

**KEENE TOWNSHIP
IONIA COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO TOWNSHIP BOARD ADOPTION OF
AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS,
LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR, OR FOR ANY CONSTRUCTION OF A WIND
ENERGY PROJECT**

At a meeting of the Planning Commission for the Township of Keene, Ionia County,
Michigan, held on the 6 day of January, 2025, at 7:00 p.m:

PRESENT: D Briggs, R Krieger, N Solomon, M Stahlin, C Wilber, N Wolff

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by M. Wolff
and seconded by M. Stahlin.

WHEREAS, Public Act 110 of 2006, MCL 125.3101 *et seq.*, as amended, authorizes a township board to adopt and amend zoning ordinances that regulate the use of land and structures within its zoning jurisdiction to meet the needs for food, fiber, energy, and other natural resources, places of residence, recreation, industry, trade, service, and other uses of land, to ensure that use of the land is situated in appropriate locations and relationships, to limit the inappropriate overcrowding of land and congestion of population, transportation systems, and other public systems, to facilitate adequate and efficient provision for transportation systems, sewage disposal, water, energy, education, recreation, and other public service and facility requirements, and to promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the integration of commercial wind energy systems within the Township's existing land uses requires suitable regulations and controls to ensure compliance with the

Township's Master Plan and for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of all of the Township's residents; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 246 of 1945, MCL 41.181 *et seq.*, as amended, authorizes a township board to adopt and amend ordinances that regulate the public health, safety, and general welfare of persons and property and to codify such ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Township's existing commercial solar and wind energy moratorium expired on November 28, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has adopted 2023 PA 233, which went into effect November 29, 2024, and makes substantial changes regarding how local governments may need to plan and/or zone for wind energy systems, and

WHEREAS, the Township does not yet have a "Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance," as defined by PA 233, so would-be developers may, as long as that ordinance is in effect, proceed under PA 233 and eventually to the Michigan Public Service Commission for a siting certificate; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to adopt a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance for wind energy systems and to maintain local control over siting to the fullest extent possible under the law; and

WHEREAS, in order to fully evaluate, plan and/or make changes related to wind, the Planning Commission finds that a moratorium should be imposed upon the issuance of any and all permits, licenses, and approvals for any property in the Township for the establishment and use of Commercial Wind Energy Systems for twelve months or until a newly adopted commercial wind energy ordinance takes effect, whichever occurs first.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the Township of Keene resolves as follows:

1. The Planning Commission recommends that the Township Board adopt an Ordinance to Amend the Township Zoning Ordinance to Include a Moratorium on the Issuance of Permits, Licenses, or Approvals for, or for Any Construction of, Commercial Wind Energy Projects (the "Ordinance," attached as **Exhibit A**).

2. The Ionia County Planning Commission has waived its rights to review rezoning or text amendments.

3. A copy of the Ordinance shall be available for examination at the office of the Clerk, and copies may be provided for a reasonable charge.

4. Resolutions that conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent necessary to give this Resolution full force and effect.

A vote on the above Resolution was taken and was as follows:

ADOPTED:

YEAS: 5
/

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF IONIA)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Planning Commission Secretary of the Township of Keene, Michigan, CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Planning Commission of said Township at a meeting held on the 6th day of January, 2025.

Nancy Solomon
Nancy Solomon, Planning Commission Secretary

EXHIBIT A

KEENE TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE NO. 25-1-14C
ADOPTED DATE 7-14-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR, OR FOR ANY CONSTRUCTION OF, COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS

KEENE TOWNSHIP ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment to Section 15.51 of the Township Zoning Ordinance

New Section 15.51 is added to the Zoning Ordinance and reads as follows:

Section 15.51 Moratorium on Commercial Wind Energy Systems

A: Definitions. The following definitions apply to this Section:

1. A “Commercial Wind Energy System” is utility-scale commercial system that converts energy into electricity, whether by photovoltaics (PV) or various experimental wind technologies, for the primary purpose of wholesale or retail sales of generated electricity.

B. Purpose and Findings. The purpose of this moratorium is to provide sufficient time for the Keene Township Planning Commission and Township Board to fully and thoughtfully explore, analyze, research, and make informed decisions regarding Commercial Wind Energy Systems. In support of this Ordinance, the Keene Township Planning Commission and Township Board have determined the following:

1. The integration of Commercial Wind Energy Systems within the Township’s existing land uses requires suitable regulations and controls to ensure compliance with the Township’s Master Plan and for the protection for the health, safety, and welfare of all Township residents.
2. The State’s adoption of 2023 PA 233 requires proper planning and response.
3. The Township wishes to consider whether new amendments to its Zoning Ordinance to regulate the establishment and use of Commercial Wind Energy Systems are reasonable and necessary in order to better protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Township residents.
4. In light of these events, it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of Township residents to impose a moratorium, on a limited temporary basis, to allow the Planning Commission to fully and thoughtfully explore, analyze, research, and develop any new proposed zoning amendments applicable to Commercial Wind Energy Systems

that will allow the Township to maintain the maximum level of local control possible under existing law.

- 5. A moratorium should therefore be imposed upon the issuance of any and all permits, licenses, and approvals for any property in the Township for the establishment and use of Commercial Wind Energy Systems for 12 months or until a new commercial wind energy ordinance takes effect, whichever occurs first

C: **Moratorium.** A moratorium is hereby imposed upon the issuance of any and all permits, licenses, or approvals for any property in the Township for the establishment and use of Commercial Wind Energy Systems, so long as this Ordinance is in effect.

D. **Term of Moratorium; Renewal.** The moratorium imposed by this Ordinance remains in effect for 12 months following publication or until a new wind energy ordinance takes effect, whichever occurs first.

Section 2. Validity and Severability.

If a court of competent jurisdiction finds any portion or portions of this Ordinance invalid, the remaining portions of this Ordinance will remain in effect.

Section 3. Repealer.

Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect while it is in effect.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance takes effect upon the expiration of 7 days after publication, or as otherwise provided by law.

ADOPTED:

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

)

COUNTY OF IONIA)

I, the undersigned, the duly elected Clerk of Keene Township, Ionia County, Michigan, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete representation of certain
proceedings conducted by the Board of Trustees of said Township at a meeting held on this 14th
day of JANUARY, 2025.



Holli Melton

Keene Township Clerk