

TAMA COUNTY ZONING COMMISSION MINUTES

Utility Scale Solar Ordinance Review

Wednesday February 26, 2025

Board members present: Doug Dvorak, Craig Sash, Wade Mitchell, Carol Meyer, Steve Peterson

Thirty-six community members present (no one signed in)

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Dvorak followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Meyer, second by Petersen to approve the agenda. All Ayes, motion carried.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Motion by Petersen, second by Mitchell to approve the minutes from January 29, 2025. All Ayes, motion carried.

Opening remarks were made by Bob Vokoun.

Dvorak opened with a discussion on CSR and read letters submitted by citizens voicing their opinions and concerns. A number of people from the public voiced their opinions and concerns to the board and the people present. The board was addressed by both anti and pro solar people.

The board took a short recess from 7:15 PM to 7:26 PM in order to provide time for the public as well for restrooms and refreshments.

The board continued the meeting, discussing the county land use document. It was recommended to change the wording from Land Use Commission to Planning and Zoning Commission. It was also noted that the meetings of the Tama Soil and Water Conservation District are held every second Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM. All are encouraged to attend these public meetings. Discussion continued concerning changes and additions to the Tama County Land Use plan. Changes were made in the draft and are indicated in "red."

Motion by Mitchell second by Petersen to approve changes and additions and present to the County Board of Supervisors. Mitchell, Petersen, Dvorak, Meyer all Ayes. Sash, Naye. Motion carried. It was decided that the Zoning Board would review the Tama County Land Use Plan during the month of January every year from this point on.

Dvorak nominated for Zoning Board Chair by Mitchell. Second by Petersen. All Ayes.

Mitchell nominated for Zoning Board Vice Chair by Dvorak. Second by Meyer. All Ayes.

Discussion continued concerning height restrictions. Motion by Mitchell for fifteen-foot height restriction. Second by Petersen. All Ayes.

Discussion on set back restrictions. Mitchell had info from a number of counties. After some discussion time, Dvorak recommended that they should take information home in order to allow more time for review individually. All agreed.

The next Tama County Zoning Board meeting will be held Tuesday March 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Items on the tentative agenda will include setback restrictions, permitting and review procedures. Another meeting may possibly be scheduled for Wednesday March 26, 2025. Items on that tentative agenda would include ground water retention.

Motion to adjourn by Sash, second by Petersen. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT AUDIO RECORDING OF THE TAMA COUNTY ZONING BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2025 IS ALSO AVAILABLE

Respectfully submitted,

Robert V. Vokoun

MINUTES APPROVED 03-04-2025