**Statement on Proposed “Solar Farm” in Newark Township**

Wisconsin State Statute §66.0403 prevents local municipalities from regulating solar and wind energy systems. In simple terms, local municipalities cannot stop Solar Farms from being built or regulating them. Local Municipalities can have ordinances to minimizing issues that Solar Farms may cause. I would also point out the current proposed Solar Farm is not in Plymouth Township, so we have no authority over the Solar Farm. It is my understanding that where the Solar Farm is going, that township does not have a Solar Farm Ordinance.

In early, 2021, the Town of Plymouth Board, became aware that companies were looking to build Solar Farms in Southern Wisconsin. The Town Board felt creating an ordinance was a priority and gave direction to the Zoning Board to create a “Solar Farm” ordinance. The Zoning Board worked nearly a year on this ordinance. Public input was sought and considered during the writing of the ordinance. The Solar Farm Ordinance was on the Zoning Board Agenda at least 7 times. The ordinance was reviewed and approved by our Town Attorney. The Solar Farm Ordinance was posted on the Town Board Agenda numerous times before being passed. During the discussions, citizen input was taken. No citizen had objections to the final ordinance prior to it being passed by the board. There were more than normal amounts of citizens attending these meetings compared to a normal Zoning or Town Board meeting. Our current board believes that our current Solar Farm Ordinance is the most restrictive that current laws allow.

The Plymouth Town Board has done everything possible to reduce the impact of Solar Farms in the Town of Plymouth. If you want the Town of Plymouth to have the ability to have more regulation authority, I strongly encourage you to reach out to your State Legislators.

Don Bomkamp

Plymouth Town Chairman