

**MONTCALM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Monday, September 18, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
#3rd Floor Conference Room, Administrative Building
211 W. Main Street, Stanton, MI 48888

Members Present: Darin Dood
 Chuck Hill
 Mike Falcon
 Daniel Brant
 John Johansen
 Adam Petersen
 Chris Mark-arrived at 3:34 p.m.

Members Absent: Lonnie Smith
 Jakob Bigard

Others Present Michelle Becker
 Brenda Taeter
 Elisabeth Waldon
 Eric Tester
 Ben & Linda Reynolds

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 were offered; none were given.

Motioned by Mike Falcon, supported by Darin Dood, to approve the minutes as presented from August 21, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion by John Johansen, supported by Adam Petersen, to approve the amended agenda with additions under new business of item #2., Winfield Township Amendments for Wind Energy Conversion Systems, Solar Energy Systems and Chapters 3 & 16 of the Zoning Ordinance as attachment D and item #3., PA116 for Zachary & Garrett Waldron of Day Township as attachment E. Motion carried.

Secretary & Training Reports –No reports were given.

Old Business – Proposed Economic Development Ordinance & Rules of Procedure in attachment A & B. Darin stated he didn't receive much feedback on the proposed drafts from committee members and asked Commissioner Petersen if he felt the committee should get the Board of Commissioners support before working on this any further. Commissioner Petersen stated he felt the Board is in support of the focus on economic develop, however, he can only speak as one member. Commissioner Petersen stated he would email the draft to board members requesting their input, and if there were questions, that would be the time to attend a Board meeting. Committee members pressed Commissioner Petersen for some clear goals and he suggested a think tank approach to take Montcalm County to whole new level.

Montcalm County General Plan update. Brenda Taeter met with Dave Bee and Mike Scott on September 11, 2023, regarding assisting with the general plan update. Dave Bee suggested renaming the committee Community Development rather than Economic Development; Dave is also willing to lead the public input session that he suggested take place in April of 2024 at Montcalm Community College. Mike Scott suggested members review each chapter so members know what is in the plan; Mr. Scott reviewed chapter 2 and thought it

could be condensed from 15 pages to 3 easily. Brenda provided committee members with copies of chapter 2 and asked they bring suggestions to the next meeting and she will provide the next chapter printouts for review.

New Business: The committee reviewed the Maple Valley Ordinance to Amend Solar Energy Systems in attachment C. Members noted the plan was detailed and thorough and also appreciated the definitions of terms included in the plan.

Motioned by Darin Dood, supported by Mike Falcon, to send a letter to Maple Valley Township with their comments. Motion carried with John Johansen abstaining.

The committee reviewed the Winfield Township Amendments for Wind Energy Conversion Systems, Solar Energy Systems and Chapters 3 & 16 of the Zoning Ordinance in attachment D. A member questioned section 9 in the Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems, item 3.k. “Electromagnetic signal interference study and map depicting and describing the predicted electromagnetic signal interference generated operation of the commercial wind energy system upon public right-of-way and lots for which the principal use is not a commercial wind energy conversion system” and suggested it may be a bit cumbersome.

Also, on the Solar Energy Conversion Systems, section 4, item i, “A noncommercial solar energy conversion system, or any part thereof, must be completely decommissioned and removed 180 calendar days if it has not been in substantial operation for period of one year. This included a noncommercial solar energy conversion system, or any part thereof, that was never substantially operational, or if construction has been substantially halted for a period of one year” there was a question as to what defines substantial operation and when does the 180 calendar days start.

Motioned by Daniel Brant, supported by Darin Dood to send a letter to Cato Township with their comments. Motion carried with John Johansen abstaining.

The committee reviewed the PA116 from Day Township for Zachary and Garrett Waldron.

Motioned by Chris Mark, supported by John Johansen, to approve the PA116 pending the review from the Montcalm Conservation District. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Eric Tester asked if the Board of Commissioners would be reviewing the proposed Economic Development plan at their next meeting and was informed that Commissioner Petersen will be emailing it to the Commissioners to share any input on the plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

Motioned by John Johansen, supported by Chris Mark, to adjourn at 4:09 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin Dood

Darin Dood, Secretary