

**GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 23-14**

**LARGE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM EMERGENCY MORATORIUM ORDINANCE**

At a meeting of the Township Board of Grass Lake Charter Township, Jackson County, Michigan, (“Township”) held at the Grass Lake Charter Township Hall, on the 10th day of October, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., Lesinski moved to adopt the following emergency Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Bednarski-Lynch.

*An emergency ordinance to enact a temporary moratorium until October 1, 2024 or an earlier time in which the Township adopts new regulations governing Large Solar Energy Systems and rescinds this Ordinance, on the application, permitting, consideration, approval, location, erection, construction, and/or installation of any Large Solar Energy Systems projects or other solar energy projects which require a special land use permit.*

**WHEREAS**, the Township has adopted a zoning ordinance and other ordinances, including a zoning ordinance amendment which regulates, among other things, the Large Solar Energy Systems land use (the “Solar Ordinance”). Large Solar Energy Systems are generally a utility-scale solar energy project designed for generating electricity for off-site users; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has applied the Solar Ordinance including approving one such land use. Due to concerns from the public and Township officials about appropriate regulations to regulate the Large Solar Energy Systems land use, among other potential issues associated with Large Solar Energy Systems such as glare, appropriate setbacks, impacts to farmland, noise impacts, and other concerns, the Township wishes to engage in a review of its existing Solar Ordinance and possibly revise regulations governing Large Solar Energy Systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has a legitimate purpose in addressing the proper, design, size, location, and operation of Large Solar Energy Systems in the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is reasonably concerned that continued application of the Solar Ordinance could cause future Large Solar Energy Systems to be established in inappropriate or inadvisable locations within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate to forestall such issues for the Township and to enact a temporary moratorium on Large Solar Energy Systems until any necessary revised regulations can be entered; and

**WHEREAS**, time is of the essence to implement this moratorium to avoid potential developers applying for a Large Solar Energy System land use and a moratorium being enacted as well as given the immediate interest in the land use within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township determines that the adoption of this emergency Ordinance, which is necessary to preserve the public peace, health, and safety by preventing the inappropriate location and establishment of Large Solar Energy Systems in the Township during the time needed to study, review, and potentially revise the Township’s current Solar Ordinance due to changed conditions within the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charter Township of Grass Lake Ordains:

**Section 1. Title:** This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Grass Lake Charter Township Large Solar Energy System Emergency Moratorium Ordinance.

**Section 2. Moratorium:** The Township enacts a temporary moratorium on the permitting, consideration, approval, location, erection, construction, and/or installation of all Large Solar Energy Systems or any solar energy project requiring a special land use permit in the Township until October 1, 2024 or an earlier time in which the Township adopts new regulations governing Large Solar Energy Systems and rescinds this Ordinance. This Ordinance shall not apply to and have no effect on Large Solar Energy Systems approved prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. The Township Board by resolution may extend the time of this moratorium under this Ordinance in increments of six month.

**Section 3. Severability:** The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction it shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect. Should this Ordinance be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, it shall be considered a resolution under MCL 42.20(1) pertaining to the internal affairs of the Township determining the timing of when it will administratively consider and process land use applications and requests.

**Section 4. Repeal:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

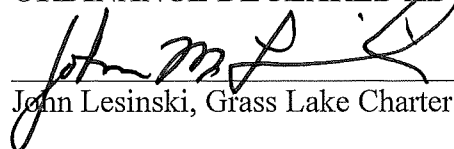
**Section 5. Emergency Ordinance & Effective Date:** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after publication. Pursuant to MCL 42.20, this Ordinance is declared to be an emergency ordinance, which may be passed at the same meeting at which it is introduced. Factors necessitating this Ordinance to be declared as an emergency ordinance, include, but are not limited to, an urgency to forestall applications for the land use under potentially inappropriate current regulations which if this Ordinance is not passed at the same meeting it is introduced may cause the Township to receive various applications upon introduction.

YEAS: Lesinski, Bednarski-Lynch, Loveland, Zenz, Lamborghini and Brennan

NAYS: Bray

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: None

**ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.**

  
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John Lesinski, Grass Lake Charter Township

**GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
LARGE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM EMERGENCY MORATORIUM ORDINANCE**

**Ordinance No. 23-14  
Notice of Adoption**

Please take notice that on October 10, 2023, the Township Board of Grass Lake Charter Township adopted Ordinance No. 23-14, an emergency ordinance which imposes a temporary moratorium until October 1, 2024 or an earlier time in which the Township adopts new regulations governing Large Solar Energy Systems, on the permitting, consideration, approval, location, erection, construction, and/or installation of the Large Solar Energy Systems land use and any other solar energy land uses requiring a special land use permit in the Township in order to allow appropriate time to study and potentially adopt revised regulations governing Large Solar Energy Systems. Copies of the Ordinance may be obtained from Catherine N Zenz, Grass Lake Charter Township Clerk, at 373 Lakeside Drive, Grass Lake, MI 49240. Please utilize the contact information below to set an appointment to obtain copies of the Ordinance.

Published by Order of the Township Board  
Grass Lake Charter Township, Jackson County

Catherine N Zenz, Township Clerk  
373 Lakeside Drive, Grass Lake, MI 49240  
Phone: (517) 522-8464  
E-Mail: [cathyz@grasslakect.com](mailto:cathyz@grasslakect.com)

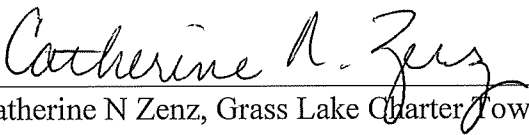
Publication Date: October 17, 2023

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that:

1. The above is a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Grass Lake Charter Township Board at a duly scheduled and noticed meeting of the Township Board held on October, 10 2023, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.
2. A summary of the above Ordinance was duly published in the Brooklyn Exponent newspaper, a newspaper that circulates within Grass Lake Charter Township, on October 17, 2023.
3. Within 1 week after such publication, I recorded the above Ordinance in a book of ordinances kept by me for that purpose, including the date of passage of the ordinance, the names of the members of the Township Board voting, and how each member voted.
4. I filed an attested copy of the above Ordinance with the Jackson County Clerk on October 25, 2023.

ATTESTED:



Catherine N Zenz, Grass Lake Charter Township Clerk