

**MONTCALM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
#3rd Floor Conference Room, Administrative Building
211 W. Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888

Members Present: Darin Dood
 John Johansen
 Chuck Hill
 Armon Withey
 Lonnie Smith

Members Absent: Phil Kohn
 Chris Mark
 Daniel Brant

Others Present Michelle Becker
 Brenda Taeter
 Jakob Bigard
 Elisabeth Waldon
 Kyle Brockschmidt

Chuck Hill called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Public comments: John Johansen asked why Phil Kohn was not in attendance and asked if another commissioner could be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Motioned by Armon Withey, supported by Lonnie Smith, to approve the minutes from January 17, 2023. Motion carried.

John Johansen requested the committee cover old business first as he would need to leave the meeting early.

Motion by Darin, supported by Armon, to add item #2 Reynolds Township ordinance amendment, item #3 Belvidere Township ordinance amendment and item #4 Douglass Township ordinance amendment under new business and cover old business first. Motion carried.

Secretary & Training Reports –No training reported; John Johansen showed members the Citizens Planner notebook and stated it had a lot of good information.

Old Business – The committee reviewed the Planning Commission Seminar training flyer. Motioned by Armon Withey, supported by Lonnie Smith, to approve the flyer for training and send to local municipalities. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the \$39,000.00 bid from Progressive AE for the General Plan and Factbook update; members asked Brenda to request a rebid without the FACT Book included. Motioned by Darin Dood, supported by Armon Withey, to table at this time. Motion carried.

The committee discussed the vacancy representing Economic, Tourism and Industry, and were introduced to Jakob Bigard, Executive Director of Montcalm Economic Alliance. Brenda Taeter and Darin Dood, both members of the MEA, stated Jakob was recommended by the MEA for the appointment.

Motioned by Lonnie Smith, supported by John Johansen, to recommend the appointment of Jakob Bigard to fill the vacancy representing Economic, Tourism and Industry. Motion carried.

Old Business – The committee reviewed the Cato Township notice of intent to conduct master planning. Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Darin Dood, to send a letter thanking Cato Township for the correspondence. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the Reynolds Township Ordinance Amendment regarding medical marijuana facilities. Motioned by Lonnie Smith, supported by Armon Withey, to send a letter thanking them for the opportunity to review the correspondence and there are no comments. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the Belvidere Township Planning Commission amendment for detached accessory buildings. Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Darin Dood, to send a letter thanking Cato Township for the correspondence. Motion carried.

John Johansen stated he needed to leave the meeting and reminded members that this committee had discussed not providing comments on ordinances because the advice is not being welcomed.

The committee no longer had a quorum with John leaving at 4:05 p.m.

The committee discussed the following regarding commenting on ordinances:

Darin Dood suggested items can be place on file without commenting.

Armon Withey felt members should comment if they have an opinion and not worry whether they like the comments or not, otherwise, these may not be sent to the Planning Commission to review.

Lonnie Smith stated suggestions have been shared in the past even if there is contention on the subject.

Chuck Hill stated he would welcome any customary items for review as we are in an advisement capacity.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 15, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Dood

Darin Dood, Secretary