

MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION OF THE  
PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
SPARTA REVIEWING THE CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT PLANS OF THE SPARTA  
TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR ITS FIVE  
YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND SOLAR  
ENERGY EQUIPMENT ON THE ROOFS OF THE  
SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL AND THE SPARTA  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECIDED: June 21, 2023

MEMORIALIZED: July 19, 2023

APPLICATION NO.

**WHEREAS**, the Sparta Township Board of Education, with the address of 18 Mohawk Avenue, Sparta, New Jersey 07871 (the “Applicant”) requested that the Sparta Township Planning Board (the “Board”) review its Capital Improvement Plans for the five year Capital Improvement Plan for the Board of Education and solar energy equipment at the middle school in accordance with plans by T & M Associates, 11 Tindall Road, Middletown, New Jersey 07748, bearing a last revision date of May 8, 2023 (hereinafter “Sparta Middle School Solar Equipment”), and at the high school bearing a last revision date of June 8, 2023 (hereinafter “Sparta High School Solar Equipment”); and

**WHEREAS**, the matter was discussed at a public hearing of the Board on June 21, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the Applicant has complied with all of the procedural requirements, rules and regulations of the Planning Board of the Township of Sparta and that all required provisions of procedural compliance have been filed with the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Board of the Township of Sparta hereby makes the following findings of fact based upon the evidence submitted to the Board at the hearing:

1. The Board of Education presented testimony by Joann Black, Sparta Board of Education Business Administrator, Chris Tappen, Superintendent of Building and Lands for the Board of Education, and Nicholas Wigglesworth, employee of Onyx Renewable Partners. Mr. Tappen explained that in 2022, the Sparta Township Board of Education advertised for bids for request for proposals for solar equipment on the roofs of schools. They received five or six bids with varying dollar amounts, and the Board of Education approved the proposal of Onyx Renewable Partners for solar energy improvements at the high school and the middle school. He explained that these would be pursuant to a Power Purchase Agreement between the Board of Education for a 15-year period. He also explained that as part of the projects, the Board of Education will be re-roofing the school roofs at the middle school and at the high school, and the cost of energy will be slightly more at the middle school, because Onyx Renewable Partners will be undertaking the roof replacement at the middle school at no additional cost to the Board of Education. Mr. Tappen further explained the benefits of the projects to the Board of Education in terms of reduced electrical energy cost.

2. Ms. Brown explained that the Board of Education has undertaken this project to benefit the Board of Education. Mr. Wigglesworth explained the Power Purchase Agreement program and explained that all of the equipment will be on the roof with some minor equipment on land near the high school. There

would be no impact upon the wetlands nor environmentally sensitive land. The Board reviewed the report of the Township Planning Board Engineer, Dave Simmons. The Applicant responded to the questions set forth in the report and confirmed to the Board that the Applicant will obtain the approval of the fire official and will provide educational training to the fire department and emergency management employees about the solar equipment and the knox box internal kill switch at the solar facilities at both schools. Mr. Wigglesworth confirmed that there will be knox boxes to provide access to the rooftop equipment and a turn off switch to allow for turning off of the equipment during any emergency. The Board inquired where the equipment would be manufactured. The Applicant and representatives did not know the answer to the question of where the equipment would be manufactured, but the Board of Education and Onyx Renewable Partners shall provide to the Board Chairwoman and members a letter explaining where the solar equipment will be manufactured.

3. The Board finds that the proposed Capital Improvement Plans are consistent with the master plan of the Township of Sparta, and that it has reviewed the Capital Improvement Plans.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Planning Board of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that the Board hereby reviews the Capital Improvement Plan of the Board of Education for a five year Capital Improvement Plan and for the solar equipment at the Sparta Middle School and the Sparta High School, subject to the following recommendations:

1. The Applicant shall comply with the reports of the Sparta Township Planning Board Engineer, Dave Simmons, dated June 19, 2023 for the high

school, and June 16, 2023 for the middle school, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

2. The Applicant shall comply with the report of the fire subcode official and the comments of the fire department.

3. The Board of Education and Onyx Renewable Partners shall provide the Board of Education with a letter confirming where the solar equipment is manufactured. The Board recommends that the Board of Education and Onyx Renewable Partners consider acquiring the panels from a United States manufacturer.

SPARTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

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Dorrie Fox, Secretary

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Celeste Luciano, Chairwoman

I hereby certify that the within is a true copy of a Resolution passed by the Sparta Township Planning Board at a meeting held on July 19, 2023.

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Dorrie Fox, Secretary

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Celeste Luciano, Chairwoman