

Approved 6-6-23

**DELTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
May 23, 2023**

Escanaba, Michigan

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Delta County Board of Commissioners was held this date, pursuant to the following call:

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Members of the Delta
County Board of Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

A Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Delta County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Service Center and via YouTube.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy J. Przewrocki
Delta County Clerk

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Commissioners Malnar, Viau and Barron.

EXCUSED: Moyle and Petersen.

ABSENT: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Board Room of the Service Center by Delta County Chief Deputy Clerk, Susanne Dubord.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

Moved by Commissioner Malnar and seconded by Commissioner Viau to adopt the meeting agenda.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

Bonnie Hakkola, Escanaba, stated she's looking forward to the presentation and asked when we will be watching "Planet of the Humans."

Maradee Luft, Escanaba Township, comments were not agenda specific.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Received - None.
2. Forwarded - None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Solar Presentation.

M. Charles Gould, MSU Extension Bioenergy Educator, gave a presentation on dual use practices for solar energy systems followed by a question and answer session.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Joe Kaplan, Ford River Township - addressed the Board with his experience of having a grid-tied solar system.

Warren Bovin, Escanaba Township - addressed the Board with his concerns regarding property values near solar farms and the potential for installing solar farms on government properties instead of agricultural land.

Paul Putnam, MSU District 1 Director - addressed the Board on how to move forward together with the solar farm issue.

Barbie Clairmont, Escanaba Township - addressed the Board regarding her concerns with ground water contamination due to solar farms, as well as her concerns about the annexation issue.

Bonnie Hakkola, Escanaba - addressed the Board on the need for reliable sources of energy from all sources, including nuclear, and the need to focus on this issue long term.

Chris Williams, Ford River Township - seconded Ms. Hakkola's suggestion of nuclear power and asked why covering

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parking lots with solar panels, instead of agricultural land, is not being focused on.

Commissioner Viau - Thank you to Charles Gould for the presentation. Encourages anyone with questions that were not answered within this presentation to email him.

Commission Malnar - Also wanted to thank Mr. Gould for the presentation and asked that the presentation be made available on the website so that those unable to attend can view the slides if they wish.

Commissioner Barron - Wants to remind everyone that all will benefit from solar farms as the energy generated goes into the collective. Also heard that rolling blackouts are expected to begin in Michigan this year as the electric companies struggle to keep up with demand.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Commissioner Viau and seconded by Commissioner Malnar to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susanne Dubord, Chief Deputy Clerk

Robert Barron, Acting Chair