

The October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting of the Emery County School District Board of Education, held at the Emery County School District office, was called to order at 6:00 pm by Board President Tracey Johnson. Other Board members present were Vice-President Marie Johnson, Kenzi Guymon, Royd Hatt, and Jessy Johansen. Superintendent Larry Davis and Business Administrator Jared Black were also present. Stuart Clason was in attendance to discuss and answer questions pertaining to the tax increment financing of solar projects.

## Work Session (A)

### 1. Hunter Solar Project

A discussion was held regarding whether or not a policy is needed to give the Board authority to enter into interlocal agreements for tax increment projects. Mr. Clason indicated that other taxing entities have done this without specific policies. The Board can use the interlocal agreement to explain its full legislative intent.

Recognizing that an Agency will be established to make decisions about the project area, Board members asked about having representatives on this Agency other than County Commissioners. Mr. Clason expressed his opinion that this is an idea worth discussing with the County Commissioners. Previously, there was a committee established for each tax increment project with specific members representing the different taxing entities. Due to recent changes in State law, this is no longer the case. Mr. Clason indicated that he would discuss this with the Commission and report back to Mr. Black.

It was asked if there is truly a need for 4-5 million in tax incentives. Mr. Clason explained that the margins in the solar industry are quite low, in the 5%-7% range. He discussed a variety of reasons the incentive makes sense to him. The Commission has required evidence to be provided to justify the tax incentive request. The developer has provided all information requested. In addition, the solar industry is a competitive market and in order for Emery County to get some of these projects, tax incentives are necessary. The incentives being requested in the Hunter project are lower than most of the incentives given statewide over the last several years.

### 2. Castle Solar Project

Mr. Clason mentioned that he is interested in pursuing an entirely different financial arrangement for the Castle Solar and other similar upcoming projects. This arrangement would eliminate all of the tax increment financing and would provide taxing entities with a percentage of profit for the lifetime of the project. Mr. Clason indicated that this type of arrangement may require a change in State statute, but that developers and others seem to be in favor.

It was determined that Board members would submit any questions about the interlocal agreement to Mr. Black by Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Black will then have District legal council review the agreement so that it can be prepared for consideration of approval in the November Board meeting.

**Public Comments (B):** No public comments were made.

**Adjournment (C):** A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Jessy Johansen to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.