

## ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 7:00 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 CO 416 20<sup>TH</sup> RD GLADSTONE, MI

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Dean VanLoon followed by recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verbal Roll Call. Present are Chairperson Dean VanLoon, Theresa Chenier, Greg Faust, Larry Klope, Nathan Neumeier. All members are present.

**Motion to approve September 6, 2022 meeting minutes with corrections was made by G. Faust. Second by T.Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Public Participation: Bob Barron, Joe Kaplin, Lori Tourangeau, John Miron

**T. Chenier made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by G. Faust. All in favor. Motion passed.**

No Zoning Administrator's report.

Planning Commission liaison report given by T. Chenier. Tri-Media is continuing with the cemetery work for a web based site. Gladstone Public Library contract was approved. Fire truck #6 repairs are being completed and #1 testing was performed. Approval was granted to have fire trucks at The Torch Run, Gladstone and the next Honor Flight to welcome home our veterans. Chief Rian asked to have the by-laws for fire department reviewed by attorney for correct wording. The Board approved the LAM RESPONDING phone app for 1 year. Audit report is expected to be completed in October. The community residents are encouraged to contribute ideas for ARPA funds. Bidding Policy was discussed and will continue. Repairs to roof at township hall, carpet in township hall entrance, ball park bleachers were all discussed. Shrub removal around the hall still is looking for bids. Highline employees attended meeting. Payroll form L-4029 was approved. A hearing is scheduled for October 3, 2022 at 6 PM concerning a Large Gathering Permit for the Gladstone Cross Country Running Team. Bob Barron gave Delta County Commissioner's report. He commented on the fire sign delay being caused by address issues and is being worked on. The County is considering passing zoning on to the townships.

Education opportunities are available in Marquette at the UP Summit. Areas of training in planning and zoning is one topic.

New Business: Chairperson VanLoon stated at the September 6, 2022 meeting several comments were expressed. He then asked members for their comments on what was observed.

T. Chenier: The tax revenue for the township from industrial solar was mentioned in previous public comments to be \$13 million. That is unlikely to be the case. The Senate is looking at a PILT( payment in lieu of taxes) bill. Voting is expecting within the next few weeks.

L. Klope: Questioned the 1% of land set aside for solar overlay area. Chenier responded the 1% was from a conference she attended that was presented by Sarah Mills of the University of Michigan, Sr. Project Mngr.

G. Faust: had the same question about the 1% factor.

D.VanLoon: Expressed that it is asking a lot of our township to carry such a large amount of the burden by providing energy for large cities. Everyone should take responsibility. The consumption for our

township would only take *less than* approximately 40 acres. The solar over lay area represents deep soils. It is outside the area of concern by the Health Department for run off and water contamination. No comments in the public hearing were made for the protection of land. There is no need to modify the Draft Solar Ordinance at this time. Seven items of direction were: Preservation of Ag land, Human health concerns, ground water contamination, the transmission line proximity, more than 80 inches of soil depth, lower population, and has good natural screening. The draft ordinance agreed on previously meets all the criteria. Chairperson VanLoon proceeded to read aloud the Resolution recommending approval of an ordinance to amend zoning ordinance to regulate solar energy systems and repeal section 108. A copy can be provided for a reasonable charge from the Clerk's office.

**G. Faust made a motion to accept the resolution. Second by T. Chenier. Verbal Roll call as follows: Yes- N. Neumeier. YES- L.Klope YES-G.Faust YES. T.Chenier. YES. D.VanLoon. All in favor. Motion passed. The Resolution is declared adopted and will be passed on to the Township Board with Solar Ordinance and Solar Overlay attached.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Bob Barron, Joe Kaplan, John Miron, Tom Pitche, Tom Barron, Vicky Gobert. Public Comment closed at 7:47 PM.

Chairperson VanLoon thanked all for attending the meeting.

**N.Neumeier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. Second by L. Klope. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is October 3, 2022 at 7:30 pm held at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 Co 416 20<sup>th</sup> Rd Gladstone MI 49837.