

Abby Huntley <drabbyhuntley@gmail.com>
To: Julie Belongia <townclerkmorgan@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 12, 2021 at 8:26 PM

Hi Julie,

Thank you for taking the time to bring these to the Board. I know that you are sadly the middle person in this. However, I will say that I am very disappointed that each question was either answered with avoidant response or deflected to someone else. Additionally, I am questioning the Board's ability to read an email and respond in a manner that reflects understanding of the information, in particular the difference between a question and a suggestion. I am putting my counter-responses in green below. Overall this is disheartening that after almost 4 weeks these are the answers our Board could provide, although with 1 email and a 1 hour phone call I was able to get information from the county and the state on the Farmland Preservation Program complete with next steps, and the Land Use Committee also has had that information, which Leonard (a town and county board member) is on. These responses give me the impression that the Board does not care and does not have time or desire to care, which is what the residents have been repeatedly expressing for MONTHS in town meetings.

Warm regards,

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On Dec 12, 2021, at 2:13 PM, Julie Belongia <townclerkmorgan@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Abby,

Sorry to get back to you late on your answers. **I have answered your questions in red next to the question.** Hope you understand the answers and can follow the red answers. Thank you for your time.

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 3:26 PM Abby Huntley <drabbyhuntley@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Julie,

I want to start by sharing that I truly appreciated the last town meeting with the transparency, respect, and time given to us. I found the meeting overall so positive and informative on so many levels. I also have noticed your extra attention in updating the website with minutes, agendas, and special meetings. Thank you.

There are a few things that came to my mind based on seeing the budget, knowing the concerns about the industrial solar project coming in and the agreement that Fran mentioned the Town will enter into with the solar company, and also with the fire department. I will attempt to organize my

thoughts and questions here. I understand that Fran does not want to discuss the industrial solar project at all in the meetings, however, it is blatantly obvious that there does need to be discussions about this and for the town to be prepared for what this looks like and taking a stand to protect the town. I am fearful that the board will not pre-plan and instead blindly follow suggestions in the 11th hour of agreements or contracts.

Questions for the Board:

1. Do we have clarity in the money that will be paid to Morgan and to Oconto County? I know that Nextera shared a projected \$240,000 a year to Morgan, however, is that a set reimbursement or is it based off of energy output? I would have fear in assuming that that number will be constant or even accurate if going off of energy output. **At this time the Board has received nothing and NextEra would have to answer that question. With this being such a hot topic for the town and Fran speaking frequently about the money it will be bringing into the town, I would imagine this would be something the Board would want to understand how it will directly impact our town and revenue (which we all saw how tight the budget is). Essentially our town is a business ran by the Board. Any business operator would be looking into possible revenue streams and understanding those impacts and possibilities prior to being presented with the information or an agreement to consider or have to accept.**

a. Question for Nextera: What is the power consumption of the generators for the solar project? For example, if the power projected output of the solar panels is 100 KW, but the generator uses 81 KW, then is the energy output sold to the grid only 19 kw? And is that the amount of energy we are getting reimbursed on? **Board cannot answer any questions on behalf of NextEra. Correct. However why is the Board not able to ask Nextera this question on behalf of residents. Again, this has the possibility of impacting the revenue of the town.**

2. Leonard did a great job of discussing the GV/M FD in the last meeting. While sitting there it became very obvious that there are needs that they have, which leads to some questions. **The Board for the Town of Morgan can not answer for the Fire Company. Please address your questions about any fire topic to the Fire Company directly. Why is the Board deflecting these questions instead of asking them of the FD? Is the Board not concerned about the capabilities and safety of the FD that they have engaged in a contract with?**

a. What is the plan to getting updated and safe gear for the fire fighters? It concerns me that they could be walking into fires and dangerous situations with outdated gear. I want everyone to be safe. **Fire question to Fire Company**

b. What are the capabilities of the fire department to be able to control and put out a fire on the industrial solar farm safely and quickly? **Fire question to Fire Company**

i. Will this require additional training? Materials? Gear? Who will be paying for that? Will that be paid for by Nextera/Solar company or will that cost trickle down to Morgan's budget? **Fire question to Fire Company**

ii. What planning and preparation will the FD be doing to ensure they can safely address fires or issues on the solar farm? **Fire question to Fire Company**

iii. Does the FD have adequate coverage for daytime fires that are large considering this is a volunteer fire department and most, if not all, members I would imagine have full-time jobs. **Fire question to Fire Company**

1. Side note: Many of our home insurance policies are higher in annual cost due to only having a Volunteer Fire Department and their level of response. Simply something to consider when residents are concerned about their costs and protections. **Fire question to Fire Company** *This was not a question at all, nor would it be appropriately directed at the fire department; and confuses me that the response indicates it was a question. This was a comment/statement for the Board to be aware of or consider, which was indicated in both words and the absence of a question mark.*

3. A large part of our budget goes to roads and there never seems to be enough money for roads. What are the weight limits on the roads and county highways that will be used to install, maintain, and decommission the solar project? Some of those roads have been newly re-done, which can be damaged-resulting in wasted money-as well as those that were not will incur more damage and need to be replaced, likely several times over the duration of the project. What is the town proposing in order to ensure that the town is not responsible for all of that cost and that all of the money from the solar company annually will not be put towards repairing roads they contributed to damaging? **For county roads, the Oconto County Highway Department determines the weight limit for county roads, if any. The town is responsible for town roads. The weight limits are put on in the spring time except for several sections of roads maybe restricted continously. What are the current or previous weight limits on our town roads?** *The entirety of this concern was ignored and deflected to a general response that indicates no knowledge of the weight limits, roads, or concern for the cost to repair and maintain them yet road maintenance is a LARGE part of our budget every year and a primary concern of most complaints to the town.*

4. What is the pest control plan for around the solar project? With deer fencing going around the entire project, this will become a safe haven for small animals and rodents that will be hiding and protected from predators in the area. We will likely see an increase in population which will throw off the balance of the habitat and could also create nuisance to neighboring properties as they will feeding in their yards and properties. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement. This question is for the Board as Fran indicated that the Town will be a part of the joint development agreement. I understand that a plan is currently not in place, however, is this something that will be considered or proposed?**

5. I am proposing some stipulations to present or entertain for inclusion in the agreement between the Town of Morgan and Nextera (or whoever owns the project at that time-I would also suggest that all contracts and agreements include verbiage that identifies current owner and that all agreements also must apply to any future owner entity). **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement. Again these are not questions. The fact that each of these proposed statements are deflected as if they are questions causes me to worry about the understanding the Board has of when someone is asking a question versus when they are providing information or suggestions to be considered. This is yet ANOTHER example of myself and other residents feeling unheard and underrepresented. This response applies to items a through k also as to not be redundant.**

a. Fencing around the solar project must be setback 100 feet from neighboring property lines and 200 feet from neighboring woodlands and hunting land. Fencing must have privacy slats and properly maintained by owner of solar project for the life of the project. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**

- b. Provide locally purchased mature trees to line all neighboring properties to the solar project. Trees will be maintained by solar project owner for the life of the project. Suggested trees include Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, some Cedars, fruit trees in between larger trees would also add to the ecosystem. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- c. Plant trees of nearby properties that have the solar project in their view shed. Trees will be purchased locally, and solar project owner will purchase and pay for planting. All plans must be approved by property owner. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- d. All roads and county highways that will be utilized by solar project owner or any contractors for installation, maintenance, and decommissioning that have weight limits that will be exceeded must be upgraded by solar project owner prior to the start of the project and maintained and repaired throughout the life of the project including competition of decommissioning. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- e. Solar project owner must upgrade equipment and pay for all initial and ongoing training through the life of the project for our fire departments that would respond to a fire on the project (this includes, but is not limited to, GV/M FD and Oconto Falls FD). They must purchase and maintain the chemical suppressants required to put out a solar panel fire at each station that would respond. Solar project owner must also pay for the disposal of the Class C chemical upon expiration and replace/replenish for the life of the project. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- f. The operating process and protocol for handling fires on the solar project must be to contain and suppress and not to contain and let it burn (toxic materials burning and those in the area breathing that is not healthy for anyone). **Fire question to Fire Company.**
- g. Solar project owner will pay for wells within 1 mile from the solar project to be annually tested in the state lab in Madison. All test results will be posted in local newspapers, town and county websites, Nextera (or current owner/operator's website) and PSC website. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- h. All solar panels and materials used in the project will not go to dumps or disposal sites within the county. They will be removed outside of the county and disposal will be paid for by solar project owner. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- i. Suppression systems will be installed and maintained on every inverter at the cost of the solar project owner/operator. **Question needs to be addressed to NextEra/joint development agreement.**
- j. A pest control plan must be mutually agreed upon to control the small animal populations. **Need further info: What small animals are you relating to and why do we need to control this small animal? Any small animal that will have the ability to dig and burrow within the confines of the solar farm that will be protected by high fencing which will prohibit the ability of predators to get them, not only due to fencing but due to solar panels not allowing predatory birds the space to go down and hunt. This will lead to an increase in population that can become a nuisance as well as lead to more roadkill.**

k. In the event of a "major disaster" any natural catastrophe (including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought), repairs are expected to be made in a timely fashion at the expense of the solar project owner. **Oconto County Emergency Management is who takes control over a major disaster. I think there is confusion on this. I am requesting that our agreement with the company require the solar company to make repairs to solar panels and any other components in a timely way in order to reduce the risk of pollution, contamination, or danger to nearby residents and the environment. My understanding is that would have nothing to do with Oconto County Emergency Management. Please correct me if I am wrong.**

These are just the start of questions as I learn more about the solar projects within our state, nation, and internationally. I am not against green energy. I am not against solar energy. I am for property owner rights, however, there are limits already on what I can do on my property as it might impact others. I am concerned that Morgan will find themselves in a situation that we have no control over that has the potential to put us in a diminished financial situation than we already have or lead to concerns we are not prepared to or capable of dealing with. It is for this reason, that the solar project truly must be addressed in town meetings as it will impact so many things of our town and future. It is not about it being an "eye sore." It is about costs to the town, transparency, protections and preparations, the butterfly effects of the seemingly minor changes that the project will have on our ecosystem that we do not yet know the full potential impacts of. Industrial solar farms are new, we heard the company say it themselves that they have no idea what decommissioning will look like as they have not done it. They have no idea how long panels will actually last, or their solar output over decades, it is only based on simulated research done in labs. We need to be prepared as a town and we are looking for you all as our town board to protect our town and ensure we are always positively growing and developing and not diminishing and at risk. I feel for you all that this is the position you are in, I am sure none of you thought you would face these decisions and topics during your time representing the town.

I realized I had missed another topic on my original email. I am wondering if the town could discuss pursuing the Farm Preservation Program. I did some research and talked with the team in Madison and they said Oconto County is set up to do so, it would simply be the town pursuing and having individuals willing to sign up their land. This sounds like a great option for individuals to preserve their land for how they intend it to be used, while allowing others to use their land the way they would like to. **Board needs to further research with Oconto County Land Conservation Department in order to answer your question. The Board had nearly 4 weeks to look into this question, which is quite a bit of time as none of the other questions, concerns, or thoughts were followed up on. I was able to gain an abundance of information through a brief website search and a phone call, which took up less than 2 hours of my time.**