

**Town of Collins Planning Board Meeting**  
**March 16, 2021**

**Call meeting to order:**

Chairman Brian Martin called meeting to order at 7:05 PM with the pledge to the flag and attendance taken.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Tom Siegle, John Bentley, Richard Agle, Tom Raymond, and Ch Brian Martin

**Not Present:**

**Guests:** Ken Martin, Collins Town Supervisor, Jackie McLean, Collins Councilman, Cory McCandless, Omni Navitas Representative, Dan Cszplar, Omni Navitas Representative and Ron Wittmeyer, Landowner

**Omni Navitas Solar Projects:**

- Cory McCandless, the Omni Navitas Representative, gave a presentation to the Planning Board and guests regarding the Omni Navitas Solar Projects. Cory passed out packets with site plans, information concerning the conduits, inverters, transformer pads and parcel dimensions, along with decibels. Cory states that the site plans have changed due to the wetlands and this is the final site plan. She also stated that the access road has changed and will go all the way to the back. The site plans show that there will be vegetation planted along New Oregon Road. The site plan does not show any vegetation to be planted along the north side of the solar array and this was questioned. Cory stated it was left off in error and there will be vegetation planted. Cory was asked what type of equipment and training the local fire departments will need in the event of an emergency. They will need a Chemical Suppression Systems and the fire departments can receive free training. Should an emergency arise, the local fire departments will need access to the interior of the solar arrays, and they will be given the code to the lockbox where a key will be kept to open the gate. Also, the gas company, electric company, etc. will need access to this code. It was stated when a solar project was done in Oswego, the Oswego Fire Department asked to be part of the construction so they would know where everything was located in the event of an emergency. Our local fire departments should be asked if they would like to be present during construction if the solar project should go through. Cory will need a list of the local VFD contacts. Cory was asked if there were going to be any cameras on the property after the completion of the projects. She stated there would be cameras only during construction and facing inward to the construction site and once completed, they would be removed as the solar arrays would be controlled remotely with sensors. The system(s) can be shut down remotely, either a row or the entire system. If one of the panels should have a scratch/blemish, the remote sensors will detect it. The panels will be washed/cleaned two time a year. She was asked who would do this and Cory said either they would hire someone or Ron (Wittmeyer) could do it. She was also asked about the mowing, how often it would be mowed and who would do it. She said the site would be mowed a couple time a year, either by a service or Ron (Wittmeyer) can mow it. There is still concern regarding the noise and glare with the close location of some of the neighbors. Cory was asked if there are any solar array locations nearby to visit and see if there is any glare and/or noise issues. Cory stated there is a solar array location in Lackawanna on the site of the former

Bethlehem Steel Plant that we could visit. Ch B Martin stated when construction is ready to begin, there will be a Decommissioning Bond and a Pre and Post Road Bonds in place, Omni will need a Building Permit and a Bond in place on the Contractor to make sure the project is protected for completion. Cory stated the local Code Enforcement, Environmental Inspectors and Omni Forman will have access to the on-site location during construction. Cory asked if the Planning Board would make and pass a Resolution to move forward with their recommendations to the Town Board. Ch B Martin stated there would be no resolution at this time because the Planning Board needs to have time to read and review the final site plan information that was asked for several times and finally received at tonight's meeting. Cory asked two more times and received the same reply from Ch B Martin.

- It was decided the Planning Board and Town Board members will visit the solar array location in Lackawanna on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Cory will make the arrangements with the owner of that solar array to visit it on Saturday. Everyone will meet at the Town Hall at 9:00 am and car-pool to the solar array location.
- After the Omni Representatives and Ron Wittmeyer left the Planning Board Meeting, discussion was held, and no action was taken.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

**Motion:** Tom Siegle

**2nd:** Richard Agle

**Vote:** Passed - Tom Siegle – aye; John Bentley – aye; Richard Agle – aye; Tom Raymond – aye and Ch Brian Martin – aye

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Martin