

**Minutes:**  
**Watersmeet Township Planning Commission**

**Regular Meeting of January 14, 2015**

Watersmeet High School Library

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chairman Roy D'Antonio at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- 3) **Roll Call:** Members Present: Chairman Roy D'Antonio, Secretary John Neumann, Township Board Liaison-Rich Henriksen, Pete Peterson, Jeff Wasson, John Cestkowski, and Larry Potter, Dave Sherrill were present. Jeff Zelinski was absent. Several community members were also present.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda/Changes:** Dave Sherrill made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented, second was made by John Cestkowski. Unanimous yes vote to approve agenda.
- 5) **Members Appointments/Organizational Meeting:** Dave Sherrill made a motion to reappoint Roy D'Antonio as the Chairman of the Planning Commission. Second by Pete Peterson. Unanimous yes vote. Jeff Wasson made a motion to appoint Dave Sherrill as Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission. Second by Rich Henriksen. Unanimous yes vote. Dave Sherrill made a motion to appoint John Neumann as the Secretary of the Planning Commission. Second John Cestkowski. Unanimous yes vote.
- 6) **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Dave Sherrill to accept minutes of Regular meeting of December 10<sup>th</sup> as written, second by Rich Henriksen. Unanimous yes vote.
- 7) **Zoning Administration Report:** David Neumann reported there were no applications for building permits since the last meeting. Dave did present a Special Use Permit Application submitted by Jeff Nimz last April pending a septic system inspection. Letters have to be sent to adjoining land owners to inform them of the request. A hearing will be scheduled for the Special Use Permit at our next PC meeting. Dave also stated that he has been in contact with the owner of the dilapidated boat house on East Bay and he will meet with the owner this spring to resolve the problem.
- 8) **Kathy Stupak-Thrall & Gogebic County Transit Jim Mildren:** Kathy presented a problem she had with the service of the Little Blue Bus. Recently an elderly gentleman requested the Blue Bus to pick him up to take him to the doctor but scheduling conflicts did not allow this to happen. Kathy believes that Watersmeet Township does not receive equitable attention we deserved, especially since the Township provides almost 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the tax money to the service in the County. She stated that she has spoken with the LVD Tribe and that they are working on some type of bus service and we should be working together with them to improve the bus service for the Township. Jim Mildren, the owner of the service, responded to the complaint by saying complaints not only comes from Watersmeet residents but that there is no way that the bus can accommodate every request. The bus is scheduled for Thursday and Friday to Watersmeet and most of the patrons riding to Watersmeet go to the casino. Ironwood Township is also scheduled for 2 days per week. 1 day a week services the outlying areas around Ironwood. There was a lengthy discussion about what can be done to improve the service. Kathy made the suggestion that maybe a

bus could be scheduled to leave Watersmeet and take people out of town instead of bringing people to Watersmeet. It would also be a good thing if the bus service would be added to the Watersmeet Master Plan to work on improving the service. Dave Sherrill made a motion to include the information about the Blue Bus on the Watersmeet Township web site. Second was by Rich Henriksen. Unanimous yes vote after a discussion. Dave Sherrill made a motion to develop a work group to work with the Tribe and community concerning the service. Rich Henriksen seconded the motion. There was a lengthy discussion. Unanimous yes vote to move forward with planning a committee.

- 9) **Continued Master Plan Update/TWP. Survey:** Dave Sherrill presented our Survey and Master Plan stating the first thing we have to agree on is this Master Plan now is the 2015 – 2019 Plan. There were several added changes to the Master Plan discussed including the Watersmeet Town Hall replacement. Dave Sherrill made a motion to approve the cover letter and analysis of the Comprehensive Plan to be submitted to the Township as written. Second by Pete Peterson. Unanimous yes vote. The next topic concerned the Survey. John Cestkowski was concerned that we were asking in the survey to rate volunteers and he felt that wasn't appropriate. There was a discussion about some of the other categories such as police, sheriff and DEQ because we have no input or control over them. There was talk about whether or not adding Ordinances concerning noxious weeds, etc. should be included in the survey. It was determined after a discussion to leave the Survey as is. The motion was made by Dave Sherrill to approve the Survey and to contact the ISCCW for a mailing list. Second by Roy D'Antonio. Unanimous yes vote. The Master (Comprehensive) Plan was reviewed, discussed and corrections were made.
- 10) **Annual PC Report to Township Board:** There was a discussion about the letter written by John Neumann to the Board and one change was made to correct an error, 200 to 201 square ft. in the building requirement sentence. Roy D'Antonio made a motion to accept the letter with the noted change. Second by Rich Henriksen. Unanimous yes vote.
- 11) **Public Comments:** Pete Peterson wanted to discuss the ZBA and a problem with a particular property that the owner wanted to divide for her children. There was a discussion about the request and the problem with the 300 ft. of frontage and rear width requirements. According to part of the discussion, the property failed by 8 ft. to meet the rear requirement. Pete made the comment that he didn't like a comment from a ZBA member that the ZBA was expected to disapprove 95% of the requests. There was disagreement throughout the discussion of what the Ordinance does or doesn't say and whether the Ordinance was clear enough to make a decision. There was no resolution to the discussion.
- 12) **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Dave Sherrill, second by Pete Peterson, Unanimous yes vote. 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by, *John Neumann* – Planning Commission Secretary

Approved: February 11, 2015