

Girard Township  
1009 Marshall Rd  
COLDWATER, MI  
August 13, 2018  
Special Use Permit Public Hearing

Supervisor Gene Easterday called the meeting to order @ 6:04 P.M. Board members in attendance were Supervisor Gene Easterday, Clerk Kathy Weigt, Treasurer Julie Waterbury, Trustee Candy Cox and Trustee George Baker.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow a Q&A session involving Girard Township property owners (who are directly impacted with this project) and representatives (Cynthia Stump, Nora Balgoyen, Karyn Boyd, Tish Murphy, Mischa Boardman, Nicole Mindham, Ashley DuPree and Daryl Poprave) for ITC.

ITC Michigan, through its Michigan Electric Transmission Company (METC) is constructing new substations and transmission lines in the City of Coldwater and in Coldwater, Girard and Union Township. Known as the Wagner-Newton transmission line construction.

John & Brian Washburn, Jim Lindsey, Shelley Barkley, Mary/ Agent for Beatrice Vanderpool and Dennis Moore (Moore Farms LLC.) directed the following questions, (in no particular order), to ITC representatives before the Girard Township Board.

Question (1): Pole placement in conjunction with their irrigation pivot or future pivots?

Answer: ITC expressed their willingness to work with farmers and/ or their Pivot Companies to move and re-install (when possible) pivots that are impacted. ITC would absorb the cost.

Question (2): Concern with Stray Voltage?

Answer: Stray Voltage does not come from the transmission line side. If there is a problem with stray voltage, it comes from the distribution line side.

Question (3): Is this being erected to accommodate wind turbines that may come into the area?

Answer: ITC is unaware of this line being constructed for the sole purpose of wind turbines. It is a third grid tie to prevent (possible) total power outages and provide adequate power supply to area businesses and residents present and future.

Question (4): Why don't they follow the I-69 line, where it already exist? Why do they not go down Union City Road it would be shorter?

Answer: ITC chooses the most direct and closest route to the nearest substation with minimal impact to the most amount of people.

Question (5): Will this line connect to the new power plant in Marshall MI?

Answer: ITC is unaware of this line connecting with the new power plant.

Question (6): How did you determine the need for this line?

Answer: Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) did a study via request. Studies proved a deficiency in electric power to support the existing businesses and homes in the area; with no room for future growth.

Final Question (7): Will Eminent Domain be used?

Answer: ITC works with the land owner to reach an agreement. If such agreement cannot be met, ITC works with the Land Owner and their Legal Counsel. Land appraisals, followed by a good faith offering will be presented to the land owners. If an agreement cannot be established, ITC will seek Eminent Domain as a last resort. At the present, none have gone to that magnitude in Girard Township.

As the meeting came to an end to allow for the start of the Regular Monthly Board Meeting, ITC representatives invited those that had questions that needed further input to connect with them outside in front of the town hall.

**Motion by** Treasurer Julie Waterbury to adjourn, supported by Supervisor Gene Easterday

Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Kathy Weigt-Clerk