

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
November 9, 2020 – 6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Don Magnuson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

ROLL CALL

Donald Magnuson, Arthur Gischia, Randy Ruppel, Dustin Kennedy – Present. Also, present Fred Van Luven (Zoning Administrator), Dawn Schuhknecht (recording Secretary), Jeremy Laakso, and Jim Fegan. Aaron Carr- excused absence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Gischia, supported by Ruppel to approve the Minutes of the October 12, 2020 Planning Commission. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Schuhknecht reported that Lucy Wilcox will be coming out with her team to tour parks.

Schuhknecht told board that a survey should be ready to go out with the winter tax bills regarding the parks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Magnuson added under Old Business B. US 41 Corridor Meeting.

Chairperson Magnuson recommended Approval of the Agenda. Motion by Kennedy, supported by Ruppel to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes – 4, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laakso invited everyone to go out to Gold Mine Lake Park and see how nice it turned out with the boulders that were placed by Connery and the gate that was installed.

OLD BUSINESS

Schuhknecht reported that Lucy Wilcox the Universal Design coordinator did not complete the tour of parks last month like recorded in the October minutes. She will be coming out again with her team and Steve Wing will be showing them our parks November 20, 2020 at 10:00am. The Superior Alliance Universal Study should be completed shortly after.

Schuhknecht has not received any quotes from CUPPAD yet and will continue to try to get them.

US 41 Corridor Meeting October 13, 2020 attended (by phone) by Ruppel. Ruppel reported the ground work on Discount Tire was being done and that stores around Marquette are discussing putting in electric stations for cars.

Ruppel will be attending by phone the November 10, 2020 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

Animal and Livestock Ordinance: VanLuven expressed that everyone on the board should have looked over the ordinance and this was the time to make any changes before presenting it to the Township Board for approval.

Laakso spoke as a resident that he thought the ordinance had too much regulation. Under 2.1 (E) Roosters are allowed, Laakso asked if that could be removed, Gischia and Magnuson felt it should be left in. Laakso moved on to 2.1 (S) stating he thought the board had agreed to allow the sale of any products produced in association with animals and livestock. The board discussed options with it was changed. Mr. Fegan asked about being grandfathered in because he sells chickens. Gishia was concerned about the attorney's recommendation on not allowing the sale of products and asked if this would require conditional use permit to sell products. Laakso thought permit requirements should be removed completely.

Schuhknecht expressed as a resident she felt the new ordinance would be too intrusive and should have been kept to a simple chicken ordinance. As a board member she would vote against it if the permit and the bee regulations stayed in. She also expressed that she was only one person on the board and they should not take her nay vote as a reason not to proceed to the board if they see fit.

Board member Ruppel and Kennedy expressed they thought the ordinance could be simplified and Gischia asked why there wasn't more discussion when they were going through the

ordinance at the September meeting. VanLuven felt the ordinance should be submitted to the board for their approval or rejection.

Laakso asked why the ordinance couldn't be without the permitting and be enforced if a complaint comes in, similar to how the Misc. Debris Ordinance works, VanLuven agreed. VanLuven said if the permit process is removed there would need to be wording in the ordinance for residents to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals if cited for violation.

Gischia made the motion to table the discussion and was seconded by Kennedy. Ayes - 4, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

Don Magnuson made the motion to bring the ordinance to the third Wednesday meeting of the Township Board for them to go over and make recommendations, seconded by Ruppel. Ayes - 3, Nays - 1, Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

VanLuven discussed solar panels and recommended smaller residential units be allowed with a conditional use permit.

VanLuven notified the board that Bob's Bear Bait was looking to relocate on property near Jerzi's. Looking at the zoning it was concluded he would have to build a structure and would not be able to just put a trailer on the lot to sell from and would need a smaller sign. VanLuven will notify Bob.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Laakso asked that the Planning Commission continue to look for ways to bring in new businesses to Ely Township and the different potential uses for the 40 acres the township owns. He would also like to see "Welcome to Ely Township" road signs.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gichia, supported by Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Schuhknecht, Recording Secretary