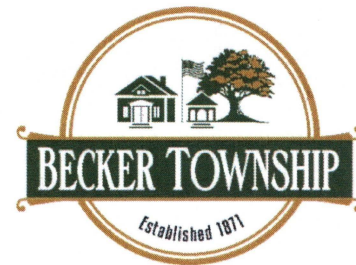


Becker Town Board Meeting
Special Town Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
12165 Hancock Street



Attending,

- ❖ Board members: Chair Brian Kolbinger, Vice Chair Brad Wilkening, Luke Babler, Robin Boros, Joe Danielson, Clerk Lucinda Messman
 - ❖ **Other in person attendees:** Kelli Bourgeois – Township Attorney, William Risse -National Grid Renewables – local level coordination and permitting specialist; Aaron Brixius – Xcel Energy – Project Manager for Sherco Site transformation and Economic Development of the area; Mark Osendorf – Xcel Energy – Community Relationship Manager based in St Cloud (via Zoom), Greg Pruzinske – City of Becker.
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Meeting called to order at 6 pm. Clerk took roll call of those in attendance. Quorum verified by Chair Kolbinger.

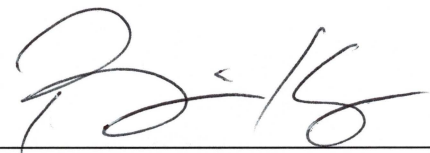
1. Discussion regarding the Sherco Solar Project

- a. William Risse and Aaron Brixius on site to talk to Town Board Supervisors and provide information about their response to the Township Letter of concern. They looked at the options presented by the Town Board and stated they [Xcel/NG Renewables] talked to the County and City about the plans and don't feel they are viable. They stated the City of Becker told them they do not want traffic coming up to Liberty Lane and the County saw no long term value in the roads.
 - i. Map presented showing overlay and they said solar is planned over all routes so there is no interest on Xcel's part to allow for a road.
 - ii. Stated regional traffic is not our problem, that has been there. They are willing to see if they can support some other alternative. Maybe an over pass or under pass? Supervisors: you are talking millions of dollars and many years in the future – that is a regional solution, not something to help our local traffic.
 - iii. Had planned a gas plant, now looking at Generation development (solar). Northern Metals has brought some jobs, currently working with the City of Becker to get others into the area. We have committed to the City of Becker to bring in economic development within the Xcel land and put solar in the Township.
 - iv. None of the property owners have seen this plan
- b. Supervisors – this doesn't feel collaborative.
 - i. Supervisor Kolbinger. We do not care what the City wants at this intersection. It is located in our jurisdiction, not theirs. The options presented are looking at an overall plan for local traffic. This is our business district and options are needed as the business access needs to be addressed now.
 1. At this point, without another egress for these businesses, Xcel is shutting down any expansion for us locally.
 2. It is important to separate the two issues – local and regional traffic. They are very different in this location. The issue here is damage to local businesses that need the service. Focus on the small businesses in our business district, not the regional traffic. The regional traffic is a completely different matter.
 3. The area here is where our infrastructure exists. We want to improve access for these businesses. Other businesses are coming into this area and we want them to

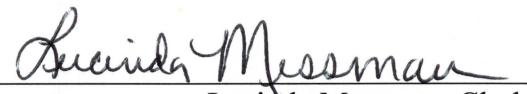
keep coming. There is expansion opportunity, but if you remove any chance of another egress, a dangerous intersection continues to get more dangerous.

- ii. Supervisor Babler – you had conversations without us, but looking at the City of Becker traffic. That is not a concern for us as their traffic issues have been alleviated and are not in this area.
 1. Why has Xcel decided to cut off our expansion/commercial/industrial areas when they have 600 acres of their own land that is not being used for solar? A: Xcel Energy wants to bring in businesses from the coal plants going away and locate them in that area.
 2. Stated he had heard that Xcel’s plan was to decommission the total facility and relocate to other areas.
 - iii. Supervisor Danielson – we were unaware of this large solar project prior until earlier this year. The local traffic issue came forward over the past year as business has increased in this area and you asked for long term proposals so we brought this one that has different options we had started looking into. We have not talked with landowners yet because we were discussing option, then solar came into the picture so now talking to you.
 - iv. Supervisor Boros – the roads plans are not set in stone – do you [Xcel/NG Renewables] have any alternate suggestions? We are willing to compromise and be flexible on placement, but our business district needs another route other than just going to County Road 11.
 - v. The Township wants to plan and act on this area sooner rather than later. We have local traffic issues now. Regional traffic is another matter. Regional traffic is not going to turn into 149th to get to the other exit due to proximity to Highway 10. It is local traffic that needs the alternative.
- c. City of Becker, Greg Pruzinski
- i. Sherburne County agrees with the issues that exist at this intersection. It is not on MN Dots list or priorities. Concern that regional traffic would use any egress and impact City of Becker traffic patterns.
 - d. Everyone thanked each other for attending and said they want to keep the conversations moving forward. Xcel/NG Renewables representatives left.
2. Cracksealing – directive wanted to set at \$100,000 for the year as some of the other projects have fallen through. Directive given to Road Supervisors.
 3. Washout on 107th – Contractor filled in and landowner is working on their culverts
 4. Grace Lutheran removed sign as requested
 5. Road tour to be set at July meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 6:53 pm.



Brian Kolbinger, Chair



Lucinda Messman, Clerk