

Minutes:
Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting of April 8, 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, Larry Potter, Dave Sherrill and Jeff Zelinski were present. Several community members were present.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda/Changes:** Pete Peterson made a motion to accept agenda. 2nd by Dave Sherrill. Unanimous yes vote to approve agenda.
- 5) **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Pete Peterson to accept minutes of regular meeting of March 11th as written, second by Jeff Wasson. Unanimous yes vote.
- 6) **Zoning Administrator Report:** Dave Neumann said there were one land division and one pole barn permit requested. Special Use Permits were discussed. Several sections were voted on that would affect Special Use Permits but would not change the Township Ordinance and wouldn't require a hearing. All Roll Call Votes. All the following motions were made by Rich Henriksen and seconded by Dave Sherrill; 1) Current set back requirements must be met for a dwelling...all no votes except for Dave Sherrill who voted yes. 2) The minimum lot size must meet the minimum lot size for the dwelling...unanimous no vote. 3) The report from the Michigan Health Department must include the number of individuals the septic system was designed for and an approval of the water system...unanimous yes vote. 4) A Special Use Permit is intended for the current owner and is non-transferable...unanimous yes vote. 5) Special Use Permits must be renewable yearly...unanimous no vote. 6) A Special Use Permit shall include a local contact person...unanimous yes vote. 7) Short term rentals shall include AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) information available in the rentals...unanimous yes vote.
- 7) **Master Plan Update:** Dave stated that he updated the document and sent it to all members of the PC. He requested that all PC members look at what he has done, make their changes to discuss it at the next meeting so we can get it finally completed so the final draft can be moved on to the Township Board.
- 8) **Recreational Plan Update:** Dave said it was important that the Rec Plan gets updated if grants are going to be obtained. It was decided that we would invite Coleman Engineering to give the Planning Commission a presentation on developing a Rec Plan. Dave made a motion to have Coleman Engineering give the PC a presentation. Second by Pete Peterson. Unanimous yes vote. Roy will contact them.
- 9) **Gogebic County Transit Update:** Jeff Zelinski reported that he spoke with Jim Mildren. He stated he had called the State and he got permission to go out of the State for the service. The cost would be \$12,000 in addition to what is already paid to the company. It would be 22 trips for the year and would go as far as Rhinelander. It was pointed out that this cost would be half of the \$12,000 to the Township, \$6,000. It would be contracted to another

company. The cost to the Township would be \$272 per trip plus whatever the rider would have to pay. This will be discussed further.

- 10) **Blight Ordinance:** Roy stated that if we did have a Blight Ordinance it should be a Police Power Blight Ordinance according to Attorney Michael Pope. There was a discussion. Enforcement of the Ordinance was a concern. It was stated that the biggest violator is Gogebic County because of abandoned buildings they acquire. Roy is going to get some sample Blight Ordinances to discuss at the next meeting.
- 11) **Public Comments:** Tim Duncan commented that he thinks that if we created a Blight Ordinance we would be no better than a police state and he would be against it. Tim was also asked about the cars he had parked around his repair shop. He stated some of the cars that are there are cars that he repaired but there is still money owed on them. He also said that he shouldn't be limited to how many cars were on his lot. It's his business. A letter from Pope was to be included in the minutes concerning the process the Township went through planning the new town hall.
- 12) **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Pete Peterson, second by Jeff Wasson. Unanimous yes vote. 8:20 PM

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

Approved: 05/13/2015