

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

**JANUARY 4, 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO-AUDIO CONFERENCING
AND TELEPHONE AUDIO**

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Dean VanLoon at 7:38 PM

Recital of the Pledge of Allegiance

Verbal acknowledgement of attendance taken stating present and their physical location to join zoom meeting: Ray Hughes present, Theresa Chenier present, Renee Richer, present, Dean VanLoon, present all joining via zoom. Norman Fleury present, via telephone conference option.

Motion to approve the November 2, 2020 meeting minutes made by Ray H Second by Theresa C. **Verbal Vote : Theresa C YES Norm F YES Ray H YES Renee R abstained Dean V YES Motion to approve November 2, 2020 minutes. Passed 4 Yes Abstained.(Spell error s/b Abstained)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: NONE

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA with addition of under Old Business Dean suggests Adding Item C.) Table the nomination of Planning Commission Secretary until by laws are completed and approved.

Theresa C made motion to approve agenda with above mentioned addition Second Norm F. **Verbal Vote: Theresa C YES Ray H YES Norm F YES Renee R YES Dean V YES. Motion passed.**

No Zoning Administrator report or blight update.

Dean V mentioned there are some building permits that the commission needs to start reviewing. He will discuss with Supervisor, Rymkos on procedure since commission is meeting from home. The information will be distributed to the members. Norm F asked if that can be posted on website, since it is public knowledge, and reviewed from home.

No Public Hearings scheduled or discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Continuation of by-law review and discussion.

Article VI. Dean explained that members should be looking at verbiage, typos, additions or items to be struck from the paragraphs. Theresa: Site Plan review C. Questions 5E2 of bylaws. (added: bylaws in compliance with Planning Commission Ordinance)

Appeals VIII Plan Reviews, Article IX Township Zoning Reviews, Article X, Article XI. Voting procedure is in ordinance. Should it also be in by-laws. Voting process, procedures and action to be taken were discussed and decided on verbiage for by-laws. Theresa told members she will put a copy in their mail box at the Flat Rock Townhall for review and then any changes can be discussed. And if anyone has other information, they can be placed in mail boxes. At the next meeting, they can review and make any adjustments. Dean asked Theresa to compose a final draft of the bylaws to be reviewed before submittal to the township Board. All members agreed. Agenda posting should be published 2 hours before meeting per OMA.

AdHoc Committee Recommendations Section 7 Financial Impacts was discussed. Renee R questioned if given the revised plan, is this relevant in it's current format? Dean informed the committee there have been changes they(AdHoc) didn't know when they did their review. The AdHoc Report is intended to inform the Commission and what the Plan Comm needs to review. Recommendations are to be used to make an informed decision. Data is still be gathered on solar issue. What was first presented things have changed that have an impact on what needs to be considered for the township. Review each section of the AdHoc findings for information they can use. Theresa participated in webinars with solar re: financial impacts. Bills 1105 and 1106 Gov. Whitmer vetoed. She read aloud the official notification. The bill is specific to solar taxation. Decommissioning of the solar panels is also an issue. Recommendation research shows a township should have funds available for procedure put aside. It is very costly.

Norm F said someone should contact Sands Township for information that could help Escanaba Township. Ray H cautions that there is a lot of money that could be coming in but also a lot has to

be dispensed out. Dean confirmed the financial impact needs to be what is best for the township. There is more work ahead and we may be able to learn from Sands Township. There will be more discussion how that information will be gathered. Renee feels we need to take more time for research and take into consideration that the income will be going largely to the state and the county and how the proposed changes will impact the township. She suggests more time is dedicated to discussion of the financial impact.

NEW BUSINESS

Dean would like a listing of all building permits gathered for review. He will put out notice when that is available.

Ray H made motion to approve the Planning Commission meeting schedule for 2021. Renee R second. **Verbal vote: Theresa YES Ray YES Norm YES Renee YES Dean YES. Motion passed to accept 2021 Meeting dates. Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, June 7, July 6, Aug 2, Sep 7, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, 2021**

Theresa welcomed Renee Richer on board as Planning Commissioner. There is literature and reference materials available and training including Citizens Planner Course that will be submitted to the Board for approval. She is signed on to take webinars.

Dean and Ray also welcomed Renee Richer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Request to unmute phones was announced to participate. NONE

Dean thanked commission for a progressive meeting.

Ray H made motion to adjourn meeting at 9:15 PM. Second Theresa C. Verbal vote to adjourn. **Theresa YES Norm YES Ray YES Renee YES Dean Yes. Meeting adjourned.**