



Clinton County, MI
6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI
Planning Commission Minutes from December 6, 2021 meeting

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Tammy Ashley at 7:03 pm.

Attendance: Present: Chuck Nelson, Tammy Ashley, Dave Sell, Dave Ginther, Tom Mitchell, Julie Townsend, Doug Marek

Absent: None

Public Comment: Nicole Fickes noted that she had heard from some community members that they did not have enough notice for the most recent special meeting (Cannabis)

There was discussion between all members wondering what the current notice rules are, and what the Township is required to do aside from the public posting on the bulletin board. It was asked why the special meeting notice was not posted to the Township Facebook page. There was discussion that perhaps it is time to spin up an opt-in email list for Residents. It was also suggested that Residents could also opt into a digital delivery of the Victor newsletter as part of these considerations

Agenda: Motion to add PC membership expiration dates, Annual Plan, and election of officers to agenda, and then approve agenda by Mr. Sell. 2nd by Dr. Nelson, All in favor, Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Mitchell, 2nd by Dr. Nelson, All in favor, Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- **Master Plan** – Master Plan is out for distribution for 30(ish) more days. No feedback or public comment has been received as of yet. It was discussed we need to Publicly post the 30 days' notice. Ms. Townsend is following up and reporting back to group.
- **Internet workgroup update**– Mr. Sell gave updates that grant application continues to be reviewed. There continues to be no announcements. Mr. Sell has reached out twice to NTIA asking for a timeline, has gotten no response. It was discussed that Daystarr is looking to expand broadband into the Lake Victoria Area. This could push the Townships overall speeds up over what the Fed considers High Speed, thus making any possible future speed-based grants harder to win. It was discussed that in the end, at least the Township will still have a well thought out application (The App submitted to NTIA) that we will be able to quickly deploy to any future grants. Mr. Sell also mentioned he had heard some possible Concerns from the board about working with Stellar, Mr. Sell wanted to express his confidence and full support of continuing forward with Stellar. Lastly Mr. Sell reported that just today NTIA

has announced two more Census blocks that they failed to previously report, those blocks are open to providers dispute of reported speeds until December 21st. In light of that It is assumed we would not have any grants awarded before December 21.

It was noted that Clinton County has partnered with “Guidehouse” to providing consulting and surveying services, they continue to try and find ways to make separate providers work together.

New Business:

- **PC Meeting Dates 2022** – Schedule was selected for 2022 Meeting dates with holidays in mind
- **PC Membership Terms** – Member terms were discussed and confirmed. It was mentioned that the PC should strive to sync up expiration months.
- **Parks and Recreation plan-** Dr. Nelson discussed nuances and intricacies of the DNR guidelines for Park and Rec plans. Dr. Nelson felt a resident survey should be utilized to find desires of the community. It was discussed that the timeline for 2021 and Q1 2022 grants is too tight. The PC recommends taking time in 2022 to survey and prepare best possible plan. Dr. Nelson would like to prepare some resident survey examples for dissemination.
- **Cannabis** – Mr. Sell and Ms. Ashley gave updates to the PC on what occurred at the Cannabis special meeting. Mr. Sell again brought up his concerns about the Security fencing and Oder mitigation. Ms. Townsend gave updates on her tours of the outdoor facilities in Wise Township. Ms. Townsend noted that any rule using foliage of plantings to hide the fencing should be very well defined, as murky or ambiguous rules could be exploited to simply have a “patch of weeds” growing in front of some fencing. Mr. Sell brought up the concern that anyone may possibly be able to collect signatures and bring a voter referendum; in doing so that person would set the rules and language of the referendum. This could be exploited by special interest groups on either side of the issue. The PC feels strongly that the Township should bring a Referendum preemptively, before any private person can do so, essentially “boxing out” the Township. In light of the PC discussion our Recommendations of rules for the Board to consider are updated to include new language (In bold below)

1- Site must emphasize the importance of maintaining Rural Character of the Township and also protect the environment including fertilizer runoff.

2 -Site and fencing must be reasonably aesthetically pleasing, with natural vegetation/foliage **that fully hide** security fencing from street view and **directly adjacent neighbor views**.

3 - Directly adjacent neighbors Support the site

4 – PC feels there should be a **Township Initiated Voter Referendum ASAP** for any cannabis ordinances, **this should be expedited to prevent special interests from crafting their own language**.

5 – **The board should consider if licensed daycare facilities should be given the same buffer zone as School zones.**

Motion to provide the above cannabis ordinance recommendations with strong emphasis on crafting an immediate Voter Referendum to the Township Board by Mr. Sell, 2nd by Ms. Ashley All in favor, Motion carried.

- **Annual Report** – All members feel the report is accurate and complete

Motion to approve report as written by Dr. Nelson, 2nd by Mr. Mitchell. All in favor, Motion carried.

- **Election of officers** – Dr. Nelson, Ms. Ashley, and Mr. Sell volunteered to serve as officers in 2022.

Motion to appoint Dr. Nelson as Chair, Ms. Ashley as Vice Chair, and Mr. Sell as Secretary by Mr. Mitchell, 2nd by Mr. Ginther. All in favor, Motion carried.

Action Items:

- Dr. Nelson will craft survey examples for resident desires.
- Mr. Sell will continue to Monitor NTIA grant progress.
- Mr. Marek will look into cost of Email subscriptions to be potentially utilized for Township Notices

Motion by Mr. Sell to adjourn at 8:16 pm. Supported by Mr. Mitchell. All in favor. Motion carried.



Dave Sell, Secretary