

MINUTES
MASSAC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Hearing SB Energy-April 14, 2026

Chairman Jayson Farmer called the meeting to order, County Clerk Hailey Miles called roll. Commissioners Farmer, Brugger, and Burnham are all present.

Chairman Farmer made introductory comments explaining the reason for the public hearing and turned the meeting over to attorney Rick Abell and Terry Foster who represents the county in the solar application process.

Mr. Abell explained the County Commissioners are here to strictly listen as well and no decision will be made tonight. Abell introduced Travis Brown with SB Energy who then introduced his team; Nasser Keshmiri, Jordan Schriener, Chris Hart, and Charissa Huntzinger.

Travis gave an overview of the company and Jordan gave an overview of the project. The Shawnee Energy Project is a proposed 650 acres in Massac County and would be solar only, no battery storage. The project will contribute an estimated \$20 million in tax payments for Massac County. During the construction phase in Massac and Johnson counties, the project will create approximately 450 jobs at peak construction. Jordan pointed at various points on the map that was on the slide.

Travis explained the studies that are being done or have been done and went over parts of the Massac County Solar Ordinance and the requirements listed there, which includes protection of public health, safety and welfare, compatibility with nearby properties, orderly development of the area, adequate infrastructure and services, safe access and traffic management, consistency with county planning objectives, and compliance with county regulations.

Mr. Abell informed the public that copies of the application are available in the County Clerk's office and the commissioners will accept questions and comments in writing for 7 business days from today.

Blake Wiggins had a question regarding monitoring of the performance of the Solar Farm.

Carl Bowman had a question regarding renewal energy credits.

Joppa Maple Grove Superintendent Greg Goines had a comment regarding the EAV and the positive impact a Solar Farm would have on the school district.

Anthony questioned if there were any state or federal grants funding the project to which the answer was no.

Blake Wiggins asked the life span and was answered by the SB Energy representatives.

Steve Korte with Cache River Drainage District explained their concerns regarding storm water run-off. SB Energy states they design the plans to prevent such run-off. Alvin Harper had the same concerns as Mr. Korte.

Blake Wiggins asked how the Solar Farm would affect local wildlife and ecosystems. They state they don't foresee any issues and plan to prove vegetation around the farm.

Cody Smith has many concerns as his property is adjacent to the proposed project. One concern is damage to the panels due to severe weather and SB Energy states there are no hazardous materials in the panels or anywhere else. They also explained the company would be responsible for clean-up. Mr. Abell also mentioned that the applicants have to carry a \$20 million insurance policy.

Cody also had concerns about property value. SB Energy stated there have been studies that show there is little to no effect on the value of property and in some cases it actually increases the value.

Lindell Croft asked if there would be battery storage in Johnson County to which they responded only in the northern part. He also had some concerns about deer and wildlife.

President of IL Farm Bureau Clint Smith expressed his concerns with drainage and wildlife and also property value and taxes.

Cody Smith asked how the state can mandate that the commissioners vote on it, but they have to vote yes. Rick Abell explained that the counties don't have discretion because of the state statute.

Josh Reagor asked about the footprint of the overall project. He ran some figures based on the current projected megawatts of the solar farm. Josh Bowman asked about the output per hour.

Josh Reagor also had a question regarding the lease, to which Nasser said they could not comment on.

Travis thanked everyone for coming and offered for anyone to ask questions after the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Farmer, 2nd by Mr. Brugger, the commissioners adjourned.