

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF FISHER, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL MEETING
*January 26, 2026***

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Fisher was held on Monday, January 26, 2026 at the Fisher Community Center, 100 E. School Street, Fisher, Illinois. Village President Michael Bayler called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, leading the audience in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll, finding the following members physically present:

Village President Michael Bayler; and Trustees Tucker Bayler, Debra Estes, Roger Ponton and Angela Seidelman. Trustees Brock Deer and Daniel Spaulding were absent.

Other Village personnel present: Jeremy Reale, Village Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bayler announced that the Board would reserve public comment until after the solar farm presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

(A) Presentation by NewCarbon Energy on proposed solar farm project

Brian Lammers, Callie Gill and Justin Gutknecht, representing NewCarbon Energy, addressed the Board and members of the public to discuss the proposed project. Mr. Lammers stated that the project was in the development phase, with two potential 30-acre site options being considered on agricultural land situated west of the Fisher school district property along the south side of U.S. Route 136. The location had been selected for logistic reasons, given its proximity to the Ameren grid. During this stage of the development, company officials wanted to solicit feedback from the local community and address any questions about the proposed project. As the land in question was located outside of the corporate limits of the Village, the project would be subject to the special use permitting process established by Champaign County, which would be the next step in the development phase. Mr. Lammers stated that, if approved, it was anticipated that the project would be completed in 2027. He then opened the floor to any comments or questions from those in attendance.

Evie Newman noted the proximity of the proposed project to the Heritage Estates West residential subdivision and inquired about the potential negative impact to neighboring property values. She also asked in any other sites had been considered for the project. Mr. Lammers responded that there had not been any other sites considered within this area. He also stated that the project would not be expected to affect property values in the area. Ms. Newman asked if NewCarbon could provide data to validate the claim about property values and Mr. Lammers responded that he would follow up with Village officials to provide this information after the

meeting. Ms. Newman also expressed her concern about the location of the proposed development limiting the ability of the school district to expand its property.

Debbie Hortin asked about the life span of the solar panels in the development. Mr. Lammers responded that the life span would be 25 years, after which time the panels would be decommissioned. Ms. Hortin added that she believed solar energy development had much less negative impact than wind energy implementation.

Stan Sloat inquired as to who would oversee the surety bond for the project. It was confirmed that the County would oversee the bond. Mr. Sloat also commented about potential sound issues from the solar development.

President Bayler noted that John Hall, Champaign County Director of Planning & Zoning, was in attendance and asked him to provide an overview of the special use process. Mr. Hall explained the procedures and noted that the public and Village officials would be given an opportunity to express any concerns about the project prior to a final decision being made by the County Board. Although the majority of projects in the County had been approved to date, he emphasized that County officials do take into account any issues raised by neighboring communities such as limiting future growth plans.

President Bayler asked about the expected savings for any customers who would subscribe to the service. Mr. Gutknecht responded that the typical customer could expect to see 10% to 20% in savings depending on the contract terms.

Nate Schaub asked if it would be possible for a second solar farm to be developed adjacent to the proposed farm. Mr. Lammers explained that this would not be possible under the terms of the Illinois Shines community solar program. Mr. Schaub also expressed a preference to see any potential solar farm project located further south from the proposed site and further from the highway.

Andy Allen inquired if there were any contracts in place regarding the project prior to the meeting. Mr. Lammers responded that the company had secured a ground lease with the property owner. He added that they were still actively seeking input from the community as not all project details had been finalized at this point.

Several in attendance expressed concerns about aesthetics given the proposed site location adjacent to U.S. Route 136, a principal gateway to the Village. Many stated a preference to see any potential solar farm project situated further south than what was being proposed at the present time. There was also discussion about potential fencing and landscaping to serve as a buffer as well as the responsibility for adequate property maintenance of the site.

There being no further comments or questions from those in attendance, the presentation was concluded.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Bayler moved that the meeting be adjourned. Trustee Seidelman seconded the motion. Motion carried viva voce vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy A. Reale, CMC/RMC
Village Clerk

APPROVED this 12th day of March, 2026

Michael Bayler
Village President

I, the undersigned Village Clerk of the Village of Fisher, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 26, 2026 as the same appears in the records of the Village now in my custody and keeping.

Village Clerk