



Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

April 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Ruth McDonald called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mrs. McDonald were: Rod Iamurri, Rick Lorentzen, Diane LaMountain and Patrick Lynch. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, and Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer, and no interested parties.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Iamurri, seconded by LaMountain to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Iamurri seconded by Lorentzen to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Communications – Petitions – Citizens Comments – None.

6. Hearings-None

7. Sign Board of Appeals-None

8. Presentations-None

9. Old Business

A. Discussion Only-Proposed text amendment-“Building Setback Lines”

Sika explained that the Planning Commission had tabled this text amendment at the March 18, 2015 meeting. He wanted to give them some further information regarding this text amendment. He explained that certain areas have front setbacks measured from the typical road right-of-way of thirty-three feet (33') from the center of the road, with the addition of the Township defined front yard of thirty-five feet (35') from that point giving them a setback of sixty-eight feet (68').

In some areas however, this is not the case. The houses are closer due to their construction prior to the Ordinance or also if they have a deep lot and have built back further. What the text amendment strives for is to create a uniformity for such things as placement of utilities in the future. For example, Gratiot Road currently has right-of-ways that differ up and down the corridor. By establishing a setback this will aid in the uniformity of signage placement along the road making all business have uniform signage placement. This would be one benefit of this text amendment. The hope is to bring this back at the May meeting with additional information received from the Saginaw County Road Commission and MDOT regarding future road right-of-ways and possibly doing an overlay with these over the current right-of-ways.

10. New Business

A. 2015 Business/Organization of the Year.

Sika explained to the Planning Commission that it was time again to award the Business/Organization of the Year award. He told the members that they could consider any business, organization, church or service group in the Township. He further explained the criteria sheet developed by the Planning Commission establishing guidelines for their choices. It was requested that the members turn in their score sheets with their selections by April 30, 2015. The information regarding their selection of a winner and honorable mentions will be presented at the May 20, 2015 meeting.

11. Receive and File All Correspondence-None

Adjournment

Motion by Iamurri seconded by Lorentzen to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. ***The next meeting date is May 20, 2015.***

Respectfully submitted by Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer