark will bring it back to the board for review.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Hoege, second by Meinholz to approve the minutes for the June 19, 2023, town board meeting. Motion carried (5-0).

Discussion and possible action on New Software **for Utility Districts:** Clark explained that four estimates were received and included in the meeting packet. Newman contacted several vendors he met at one of the trainings held last year. Some of the vendors offered an upgrade to the alarm to provide more information when they get called out. The other two vendors offered a complete replacement of the system. Newman was told that the current equipment is obsolete and parts for repairs will be harder to find since the system Vienna has is no longer supported. The system was set up by LW Allen and they provided two types of upgrades, one to completely replace our equipment for \$52,000 and another which was not an option. Another vendor, B&M Technical Service, Inc. provided a quote to completely replace our equipment for \$32,000. Clark asked Bill Gruber with B&M Tech to explain the operation. Gruber stated the system we have currently, it is operating and working for now but if anything fails in the future, we could be down for a long time. The B&M System will replace both lift stations, use radio control to monitor both that feed into a master program at the shop. This set up would also provide a way to address the call out issue by phone instead of physically going to each call to inspect. Newman and Benson met with Harmony Grove Sanitary District to review their system that was set up by B&M Tech. The other nice feature is once this system gets installed, the town would own it so there are no future annual payments. Discussion about adding a flow meter to monitor how much inflow is coming in from Morrisonville. If this gets approved, the equipment will be ordered to begin a customized installation. This investment cost would be split between both Utilities Districts and funds are available in both accounts. Motion by Hoege, second by Meinholz to go with B&M Technical Services Inc to upgrade UD1 and UD2 as quoted and divide the cost between both districts, including the Master System. Motion carried (5- 0)

**Discussion and possible action on Wise Acres LLC 2022 Tax Refund Request:** On July 12th, the town received a letter from DeWitt Law Firm, on behalf of Wise Acres, LLC DBA Green Acres Pet Resort, requesting a refund for 2022 property tax. Both our Lawyer and Assessor responded that this did not meet statutory requirements for a "palpable"

error" as claimed. Therefore, the town was not able to refund the taxes since there was no legal process for reimbursement by Dane County. Further correspondence was exchanged between our Lawyer and DeWitt Law. There was no appearance at the meeting by the taxpayers to further discuss this issue. Motion by Hoege, second by Ruegsegger to deny the refund claim filed by DeWitt Law Firm on behalf of Wise Acres, LLC. Motion carried (5-0)

Discussion and possible action on Annexation and Land-Business Development: Clark pulled up a map that reflected the recent annexations of land over the last year. In June, 2022 there was three properties annexed totaling 123 acres. This annexation is being reviewed by the courts. In 2023, between January -June, another 442 acres were annexed to Deforest. Most of the land recently annexed was owned by one landowner and the other was the Buc-cees location. Marx and Clark met with the lawyer to discuss the towns position and future. The town does not have the authority to deny the annexation petitions since they were unanimous. Clark provided a copy of the future development plans for the annexed properties. The board wants to be sure landowners in proximity are aware of the boundary changes. A copy of the map will be in the next newsletter with a brief explanation, so residents understand what has transpired. Clark requested permission to reach out to some firms for support with the future changes and development. The lawyer will provide some contacts for consideration. Discussion followed on future sites for development within the town.

### Operator's License: None

**Town Supervisor Reports:** Supervisor Ruegsegger meeting with the DeForest Area Senior Center was held Tuesday, July 11<sup>th.</sup> The Center is reviewing bids for a new roof and just completed an audit. They also approved the 2024 budget. Supervisor Hoege meeting with Waunakee EMS was held Thursday, July 6th. One member has suggested reviewing contracts with municipalities. Supervisor Meinholz meeting with Dane-Vienna Fire Department was held Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The Board voted to purchase new radios, two to start to make sure their compatible. Supervisor Endres meeting with Waunakee Fire Department was held Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Contract and employee discussion took place.

**Town Clerk's Report:** At the June 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting, a discussion on new emails for the elected officials was held. Cost comparisons were provided for either a .GOV or an Outlook email. Clark was instructed confirm if this is legally required. Clark sent WTA Legal Advisor the question and the response was it is recommended but not required. It was decided this could be initiated with new elected officials. Clark reminded the board that a Pre-Construction meeting for the Hahn-Patton project is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

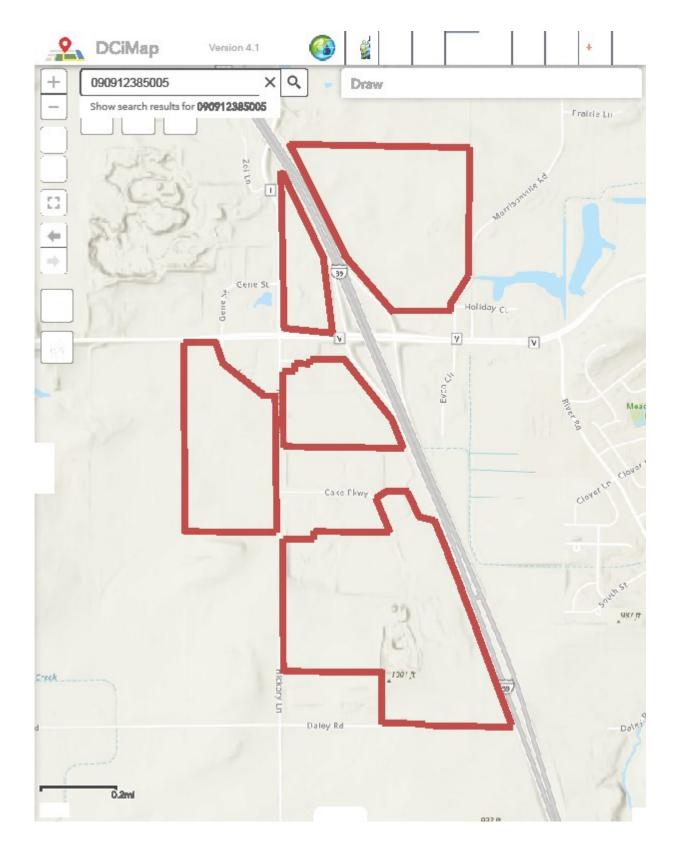
Review and authorize payments of current town and utility bills, wages, and expenses: Motion by Ruegsegger, second by Meinholz to approve the current town bills as stated in the amount of \$54,978.65; Payroll \$25,260.87; Town Bills \$29,402.80; Utility 1 \$265.49 and Utility 2 \$49.49. Motion carried (5-0)

#### No closed session was held.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Endres, second by Meinholz to adjourn. Motion carried (5-0). Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

**Prepared by:** Kathleen Clark, Town Clerk

**Note:** These draft minutes are subject to approval at the July 17, 2023, Town Board Meeting



The outlined properties along the interstate reflect the properties that have been Annexed to Village of DeForest. The annexations include the stretch of land south of Hwy V along Hickory Lane, down to Daley Road on east side of the road, including Green Acres Pet Resort. On the west side of Hickory is the large parcel that borders Hwy V and ends just across from our Business Park on Cake Pkwy. North of Hwy V, west of the interstate is the old Flying J property and east of the interstate, behind Culvers and between Hwy I and Morrisonville Road. This is approximately 450 plus acres total. If anyone has questions, please contact the office.

## Vienna Town Board Meeting Agenda Monday, August 7, 2023

The Vienna Town Board will meet on Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall, located at 7161 County Highway I, DeForest, WI. If the agenda so indicates, the aforesaid governmental body may convene in closed session for the purpose(s) indicated. The agenda for this meeting includes the following items:

Call the Town Board meeting to order Recite the Pledge of Allegiance Public comment

Approve or amend the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Town Board meeting

Discussion and possible action on DMB Line of Credit

Discussion and possible action on Associated Appraisal New Contract

Discussion and Update on Invenergy Proposed Solar Panel Project

Operator's License

Town Supervisor Reports

Town Clerk's Report

Patton & Hahn schedule to start August 14th

Review and authorize payments of current town and utility bills, wages and expenses

Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Wis. Statute 19.85.1 (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Discussion of Land Development)

Reconvene to Open Session

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Adjourn