

## ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES JULY 5, 2022

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20<sup>TH</sup> RD GLADSTONE, MI 49837 7:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chairperson Dean VanLoon. Mr. VanLoon proceeded by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verbal Roll Call: Present Chairperson Dean VanLoon, Theresa Chenier, Nathan Neumeier, Larry Klope. Unexcused Absent: Greg Faust. 4 of 5 members fulfill the quorum.

Larry K made a motion to accept May 2, 2022 minutes as amended. Theresa C second. All in favor. Motion passed.

Theresa C made a motion to accept June 6, 2022 minutes as presented. Larry K second. All in favor. Motion passed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Ilsa Minor questioned setting a date for ZBA hearing.

Nate N. made motion to accept agenda with the addition of Future Land Use Map discussion under NEW BUSINESS item a). Second by Theresa C. All in favor. Motion passed.

No Zoning Administrator Report. Al Gareau, Zoning Administrator was not present.

Board Liaison Report given by Theresa C for Board meeting date of June 6, 2022. Fire Chief, Rian attended instructor sessions so that he will be able to conduct fire training for the department. Repairs to road D7 was approved. The Town hall basement repairs will continue to be discussed. Cemetery fence was discussed. It would be costly. No final decisions were made. Tri Media Company gave a presentation on the cemetery online document service they offer. ARPA funds will be used to purchase a new lawn mower. Great Heights Tree Service removed trees near the Flat Rock fire hall that were storm damaged. The kitchen stove at the Pavilion was repaired but they are still in need of a good used electric stove. Theresa Nelson gave the County Commissioner's report. Some re-zoning will be taking place in the county. The State audit should be finalized soon.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion and review of proposed draft ordinance for solar power within our township including the solar overlay. Dean V read aloud the proposed ordinance explaining any changes, additions, requirements and guidelines. Clerk Chenier will discuss reporting and enforcement of the ordinance with township attorney prior to acceptance. A building permit will be required for installation of any solar panels whether on ground or building mounted. Terminology for commercial solar energy systems will also be discussed with attorney.

The projected solar overlay is located in the North East corner of the township. The North boundary of the township is the Northern boundary. West boundary is the transmission line. East boundary is 3000 feet East from the transmission line. The South boundary is to southern transmission line. This covers approximately ~~460~~ <sup>375</sup> acres which is 1% of the township lands.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

MEMBER COMMENTS: August <sup>9</sup> 2022 is tentative date set for Minor ZBA hearing if all participants agree to the availability on that date. Notices will be published as required. At the next meeting questions presented to the attorney will be discussed concerning the Draft Solar Ordinance and the Solar Overlay. Then there will be a public hearing scheduled. Publication will be placed on the website. Theresa C suggested a special meeting to be scheduled on July 26, 2022 to address the final draft Ordinance and Solar Overlay. The Future Land Use Map also needs to have a texted description.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nate N. Second by Larry K. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.

The next regular meeting scheduled is August <sup>1st</sup> 2022 at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20<sup>th</sup> Rd Gladstone, MI 49837 at 7:30 pm. On Tuesday July 26, 2022 will be a special meeting at 7pm at the Escanaba Township Hall.

If you require any assistance to attend a meeting, please contact Cathy at 906-280-6182.

Minutes by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary