

**MARATHON TOWNSHIP**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**January 19, 2026**

Smokey Meinecke, Chair  
Sandi Glesenkamp, Secretary  
Charlie Brockriede  
Justin Church

Russell Cossaboom  
John Deitering  
Stacy Baker

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman, Meinecke. Roll call was taken showing all members were present except Cossaboom and Brockriede.. See sign-in sheet for list of guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Meinecke gave information concerning the Planning Commission's involvement in establishing the solar ordinance, noting that it was important to have something in place as the State was about to pass a bill that would take the control away from the local government. The Township's Solar Ordinance is a compatible renewable energy ordinance (CREO) which means that DTE would rather work with the local government (Marathon Township) than to go through the State process. To date the Township has not had any application for this special land use.

A motion was made by Baker with support by Church to approve the agenda. All votes aye, motion carried.

A motion was made by Glesenkamp with support by Deitering to approve the minutes of December 8, 2025 minutes. All votes aye, motion carried.

Public Comment: Many individuals from the audience spoke regarding fire safety, transfer to power grid, how solar projects are taxed, value of homes around the solar project, noise, environment, water run off and how it affects the Master Plan. The majority of the people expressed that they didn't want solar farms in our community. After a lengthy comment session, some points were explained that as soon as a proposal has been submitted, we will be scheduling public hearings. The Township has established setbacks, screening, a decommissioning plan with a financial bond and placement matters to help protect neighboring properties. We work for the residents on both sides. We do not have the authority to tell someone they cannot use their property for solar panels.

New Business: Noah Bussell from Rowe Engineering was present to give an overview of the Battery Storage Ordinance. The Planning Commission was hoping to get some insight on the work that has been done so far. Rowe will submit a formal review in the near future. There is controversial language in the Solar Ordinance that would make more sense if we removed the 160 acre maximum from 19.03 D. 3. A motion was made by Church and seconded by Baker to recommend removal of 19.03 D.3 of the Solar Ordinance to the Township Board which reads: "The total size of a commercial solar energy system located on a single parcel or multiple parcels that form a single contiguous site shall be no greater than 160 acres." All votes Aye, motion carried. Data Processing Center was also an item on the agenda. This is a new regulated land use and Marathon Township would be an unlikely place for such a project was

the opinion of Mr. Bussell. However, having information to put something in place might be a good idea. Rowe will put some guidelines together for our review.

Old Business: The Planning Commission is waiting for comments from the Township Attorney regarding the Battery Storage Ordinance.

The next meeting will be when we receive the formal review for Battery Storage from Rowe as well as from the attorney. By then, we will hopefully get the Master Plan draft for review.

A motion was made by Deitering and supported by Glesenkamp to adjourn. All votes Aye, meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Sandi Glesenkamp

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Smokey Meinecke