



Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
May 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Rod Iamurri called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mr. Iamurri were: Ruth McDonald, Patrick Lynch, Dave Sommers, and Dale Halm Also present was Dan Sika, Director of Community Development.

Absent: Diane Lamountain and Steve Yockey.

1. ***Call to Order and Roll Call***

2. ***Pledge of Allegiance.***

3. ***Approval of Agenda:***

It was moved by McDonald, seconded by Halm to approve the Agenda for the May 18, 2016 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ***Approval of Minutes:***

It was moved by Lynch, seconded by McDonald to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 3, 2016 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. ***Communications – Petitions – Citizens Comments – None.***

6. ***Presentations-None***

7. ***Hearings-None***

8. ***Sign Board of Appeals-None***

9. ***New Business-None***

10. *Old Business*

A. *Wind Energy Ordinance Review-Discussion Only.*

Iamurri noted that for several months the Planning Commission has been talking and gathering information relating to the Wind Ordinance. This is being done to determine if any changes are needed in the existing Ordinance.

Sika explained that the information that has been provided to the Planning Commission this month is the current Ordinance, a small wind ordinance, and a wind energy ordinance. Along with this a wind exclusion map was included for review listing several options for where wind turbines could be constructed in Thomas Township. At this time wind farms are allowed in any agricultural district in the Township with restriction requirements regarding setbacks and so forth. In reviewing where these may be allowed it is to determine if any restrictions are necessary. Rob Eggers, of Spicer, had originally suggested allowing these wind farms in the districts to the west of Swan Creek. After further discussion with him and the Township Manager, other options were made available for the Planning Commission to review. After discussion by the Planning Commission the members determined the following;

- Halm, Lynch and Iamurri were in favor of Option #2, adding in the area west of Curve Road that is zoned A-1 but dropping Option #4 as a possibility.
- Sommers was in favor of Option #2 adding the additional area west of Curve Road that is zoned A-1 and added that after discussion if it was deemed necessary to add in Option #4 he'd be okay with that.
- McDonald was in favor of Option #2 without the inclusion of the additional area west of Curve Road that is zoned A-1.

It was agreed that Option #2 only would be okay with the commission.

It was decided that the information would be given to Mr. Eggers so he could define these areas and give justification to areas in which wind farms would be prohibited. This will be discussed at the June 15, 2016 meeting.

Sommers did note that he wished for clarification on a few questions;

- How can a wind tower be removed if the company stops using it? (Rob)
- Can we get a demo deposit at the time of construction? (Rob)
- What would the process be to have it taken down in this situation? (Rob)

These questions will be addressed by Mr. Eggers at the June meeting.

B. Business/Organization of the Year 2016 Results

Iamurri read the results of the voting that was done by the Planning Commission for the 2016 Business/Organization of the Year. The results were as follows:

- First Place-Fullerton Tool
- Honorable Mention (Tie)-Swanhaven
Shields Loving Care
Apple Mountain

Watt will make arrangements for a date and time for the plaques to be presented to the winners and contact the Planning Commission members so they can be in attendance.

11. Receive and File All Correspondence-Planning & Zoning News-April 2016

12 Adjournment

Motion by Halm seconded by Sommers to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. ***The next regular meeting date is June 15, 2016.***

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