

Clearwater Township
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting of February 4, 2019
As approved March 4, 2019

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:

Chair Backers called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Members and Recognition of Visitors:

Commissioners present: Backers, Cassasa, Eldridge, Fields, Von See.

Public: Mary Beth Kazanski, Tom Pierce, Deputy Clerk Jule Moore, Carol Backers

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION by Von See, second by Casassa, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Call for Disclosure of Conflicts of Interests:

Chair calls for commissioners to disclose any real or potential conflicts of interests with any items on the agenda. All signified none.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Von See, second by Casassa, to accept the minutes of January 7, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment for Matters Not on the Agenda:

Carol Backers – asked why the minutes of the Township Board no longer appear in the Elk Rapids News. Clerk Eldridge clarified that it was only a synopsis that used to be reported, and that the person who did that no longer does. The minutes are prepared by Marletta Day and they are available from the township offices as well as on the township website.

Commissioner Comment for Matters Not on the Agenda:

Chair Backers – stated his concern over procedural matters regarding the Tillman cell tower project. The pause in the Special Use Permit application process occasioned by the applicant's seeking of a dimensional variance from the ZBA, troubled him, at least until the variance application was confirmed in writing.

Correspondence

No correspondence other than educational materials from the MTA and the MAP. There is a workshop coming up in Gaylord for planning commissioners on the Master Plan. Fields and Casassa - and possibly Backers – wish to attend.

Ongoing Permanent Business:

Everything but the Mass Gathering Ordinance work has been sent on to the Township Board.

Old Business:

Mass Gathering Ordinance discussion – We need to know exactly where the demarcation line is for the northern border of Kalkaska County and Clearwater Township. After much discussion, we decided on putting that question to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan, for a definitive decision. Secretary Fields is assigned to begin crafting language for a letter to the Attorney General and circulate that language via email to the other members of the Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Casassa suggested some additions to the existing draft language. Under Section 2.2 - 6 showing the requirement for the applicant to submit a written statement of the plans to provide several items, she suggests including emergency vehicles and equipment; under Section 2.2 – 7 stating what the site plan must show, she suggests including visible boundaries of the site to avoid problems of trespass; she further suggests adding a section dealing with violations and their consequences, as well as an appeal process.

Report of Planning Commission Chair:

Nothing additional to comments already made.

Report of Township Representative:

Clerk Eldridge – reported that Ordinance 28, prohibiting marijuana facilities in Clearwater Township was adopted and published.

The budget meeting is Saturday, February 9, at 1 pm.

Clerk Eldridge provided an update on noise ordinance: the Township Attorney recommended that enforcement should be done by a uniformed officer rather than the Township Supervisor or Zoning Administrator. The ordinance is going to Sheriff Whiteford for review, to determine enforceability.

Township Board meetings are changed to the third Thursday of the month, beginning in April 2019.

John West is our new County Commissioner. Commissioners Casassa and Backers asked if we could have a periodic report from the County Commissioner. This may become a standing report on the Township Board agenda.

Report of ZBA Representative:

Commissioner Fields – reported that the ZBA has received a dimensional variance request from Mike Bieniek re the proposed new tower at M-72 and Townline Road. That hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 19, at 7 pm. Attorney Bryan Graham will be present.

Report of Zoning Administrator:

No report.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Closing Public Comment:

No comment at this time.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Von See, second by Fields, to adjourn. Adjournment at 8:02 p.m.

Assignments:

- Fields to draft language of a letter to Michigan's Attorney General, seeking definite determination of the location of northern border of Kalkaska County and Clearwater Township. This draft to be circulated to commission members for review, then shared with the Township Board before sending.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Norris Fields
Secretary