



**Minutes**

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

June 21, 2017 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: Dave Sommers, Pat Lynch, Doug Bird Jennifer Curry, and Ruth McDonald. Also present was Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, Jim Sunda, Juliet Matko and Stephen Schoenow of Consumers Energy and several interested parties.

Absent: Steve Yockey.

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Approval of Agenda:**

It was moved by McDonald, seconded by Sommers to approve the Agenda for the June 21, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by McDonald, seconded by Sommers to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2017 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**6. Presentations**

***A.-Saginaw Trail Pipeline Project presented by Consumers Energy.***

Juliet Matko of Consumers Energy discussed the Saginaw Trail Pipeline Project and its effect on Thomas Township. She stated it is a five (5) year project to be completed in five (5) phases. A power point presentation (copy included) was shown regarding the project. Phase 1 was started a couple of weeks ago. Phase 2 will be the portion that goes through Thomas Township. The project cost is \$610 million dollars and is to be completed in five (5) years. Consumers is replacing seventy-eight (78) miles of existing pipeline which is 12-16” and replacing it with 24” pipeline. The current pipeline is vintage and needs upsized to meet demand. About 450 jobs

will be created each year with the project. Both Phase 2 and Phase 3 will reroute the pipeline that is existing out of populated areas and put it into more rural areas. They will start constructing North to South and then to the West. The North to South piece that is through Thomas Township will be East of Graham Road. All landowners whose parcels will be affected for all of the project should be finished being notified within the next two weeks. Dean Bauman of 10575 Geddes road expressed concerns with his fields and disturbing the tile. He was also concerned with different answers he had received from subcontractors of Consumers working on this project. Matko apologized for any confusion and agreed to make her phone number available to sit down and meet with the resident who had concerns to make sure his concerns were addressed.

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

**8. *New Business-None***

**9. *Old Business-None***

**10. *Hearings***

***A-Text Amendment to Section 3.5 Accessory Buildings.***

Iamurri opened the Public Hearing. Sika reviewed the text amendment and stated it is a basic change of one line. It is proposing to allow accessory buildings (not attached) to match the pitch of the house. Currently it is seventeen feet (17') max. It will increase value to the property and make it aesthetically pleasing. Discussion among the members as to if existing accessory structures could be changed with this new amendment. Bird expressed concern with homes with high roof pitches and current accessory structures that could potentially change the roof pitch if the text amendment is passed. Sika said they would be able to if they wanted to but most likely it would be such an expense that most would not. Iamuuri asked for public comment. There was none. The Public Hearing was closed at this time. A motion was made by McDonald, supported by Sommers to approve the text amendment to Section 3.5 Accessory Buildings to add the following "building height may be increased as follows: Accessory structures may match the roof pitch of the primary dwelling. A vote was taken, Iamurri, Sommers, McDonald, Lynch and Curry voted in favor of the text amendment. Bird voted opposed.

**11. *Receive and File All Correspondence-None***

## **12. Adjournment**

Motion by Sommers seconded by Bird to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. **The next regular meeting date is July 19, 2017.**

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