

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
October 12, 2020 – 6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was in order.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Ruppel, supported by Gischia to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Planning Commission. Ayes – 5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Schuhknecht reported that CUPPAD had been out taking photos of parks on Friday, October 9, 2020. Lucy Wilcox the Universal Design coordinator should have the report completed by the beginning of November. CUPPAD is working hard to meet the February deadline for the Recreation Plan.

Ms. Schuhknecht reported that Dotty LaJoye had informed her that CUPPAD is working on a contract for the Recreation Plan and Master Plan to present to the Planning Commission and the Ely Board. The Master Plan would take an estimated 2 ½ years to complete and that would allow us to utilize the 10 free hours per year, for a total of 30 free hours, from CUPPAD we get with our yearly membership.

Ms. Schuhknecht let the Planning Commission know that the Ely Clerk was currently working on a grant for 4k in mulch for the parks.

Supervisor Laakso discussed with the Planning Commission the steps needed to get the Animal and Livestock Ordinance Amendment completed. Ms. Schuhknecht is to place a notification for a Public Hearing in the newspaper for the next Planning Commission meeting on November 9, 2020. After the Public Hearing and a recommendation vote from the Planning Commission the Ordinance will be forwarded to Attorney Zappa and will then go to Ely Board for approval.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Gischia asked to add Chip/Crack/Seal discussion to the Agenda under New Business (B).

Chairperson Magnuson recommended Approval of the Agenda. Motion by Ruppel, supported by Kennedy to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes –5, Nays – 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Update was given by Ms. Schuhknecht during Communication/Correspondence on Rec Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fred VanLuven, ZA discussed the fact that Ely Township has no zoning, ordinances, or conditional use rules regarding solar power. Mr. VanLuven will do further research and make a recommendation at a future meeting. The board expressed they would like to avoid commercial/larger solar fields.
- B. Mr. Gischia discussed sending last years list of roads in need of crack, chip and road sealant to the County Road Commission for them to negotiate on Ely Township's behalf for work to be completed next year. The Twin Pines area is the main focus and last years bid amount was 64k which was not approved to be completed at that time. A motion was made by Mr. Gischia to use the same list as last year for the Marquette County Road Commission Crack, Chip and Road Sealant bid process, motion supported by Mr. Carr. Ayes – 5, Nays -0. Motion carried.
- C. Corridor Committee: September meeting was cancelled, next meeting Oct. 13, 2020 will be attended by Randy Ruppel.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Fred VanLuven expressed that he is happy to be back after being absent from the last meeting and looks forward to resuming his duties.

Supervisor Laakso, who filled in for part of the Mr. VanLuven's absence reported that two debris ordinance letters were sent out with only one being delivered. The undelivered letter will be hand delivered Monday October 19, 2020 with two township representatives present. There was also a new debris complaint that had come in on a previously closed case.

Supervisor Laakso reported that he is waiting to hear from Attorney Zappa as to the court case involving property on 496 in which the wrong name was put on the issued debris citation.

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 Kennedy, supported by Ruppel to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Schuhknecht, Recording Secretary