

Vermillion County Commissioners
Special Meeting Memoranda

September 7, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Commissioner's Courtroom, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

III. Roll Call: Present: President, Tim Yocum, VP, RJ Dunavan and Britton Luther

IV. Solar Ordinance

- a. Mr. Yocum began by stating that they would be discussing the Commercial Solar Ordinance. He clarified that back in November of 2020 it came up to be passed but he did not vote for it, he abstained but did sign the ordinance document. The reason he did not vote is because he asked zoning to have an open meeting to get feedback and that was not done. He also stated he was not against the ordinance. Dunavan asked if they are operating as if it is place and would just be amended or if they were starting from scratch and would it be an easier, shorter process to just amend. Luther stated that it would be easier and shorter to amend rather than start from scratch, but that they would have to confirm that it was originally approved. Luther also stated that this would depend upon what Yocum's intent was. Yocum restated that he was not against it and that he just wanted the procedure of public awareness to be made available. Luther said that it has to be unanimous in one reading. Also, that Yocum signed the document at the end of the meeting and asked what was his intent. Dunavan reiterated that if the original document were to stand as signed that amendments would be able to be made. Luther stated that amendments will still have to go through the process required. Dunavan suggests to make sure that the amendments, if that is the direction, need to happen in a timely fashion. Yocum asked if anyone in the audience has interest in speaking. Bob Grewe, Vermillion Rise, stated that Oriden had a news release 10 days ago for filing approval with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for interconnection and shows interest and moving forward. Lynne Brewer of the Economic Development stated Oriden was inquiring about permitting. Yocum asked if anyone knew of anyone else interested in permitting. Luther stated he thought someone was looking, nothing official, at the old Peabody grounds. Yocum asked a question to Luther about the timeline of permitting, every five to seven years. Luther replied with an initial 7 year permit due to taking a couple years to get their other permits in order. So effectively it would be a five-year program at which every five years it would have to be renewed. There was discussion between the three commissioners regarding the permit timeline and bonding standards. A motion to approve the 2020-15 Commercial Solar Ordinance to stand and reaffirmed was made by Dunavan and seconded by Yocum. Further discussion was requested by Luther from any stakeholders. Grewe stated that Gary with Oriden indicated that they participated in the ordinance that was crafted. Stating that it was conventional, middle of the road and what was best practice. Grewe commented in his own personal opinion the nuances of the bonding issues that Luther had stated. Grewe specified that the Rise would be crafting the lease agreement. Brewer stated that Oriden has been working as the ordinance is in effect. Luther asked if a permit had been drafted yet. Grewe stated that Oriden would be able to provide all documents and information required from the current ordinance. Yocum discussed the permit fee, and Luther stated that the fees need to be justified. Brewer

stepped out to find and talked with Penney Carpenter and said they were crafting a permit, but held off due to this special session. Yocum would like to call Jon Spurr, the attorney to get confirmation on the next step. Call was made and Spurr stated that it just needed to be confirmed. Dunavan and Yocum voted in favor and Luther abstained, motion carried.

V. **Adjourn-** A motion to adjourn was made by Luther and seconded by Dunavan. All in favor, motion carried.

Aye

Nay

Tim Yocum

RJ Dunavan

Britton Luther

Attest:

Brenda J. Purry

Date: 9/28/2021