



**NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426**

**SITE WALK: 6 P.M. September 19, 2023**

**Locations A and B for proposed Solar Array Feasibility Study**

**REGULAR MEETING: TUESDAY 7:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

OPHIR TOWN HALL 36 PORPHYRY ST.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 0143 8435 Passcode: 373146

+16699006833,,86701438435#,,,\*373146# US (San Jose)

**AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ADOPTION & SIGNATURE OF August 22, 2023 minutes
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. BUSINESS ITEMS
  - 4a. WORKSESSION: Proposed microgrid electric reliability and renewable energy project for the Town of Ophir – Presentation (Kuper/Wheels/Schuyler/Grieser)  
GOAL: Identifying and designating location for feasibility study
5. STAFF REPORTS
  - a. Town Manager
  - b. Other Staff
6. NEW BUSINESS
7. ADJOURN

## General Assembly Meeting Memorandum

To: Ophir General Assembly

From: John Wontrobski, Ophir Town Manager

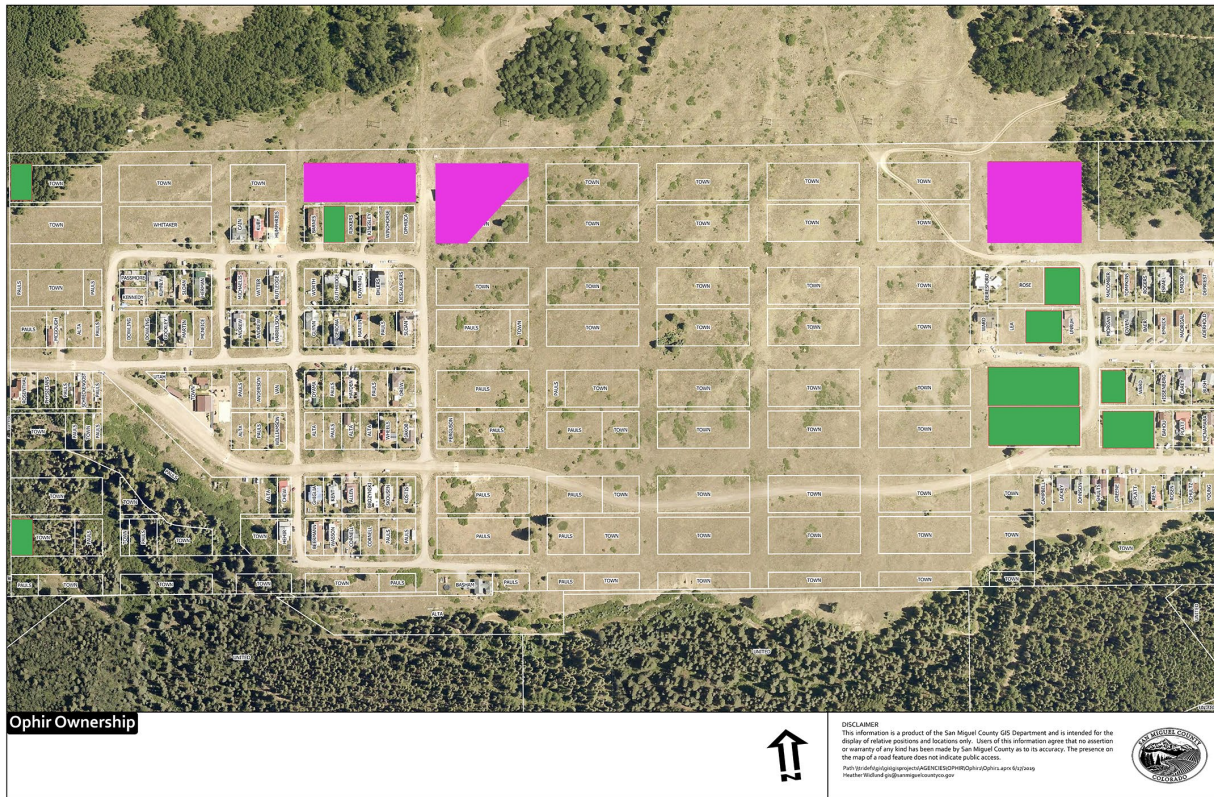
Date: September 12, 2023 for September 19, 2023 GA meeting

4a. As previously emailed, the main topic at Ophir's GA meeting on Tuesday, September 19 will be a work session for Ophir town residents to discuss options for microgrid electric reliability and renewable energy for the Town. This topic initiated out of a request by the Town of Ophir to investigate options to produce 100% of our electricity needs locally with renewable energy, and an opportunity identified by EcoAction Partners and San Miguel Power Association to apply for a Microgrid Community Resiliency (MCR) planning grant from Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The full scope of the proposed project will be presented at the GA meeting by staff from the Town of Ophir, EcoAction Partners, SMPA and See Forever Solar in order to support an informed discussion by Ophir town residents.

**SITE WALK!** Ophir town staff is proposing 2 potential locations to be discussed and decided between during this GA meeting. Both locations are completely owned by the Town of Ophir.

Location A: Block 10, directly west of the Cemetery

Location B: Block 4 (northern half), & portions of Block 5 that are not in an avalanche hazard zone (where Ophir's water treatment plant is)



With Location A identified last winter by Ophir as a potential location and a written letter of support for the MCR grant application approved by Ophir during the February 2023 GA meeting, SMPA applied for the MCR grant and was awarded approximately \$45K (including \$9K of matching funds contributed by SMPA’s Green Fund) for conducting a feasibility study for the microgrid and battery backup system. Prior to implementation of the feasibility study, it is necessary for the Town of Ophir residents to agree upon a preferred location for the proposed system, such that if the feasibility study results are positive, then the Town will be in support of the team pursuing construction grant funds and moving forward with construction on the identified site.

This project as proposed would look to provide 100% of Ophir community's current electricity use, in addition to 4-6 hours of backup electricity power in the event of power outage emergencies. The feasibility study (MCR Planning Grant) requires designating a preferred feasibility study site in order to proceed with the design and costing task outcomes needed to apply for future construction grant funds.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426**

**TUESDAY AUGUST, 2023 7:00 PM**

**OPHIR TOWN HALL 36 PORPHYRY ST.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

(7:10)

Voting Member: Elias Bahou, Daniel Forgrave, Cara Binkley, Judah Kuper, Teri Steinberg, Jacey DePriest, Kim Wheels, Eric Beerman, David Callicott, Natalie Fijalkoski, Larry Rosen, Gerald Oyama, Allyn Hart

**ADOPTION & SIGNATURE OF JULY 25TH, 2023 MEETING  
MINUTES**

Judah motions to approve and adopt, Teri seconds

All in Favor (Yay): Unanimous

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Judah motions to approve, Teri seconds

All in Favor (Yay): Unanimous

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. Judah nominates Daniel Foregrave to P&Z, Teri seconds

All in Favor (Yay): Unanimous

**STAFF REPORTS**

A. Judah updates re: microgrid. Plan is for lots in block 10 next to cemetery. 12hr battery backup for emergency use. Should be net

zero power for town. SMPA funded and owned. 25 year lease could be thought of as a “land bank” for block 10.

Kim mentions town approached SMPA 8-10 years ago inquiring about solar for the town. More recently the idea was re-approached and the DOLA grant is now available.

Cara asks about power numbers, life cycles and where the data is coming from

Judah notes most of the questions would be answered during the feasibility study. Studies/reports would be shared with GA during process.

Kim mentions the grid would provide 100% of usage for Ophir’s yearly use. John Griser would do feasibility studies as part of grant process.

Teri asks how do we feel about using lots for solar not housing or something else. What does it mean to give up these lots?

Kim mentions we have a year from July to complete feasibility study to be eligible for the grant

Eric asks if we have control of the power

Kim notes the grid doesn’t work that way. Power flows into the grid except for what is sent to/stored in the battery bank.

Judah adds there would be a 12 hour battery backup just for Ophir

John asks if we'd recharge batteries during a longer outage

Judah proposes a site visit to Last Dollar solar to check for noises, see how it looks, etc.

Teri requests John send an informational email for where to send questions regarding the process for SMPA, etc.

John asks Kim if SMPA could present at GA in Sept, vote to approve study could be in Oct.

Kim confirms that is in planning.

Kim proposes questions be directed to Judah and herself via email.

Cara mentions she's willing to share their personal solar data

Larry states he finds location offensive. It will violate view corridors. What's in it for us (the town)? Should town vote on location?

Judah notes we'd have to create an ordinance to free these lots from land bank.

John clarifies that the discussion is regarding a microgrid, the solar element is secondary.

Andy wonders what other communities working w/ DOLA grants are doing

Kim notes we are first in discussion with SMPA

ADJOURN

Andy motions to adjourn @ 9:05pm

*Minutes prepared by Ben Foster, Town Clerk*

*Audio recordings of all General Assembly Meetings are available to the public. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like a copy of this month's audio of the meeting minutes.*