1. Did we sign an NDA? No, none was offered or asked of us, and none were signed by any member of the Green Twp. Board
2. “secret” chemicals. C Thelen used a poor choice of words. The correct term is Proprietary. However, by law all chemicals must be listed on Materials Safety Data Sheets. In addition, all chemicals must be listed with the Big Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant
3. How will things be transported? As I understand it the lithium will be mined and processed in Argentina. It will be transported by cargo ship to a deep-water port along Lake Michigan. From there it will be shipped by truck to the Big Rapids plant. The finished components will be shipped by truck to a railhead in western Michigan and to a southern US plant from there.
4. How will the roads be maintained? The infrastructure grants will pay for the roads to be upgraded to class A to handle the commercial traffic. The upgrades will not cost local gov’ts anything.
5. When will this project go before the Mec Co Planning Commission. Their May meeting.
6. What led us to pursue our own planning commission. This has been a goal for many years. We used to have our own buy let it go. We have had issues with the county i.e., getting our towers in, River and Lake Resort zoning, and property owners grandfathered in but not honored.
7. Did I question the statement about HazMat at LG. Yes, the suits that speaker spoke of are level D suits. They are for clean rooms to avoid fibers from clothing contaminating the product. The statement about glasses melting to the face of the wearer begs logic. MIOSHA would fine a company out of existence for something like that. Denim jeans don’t melt to the skin. The cotton may burn, but not melt.
8. Has a CIFUS request been filed by Green Twp? No. It costs thousands of dollars to do an investigation and the township would be responsible for that expense. Gotion NA voluntarily filed for a CIFUS on their southern US plant two weeks ago. They filed for the Big Rapids plant this week. CIFUS policy calls for a response in 30 to 45 days. We await those results.
9. Why are those in favor of this project not showing up. They are. There were a number in the crowd last night. Given the response that the one that did speak up got and the shouted name calling the board endured why wouldn’t they feel their safety was threatened? Some can say no one was threatened. That is not the interpretation of those that didn’t speak up or chose not to come to the meeting.
10. Did I record the people in the township hall on April 5. NO, the recorder was left OFF when I left the room. The people in the room however chose to LIVESTREAM their conversation and it is online for anyone to view if they wish.
11. Has VW China given up their voting rights. NO, in fact VW exercised their ownership rights this week and placed their own people in a number of key management positions including financial.
12. What is going to happen to the people [small businesses] just holding on. With the growth in economic opportunities how much is your business going to grow?
13. Would you be willing to work for a Public Referendum. Referendum on what legal precedent? Mr. Bechaz has been told numerous times how to proceed with one if he wishes. He appears to not have followed through.
14. Why would we want those communists in our country. Gotion NA is not the Chinese Communist Party. They are a publicly traded international company with a multinational board of control.
15. Why have you not been transparent? We have been open to answering all questions there were answers for since September, seven months ago. Many are upset they didn’t get the answers they wanted or that matched up with internet rumors, but we have provided the facts.
16. How are you ok with the communist party coming to our backyard? This is NOT the communist party. This is an international company. The majority stockholder is VW Germany who has and is making their mark at the company.
17. How is this plant going to benefit our residents? We will collect thousands of dollars in new tax revenue from the plant. We will collect thousands of dollars from the commercial growth. We will be able to fund a better fire department via the city. We will have families that can find good paying jobs locally instead of driving to Grand Rapids anymore. The list goes on.
18. Why is this being built here and not in a city? Because of the size of the project no city has that large of a space available. In addition, the costs are less here than in Detroit.
19. Why are we letting China buy our property? We aren’t of the nine members of Gotion’s Board of Directors, 4 are German and 2 are American.
20. Concerns about the secrecy surrounding this project. What secrecy? This project has been public for seven months. There have been 8 to ten or more public meetings. There has been a panel discussion using over 150 submitted questions. I have lost count of the number of media sources I have spoken to. Some of the answers may not be the answer you wanted but they are answers.
21. Minimal water losses? This is about distributed water not waste water. Any losses should be only from evaporation. Sewage water is not an issue as it is handled by our city Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Most of the rest of the evening’s contributions were statements, not questions.