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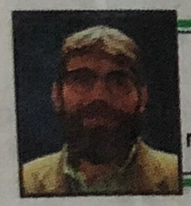
Solar farm deal could generate $2.6M annually

Commissioner: Ag businesses could lose $12.5M each year



By
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The Union County Commissioners met recently with representatives from Frost Brown Todd, the legal firm hired to help the county commissioners negotiate with several potential solar developments.

Attorney Thad Boggs detailed the process solar farms go through for approval. He called it "labyrinthian."

He explained there is a mechanism for a solar facility to receive a tax abatement if they agree to make a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT)

Solar farms could bring millions of dollars for local governments in the form of payments in lieu of taxes, they could cost millions in lost agriculture or they could mean both. The Union County Commissioners are working with attorneys to make sure the county and townships are in the best position to negotiate with proposed and potential solar farms.

any details just yet."

He noted that "to date they all seem very favorable to working with us."

Stauch said he has asked for but not yet seen any traffic impact studies on the solar farms. Commissioners noted that residents in the area are very concerned about construction traffic.

The engineer asked about the timing of the road use agreement.

Boggs said it is not necessary to have a final agreement by June 1, but it would be good to have "a firm idea of what is going to be in that agreement."

Stauch said officials will need to "hustle" to work with the developers.

"We will have to keep moving so we don't miss these important dates before it is too late," Stauch said.

Boggs said that while the commissioners do not have many options to stop a solar facility, there are ways they can impact it.

Liberty Township Trustee

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Summary: Exhibit Mark Jerew Exhibits electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.