

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 7, 2023
7:30 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nate Neumeier at 7:30 pm followed by the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Verbal Roll call. Present : Chairperson Nate Neumeier, Mitch Gagnon, Barbie Clairmont, Mitch Bunno, Scott Mitchel, Theresa Chenier. Excused Absent DJ Dean.

Motion to approve meeting minutes of July 5, 2023 made by M.Bunno. Second by T.Chenier. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comments pertaining to Agenda. NONE

Motion to approve agenda with addition of Cassie Liberty was made by M. Bunno. Second by M. Gagnon. All in favor. Motion passed.

Zoning Administrator/Blight Enforcer report. Zoning Administrator Gareau stated there were no new permits requested. Norm Fleury updated the following blight concerns: The attorney has requested new photos of the LaBumbard property. Bouchard property is waiting for response from Public Health Department. Property in Westridge Heights is starting to perform repairs. Mr. Fleury stated all records are being kept at the township office.

Board Liaison report given by T. Chenier.

-
- Mike LeFleur presented the Fire Department report. The department is using the *I AM RESPONDING* app. Mr. LaFleur gave an update on fire truck inventory. **There will be an Open House at the Besse Hall September 10, 2023.** Friends of the Escanaba Township Fire Department has been established. This will enable the department to accept donations. The department has applied for several grants. Some have been received already.
- The audit is continuing. The township, in the future, will have a contract with the auditors to perform an annual audit.
- The water issue in the basement is continuing to have discussions for a solution.
- ARPA Funds considerations are for fire truck repairs, the Township Hall renovation and updates, blacktop on the parking lot and gutters (* to be*) installed.
- Surveys that were approved have been completed.
- N.3 Lane is now County Road 472.
- Norman Fleury was voted in as Blight Enforcer.
- Trash Vouchers in 2024 will be valid for 2 months. May and June of 2024. This was requested by the Delta County Landfill.
- Steve Viau gave the Delta County Commissioner's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Cassie Liberty addressed the Planning Commission stating she currently has an in- home daycare license for 6 children and would like to expand to have 12 children. There will not be any changes to the home

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 7, 2023
7:30 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

structure size. She will be hiring additional daycare workers. T. Chenier informed her they will look into what needs to be completed for this request and follow up with her.

At 7:49 pm Chairperson Neumeier opened the public hearing to consider an amendment to sections 520, 702 and 704 of the Escanaba Township Zoning Ordinance to allow the Township to charge reasonable fees for the consideration of zoning permits, planned unit development proposals, variance requests, petitions to amend the Zoning Ordinance and any other administrative matter. The fee schedule would be set by the Township Board. **A motion to open the hearing was made by T. Chenier. Second by S. Mitchel. All in favor. Motion passed. Public Hearing open.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS. Fred Minor stated in the future there could be more requests of non-conforming properties.

MEMBER COMMENTS. T. Chenier stated there was a fee schedule presented in today's packets. The fees are based on what other area townships charge and the expenses incurred by the township. This would be a recommendation to the Board for their consideration of approval. Chairperson Neumeier stated he doesn't feel the township should be losing money for these services and feels the fees are fair. **A motion to send fee recommendations as written to the Township Board was made by M. Gagnon. Second by B. Clairmont. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Motion to close public hearing at 7:56 pm was made by M. Bunno. Second by S. Mitchel. All in favor. Public hearing closed.

OLD BUSINESS.

Zoning issues from November 2010. Chairperson Neumeier, Scott Mitchel and Theresa Chenier will be an approved joint group to review the concerns and offer solutions. Three members is not a quorum. **Motion to table 2010 zoning issues until September 2023 meeting was made by B. Clairmont. Second by M.Gagnon. All in favor. Motion passed.**

Barron Farms presented a zoning change request. The public hearing will be held during the Planning Commission meeting on September 5, 2023. The members received a copy of the change request documentation Barron Farms completed along with a map for their review to prepare for the hearing.

ZBA Meeting was held on August 2, 2023. This was the second meeting for Variance #23-6. The variance request was granted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. Fred Minor. Steve Viau

MEMBER COMMENTS. B. Clairmont stated that as members of this commission they swore to an oath to protect our township and uphold the U.S. and State Constitutions to protect the people. We need to get back to being involved. S. Mitchel said he felt the ZBA hearing went well. None of the neighboring property owners voiced concerns.

Motion to adjourn at 8:11 pm was made by M. Bunno. Second by B. Clairmont. All in favor. Motion passed.

**ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 7, 2023
7:30 PM ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837**

The next scheduled meeting of the Escanaba Township Planning Commission is September 5, 2023 (Tuesday) 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone MI 49837. If you require assistance to attend a meeting, contact 906-786-6200.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Culliton, Recording Secretary. *Minutes approved with correction on September 5, 2023*