

ISABELLA COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

April 12, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Isabella County Planning Commission was held on April 12, 2012 in Room 225 of the Isabella County Building, 200 North Main Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Thompson, Cheryl Jindeel, Jerry Neyer, William Dailey, Joel Welty, Evelyn Kent, Kelly Bean, Gordon Gilchrist.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Alwood.

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT: Tim Nieporte, Community Development Director
Mike Zalewski, Zoning Administrator
Brandy Harger, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thompson at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Dailey, supported by Mr. Gilchrist, to approve the agenda as amended.

Yes: Thompson, Jindeel, Neyer, Welty, Dailey, Kent, Bean, Gilchrist.
No: None.

Motion carried.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the March 8, 2012 regular meeting were circulated to the Commission prior to the meeting for their review.

A motion was made by Mr. Neyer, supported by Ms. Jindeel to approve the minutes as submitted.

Yes: Thompson, Jindeel, Neyer, Welty, Dailey, Kent, Bean, Gilchrist.
No: None.

Motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS

Zoning Board of Appeals – Mr. Gilchrist had no report at this time.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Thompson reported that the parks would be opening on May 1, 2012. The Chippewa Watershed Conservancy is holding an Annual Spring Banquet on April 26, 2012.

Board of Commissioners – Mr. Dailey stated that the Ad Hoc committee met to discuss how to respond to the Board of Commissioners regarding Zoning Services in these tough financial times.

TOWNSHIP CONCERNS

Jackie Curtis, Denver Township, stated that Denver Township strongly supports the Zoning issue. She also explained that she is very thankful for Tim, Mike and Brandy as they have always been helpful.

Bob Neeland, Isabella Township, none heard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None heard.

REVIEW OF SHERMAN TOWNSHIP ZONING AMENDMENTS

Mr. Zalewski stated that the first proposed amendment will prohibit any commercial or industrial land uses that are in violation of federal law. This is similar language that was used in other communities to address the medical marijuana dispensary issue. The language has been upheld at the local levels, but no decisions have been made thus far at the court of appeals level. Staff has no concerns with the language, but would suggest that the township may want to have their legal counsel review the amendment prior to adoption if they have not done so yet.

Mr. Tony Kulick, Sherman Township, stated that the Sherman Township will possibly be adopting these amendments on Monday; they are just waiting to hear any comments from the County.

Mr. Zalewski stated that the second proposed amendment will allow for larger accessory buildings on residential lots that are more than one acre in size. The amendment will also allow for accessory buildings that house airplanes to be considered a principal use on lots that abut an airport runway. Staff has no concerns with the language.

Mr. Kulick stated that accessory buildings on lots that abut an airport runway is a problem now because the size of the accessory building that is currently allowed would not be large enough to fit an airplane into. He also explained that the township didn't see a problem with people building larger accessory buildings if they have the property to do so.

It was the consensus of the board to send comments to the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None heard.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Nieporte stated that the Capital Improvement Plan review has been sent out to the other County agencies; it is looking for improvements they will be doing. The Planning Commission will soon be seeing what these improvements are and begin the process of updating the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Zalewski stated that our department is offering two training sessions that staff highly encourages the board members to attend. The first training session is on May 29, 2012 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm, it is called Advanced Zoning Board of Appeals. The second training session is on September 26, 2012 from 6:00 –

9:00 pm, it is called Zoning Ordinance.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Welty stated that he is glad to see that the Michigan Planner is talking about the rising cost of transport, because it is going to have a major impact, and require things like more public transportation.

Mr. Bean stated that Zoning Report that the board has begun receiving is great.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Chair at 7:31 p.m.

Christine Alwood, Secretary

Brandy Harger, Recording Secretary