



Clinton County, MI

6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI

Official Planning Commission Minutes from February 7, 2022 meeting

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

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

**Absent:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Agenda:** Ms. Townsend Motioned to add “Constant Contact Email Marketing” to Agenda. Sell motioned to approve agenda with addition. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mitchell, All in favor, Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Corrections to Parks and rec plan, and small correction to internet work group update re: Daystarr. Motion to approve minutes by Ms. Ashley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marek, All in favor, Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Master Plan** – Ms. Townsend reported that the Master Plan was tabled, and is expected to be picked up again and given final approval at the next Board meeting. (after the meeting, Ms. Townsend clarified that the master plan had been approved by the board at a January meeting)
- **Internet workgroup update**– Mr. Sell gave updates that grant application continues to be reviewed. Still no announcements. However, the outlook seems less likely to be a grant awarded as time stretches on. Mr. Sell had discussions with Richard Laing at Stellar broadband and gave updates to the PC about their planned buildout. Stellar plans to move forward with Fiber Service area 2 (FS2) This will bring fiber up Hollister Road, Through parts of Alward, and into Lake Victoria. He has surveyed poles, retained aerial and underground contractors and secured fiber cable and other needed supplies. Stellar has also been working with Clinton County, Guidehouse, Zayo to explore cooperative ideas. At this time Mr. Laing and Mr. Sell feel like the NTIA grant is unlikely, as such Stellar is going to pivot into privately funding FS2, and then pursue State and local grants to complete the original project. Mr. Laing will be giving a full update to the Township Board at next week’s

- meeting. It was also noted that Frontier is rolling out a Fiber project (gigabit for all) in the area, Mr. Sell will monitor that progress.
- **Marijuana Issues** – An article in Detroit news was shared detailing a Marijuana retailers’ legal actions against the Royal Oak Planning commission. The PC discussed concerns that something similar may occur in Victor as there is no guidance from the County or the Voters. It was reiterated that the Township should send out a Marijuana survey. Mr. Sell pointed out that the upcoming special meeting will be covering these topics and concerns, and he will attend. Ms. Townsend noted that she thought the board was likely supportive of a survey. Ms. Townsend also pointed out the PC was slightly mis-informed about how a private entity could create a ballot issue; while someone could bring up a ballot initiative, they could not necessarily define rules and regulations related to that issue. Mr. Sell asked who exactly would craft the language in a Ballot initiative if it was not the entity bringing the issue and collecting petitioners, The PC was unsure of that answer, Mr. Sell suggested it would be a good idea to speak with the Township Lawyer and get an answer to that question as well as assurances that a separate entity could not define the actual rules or ballot language should an initiative be brought. Mr. Sell asked Ms. Townsend to bring that suggestion to the Board.
  - **Parks and Rec Plan** – Dr. Nelson gave update on the timing of the survey. The PC was happy with the initial draft of the survey. Dr. Nelson noted that Victor is disadvantaged when it comes to pursuing Parks and Rec grants as the median household income is significantly higher than many other applicant areas.
  - **Constant Contact** – Ms. Townsend wanted to ensure that residents would not be bombarded with lots of mailings, and that the resident would be able to choose to subscribe to certain subjects/topics, while not receiving mailings on subjects they are not interested in. Mr. Marek gave updates that it was certainly possible to do that, allowing a resident to pick and choose what types of mailings they receive, for example Jon Smith wants to get updates on meeting minutes and road projects, but not Township Hall events or Township newsletters. The PC feels the benefit of keeping citizens informed and possibly more engaged in the Township outweighs the cost of subscription.

#### **New Business:**

- **5-year road Plan** – Ms. Townsend gave detailed updates on the proposed 5-year plan. Essentially the next few years projects are slated to be: 2022 = Major Gravel improvements, 2023 = Chip Sealing, Sprays, and spot gravel, 2024 = Alward Road 2025 = Likely Country Farm Lane or evaluate how chip sealing is doing. Mr. Ginther pointed out that Houses on Jason Road between 6640 – 6747 have a severe issue with lack of gravel and too much of a crown on the road. Several residents have slid into the ditch at this area due in part to those issues. (It was noted that this area was slated to be graveled this past summer, but the crew mistakenly put the gravel on a different portion of Jason Road. Ms. Ashley pointed out that

many residents are filling in road side ditches without adding culverts. She felt that practice is damaging roads, and the County should be more active in policing that practice.

- **Attorneys Generals open meetings ruling** – Dr. Nelson shared the Attorney General opinion on access to meetings. Dr. Nelson felt it would be nice to have an easy “set it and forget it” option to webcast meetings in the hall. Mr. Sell pointed out that while he likes the idea of broadcasting meetings by default, facilitating remote participation is fairly technical and can be difficult. Mr. Sell stated he feels the language in the Opinion states that the AG *hopes* that local boards would follow suit, but an opinion is not binding, nor law. The PC will continue to monitor the issue.
- **Commissioner Comments** – Mr. Sell discussed that he was approached by someone concerned that Mr. Sell may have knowingly attended the January PC meeting while Covid Positive. Mr. Sell vehemently denied that was the case. Mr. Sell shared that his immediate family members are Immunocompromised and in The ICU for other issues. For those reasons Mr. Sell has been testing multiple times per week, with 2 Negative tests in the days just prior to the past meeting. 2 Days after the January meeting Mr. Sell did test positive for Covid. Mr. Sell was so adamant in his defense he reached out and sent some internal (work/family) text message screen captures in support of the aforementioned timeline to Township officials. Mr. Sell assured the PC he would never do that. Mr. Sell also apologized to anyone on the PC that felt He was careless in his practices, or if he put anyone in any danger.

**Action Items:**

- Dr. Nelson will continue to refine Parks and Rec survey
- Mr. Sell will Attend the Township Board meeting and the Feb Special meeting
- Mr. Sell will Continue to monitor NTIA progress
- Ms. Townsend will bring Ballot initiative legal language question to Board.

Motion by Ms. Ashley to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Supported by Mr. Mitchell. All in favor. Motion carried.



Dave Sell, Secretary