

## SOLAR PANELS AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

1.1 Popa  
3/12/24

- We know you applied for a grant to install solar panels
- But now you need to seriously consider withdrawing from that grant
- I am not against solar panels or alternative energy of sorts
- I am against it if it does not make economic or practical sense
- I am definitely against installing solar panels here as proposed
- If someone wants to install them, like many mentioned...good for them
- I disagree using grants, gifts, credits which puts this country in debt, causes inflation, and lowers our standard of living as a result
- You may ask 'what do I know'?
- You probably know that I was a career registered engineer
- I was also a county facilities engineer...which is badly needed in this county (wave hand around)
- However, I was summoned back to Consumers to be a Certified Energy Manager (Hold up book....)
- It was in infancy 25 yrs ago....there were only a few thousand of us
- Was the hardest test I ever took
- We evaluated buildings (wave around).....I did it on a commercial/industrial scale
- We didn't take sides, add feelings, etc....we just evaluated all the factors

-So what?

-Well, I looked at this proposal, and you need to withdraw the grant...it stinks

-I hope each one of you read this report word for word...get a pen out.

-The County does not need to be into solar generation...let the utilities do it

-Utilities have the skills and background...you dont

-No one here will be on this Board in 20 years

-You need to have someone look at this...took me less that 8hrs

-You don't have a facilities engineer...that person could have looked at it

-I talked to most of you, and I thank you

-You are constantly making decisions that involves taxpayers money, and you represent us....It is not an easy job, and I thank you

-However, there is a big difference between needing something for the County.....and wanting something because of your internal feelings

-In the little time that I have, I will try to cover some points

1. This is the worst place in the country to support solar energy (handout)
2. Top of page 7 mentions "educating the public". That is not defined anyplace in the state laws that defines your duties...and you took an oath. That is simply wrong to use our taxpayers money and time to do this.
3. Joe DeFores spent a lot of time developing this report. He should have been a lobbyist, because he's good. However, this is a conflict of interest because \$8000 is directed to this organization as identified #17 on pg 31.

4. Stay out of the Electric Vehicle initiative, page 7. You aren't just going to the grocery store, and then just wait at your desk...you are here to serve the public during all weather conditions, time of day, and the seat is warm.
5. Middle of page 8, Locating the panels above parking lots is a terrible idea. 13ft up in the air, maintenance, need a bucket-lift to work on them, clean them, plowing around the posts, salt corrosion on posts, bird poop and nests.
6. Throughout the report it mentions lower costs of solar energy. Bottom of page 8, says it will save \$35,000/yr...cost is \$1.1 M. ....31 year payback!!
7. #2 on page 13 says up to \$1.2 million over the life time. So like I just mentioned...it will take 30 years.
8. Biggest thing left out of this report is yearly expenses and end-of-life. That is terrible. None of us will be here to maintain these, replace, or take them down.
9. National Renewable Energy Lab states that maintenance is \$31/yr per installed Kilowatt. Some state \$1000 per twenty panels. Any way you want to look at it, it is approximately \$11,000/yr. Where are you going to get this money? You do not need to spend taxpayers money on solar energy.
10. The yearly expense, including valuable staff time is over \$1/4 million.
11. Take that money, and give it to the Sherriff department so that we can hire and retain officers.
12. Bottom of page 8 says you will save \$35,000/yr. Fine, but you have subtract maintenance...it then closer to \$24,000/year savings...46 year payback. Plus, the terrible location of this installation will definitely increase the maintenance. This is a terrible error in this report.
13. Top of page 8 states 1.58 MW annually. Not sure what that is...is it load or hours? Consumption?

14. Really need to look at Pgs 22-24. Grants and changes to grants are not easy to implement. You need money. It is cumbersome. You need to stay out of electric generation...you do not have the time, skills, or budget.

15. A very big item is man-power, to build it, and then maintain it.

16. Really look hard at page 28.

- with the staffing mess that you are in, you are now going to add to it
- 3 weeks of work for the Administrator, just to build it (hire, evaluation)
- 3 weeks of work for the Finance Director (that is a revolving door)
- 1-2 weeks of Treasure time (if I was a treasure, I would tell you to go fly a kite...I have compliance duties)
- 3-4 weeks of Facilities Manager time (wow...facilities doesn't have the manpower to do the job properly now) You do not even have a Facilities Engineer...that is terrible.

You need to get out of this project right now.

This whole project could go to hell if you don't administer it right or finance it correctly right from the start.

- You do not have the time
- You do not have the skills
- It is a terrible cost/benefit project with a 40+ yr payback
- Horrible installation location that was thought of at the last minute
- Project will add you your yearly expenses and manpower
- Pushing off expenses and demolition down the road
- Solar panels in this area, for economic reasons, is marginal or nill
- Leave it to the utilities to generate electricity
- You have been elected and need to be responsible
- You can't let feelings about saving the climate involve our money
- This project is not free. It comes out of the inflation production act.
- It increases our debt and lowers our standard of living
- Who is going to administer, run, maintain a public relations effort?



