



Clinton County, MI
6843 Alward Road Laingsburg, MI
Official Planning Commission Minutes from May 2, 2022 meeting

The regular meeting of Victor Township was called to order by Chuck Nelson at 7:02 pm.

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

Absent: Julie Townsend (Nicole Fickes Present)

Public Comment: none

Agenda: Ms. Ashley motioned to approve agenda, 2nd by Mr. Marek, All in favor, Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes with small amendments to cemetery section by Ms. Ashley, 2nd by Mr. Mitchell, All in favor, Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- **Master Plan** – Dr. Nelson noted that he did not receive a maintenance report for the previous month. There was discussion that the school house had been vandalized in the fall and has yet to be cleaned up. The room had graffiti, trash, glass, evidence of drug use and dead vermin. Discussion was had that accountability, follow up, and oversight could be better in the future. It was discussed that these issues are outside of the PC purview and are a board of trustee issue, but the PC can assist with oversight if desired. Lastly it was mentioned that the school house should have alarm sensors on the door, even if not monitored the entry alarms will dissuade intruders at a minimal cost.
- **Internet workgroup update**– Mr. Sell gave updates from a Merit sponsored webinar. The bulk of our hopes lie with the large federal grants that the County is pursuing on Victor’s behalf. Mr. Sell noted that himself and Ms. Fickes are working through an outline for a fleshed out and robust broadband plan, based on the NTIA planning tool, which can be added to our masterplan. There was some concern that messaging regarding broadband meeting from the County was lacking, those concerns were voiced to Adam Stacey from Ms. Fickes. There is an Important Broadband partnership meeting May 18th that Ms. Fickes will attend. It was also pointed out a long-term goal of our broadband plan will be to offer technology training workshops and/or strong messaging to residents about options and usage of equipment for high-speed access while we wait for fiber to be built out. There was discussion that the May 18th meeting may ask Townships to commit ARPA funds to the County broadband efforts. Ultimately the PC is in support of that action. Motion to support committing ARPA funds to support the County Broadband Initiative by Ms. Ashley, 2nd by Mr. Sell, All in favor, Motion carried.
- **Parks and Rec Plan** – Dr. Nelson gave update the plan is still to include survey in summer tax bill.
- **Marijuana Issues** – Dr. Nelson provided a new Survey based on comments from the April Township Board meeting. The PC is happy with the new wording. Ms. Fickes shared a “Fact Sheet” of the Michigan laws and regulations pertinent to Marijuana. The Sheet is purely factual and informative without any slant. The PC agrees that any online survey should include a link to this fact sheet, should residents wish to gather information to help formulate their opinions. It was noted

that The County has backed out of making sweeping decisions on Marijuana rules, and voted to have individual Townships make their own decisions on the matter. It was noted that as a general law township the PC has no idea how zoning would work. It was also discussed that the County likely backed out in order to shield itself from any legal actions.

New Business:

- **Wetlands Permit Application and recommendations** – PC reviewed the EGLE permit, while it was agreed that the permit was comprehensive and well thought out there was some confusion as to what was being asked of the PC. It was decided this was simply informative to keep the PC apprised of the project. Motion to acknowledge receiving and having no objections of the permit by Ms. Ashley, 2nd by Mr. Ginther, All in favor, Motion carried.
- **Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Strategy** – Ms. Fickes gave updates on the mitigation strategy and identifying hazards specific to Victor, namely flood and fire. Victor was asked to identify one specific thing from the Tri-County plan that the township can do. Lake Victoria dam was brought up and discussed. Ms. Ashley pointed out that Lake Victoria is a private lake with a private lake association, and thus not subject to oversight or input from the Planning Commission (perhaps county). There was discussion back and forth to this point, ultimately decided that the PC could encourage the association to maintain an emergency management plan pursuant to FEMA P-956. It was decided the PC would endorse the following actions listed in the Tri-county Mitigation plan: (1) Follow the rules recommended by the national flood insurance program. (2) Incorporate procedures for tracking high water marks. (3) Encourage dam compliance with EAP regulations.
- **Improving communication between Township and residents** – Mr. Marek gave updates on previous conversations with The Township Clerk regarding resident communications and possible reasons it has been unable to come to fruition. Mr. Sell mentioned that he felt based on the last Board meeting the hesitation was related to overall cost, justifying that cost against the limited mailings that may go out, ability or willingness to “do the work” required to craft and send out digital mailings, and potential legal liability or bad optics of a nefarious or politically motivated mailing going out. Mr. Sell has identified a free service called Mailerlite, He felt this solves the cost problem. He again recommends a “Point person” on each board who can create a newsletter or content when needed. The question then becomes who approves a mailing prior to it going out in order to allay concerns for political positions or optics, A concern would be delaying time sensitive mailings while waiting for approval. Mr. Sell feels like that can be sorted out fairly easily. After much discussion MR. Sell volunteered to craft a digital newsletter based on the Victor November newsletter using the Mailerlite software. He will share this email with the PC and Trustees as an example of what we can do for free.
- **Commissioner Comments – none**

Action Items:

- Mr. Sell will craft a digital newsletter using Mailerlite
- Ms. Fickes will attend May 18th Broadband County meeting

Motion by Mr. Sell to adjourn at 8:11 pm. Supported by Mr. Mitchell. All in favor. Motion carried.



Dave Sell, Secretary