

ELY TOWNSHIP
Planning Commission
September 13, 2021 - 6:30pm
Meeting Taped and In-Person

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Donald Magnuson, Arthur Gischia, Randy Ruppel- Present. Dustin Kennedy and Aaron Carr- Absent, excused. Also, present Fred VanLuven, Zoning Administrator and Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary. Treasurer Dawn Schuhknecht and Supervisor Jeremy Laakso were in attendance.

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 August 9, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting. Ayes - 3, Nays - 0, Absent - 2. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Stratton read an email from resident Daniel Grove which expressed concern of County Road CD and inquiring any new maintenance planned in the future.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gischia made a motion to approve, with support from Ruppel. Ayes - 3, Nays - 0, Absent - 2. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stratton presented the past minutes from Planning Commission minutes from July 18, 2019, October 4, 2019 and December 9, 2019 for review of the schedule of road repairs. She also presented the information on the millages scheduled for 2022.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Poirer- Conditional Use- Van Luven presented his Findings of Facts and recommended that the Conditional Use be approved by the Commission. Mark Poirer and Julie Green, 5544 West Tasson Road, were present and available for inquiries. They stated that they will not be having their home delivered until next year. Poirer was grateful that the process to do the Conditional Use was a positive one. Motion by Ruppel to approve, seconded by Gischia. Ayes – 3, Nays – 0, Absent -2. Motion Carried.

B. Solar Ordinance- Van Luven stated that as this Ordinance was approved two meetings ago and that publication time was the only delay, he recommended that the Ordinance be approved as drafted. Motion by Gischia to forward Proposed Ordinance 4.28.1, Ely Township Solar Ordinance to the Township Attorney, seconded by Ruppel. Ayes – 3, Nays – 0, Absent -2. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation Update- Gischia discussed the need for a standard table style to be decided upon for all parks. Stratton stated that the infield for the Clarksburg Ball Field would be delivered in the spring. Treasurer Schuhknecht stated that weed control would be done this week there as well. SAIL shall be contacted for advice on a brand of table and pricing will need to be inquired upon, as the presented catalog did not have any.

B. Update one US41 Corridor Meeting- Ruppel did not attend and no minutes were forwarded. He will attend the next one.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Lettered Roads in Ely Township- The plans that were decided on in 2019 were reviewed, as well as the need for funding, as none has been explored. Gischia discussed the Federal Infrastructure Bill, and stated that it would be difficult to know if Townships would receive any of the funding. A meeting between Magnuson, Laakso and Jim Iwanicki from Marquette County was discussed in regards to the life of the roads only being 18 years, and most of the roads on the list were constructed in the late 70's with only Chip and Seal being done as maintenance. Schuhknecht projected the concerns of North County Disposal, as when the Township receives the new recycling bins, their large trucks will need to travel on roads on this list. Gischia suggested that a definite plan should be in place for the residents when a millage is voted on. A motion was made by Gischia to change the current plan that was in place to pave County Road CD by moving the

area that is residential to the top priority, and the area were the sand trucks travel and the county would provide 50% assistance to spot three. It was seconded by Ruppel to do so. Ayes - 3, Nays - 0, Absent -2.

2022 - Co Rd CD from Township Line to Co Rd CH intersection. Cost TBD

2023 - Co Rd CKC, .229 miles. Estimated 2019 cost \$100,000

2024 - Co Rd CD, from 581 to Co Rd CH intersection. 50% cost shared with Marquette County Road Commission, estimated 2019 cost \$220,000.

2025 - Co Rd CH, from CD to Petaisto Bridge, 1.4 miles. Estimated 2019 cost \$560,000

2026 - Co Rd CPB, from CPA to PPA, .096 miles. Estimated 2019 cost \$40,000.

Magnuson had recommendation to inquire on the Chip and Seal done in the Twin Pines area possibly missing an area. Laakso discussed the Marquette County Road Commission needing its schedule inquiries to be done by October 1, 2021 for next year road plans. Gischia also mentioned that the Bird Streets off of 581 should be inquired about.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Van Luven reported his support for the Solar Ordinance. He also stated that once the recreation plan is set, money has to be raised or budgeted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Laakso gave an update on the Diorite School and the progress Andrew Slawski has made in regard to Solar Panels and clean-up. There is a Tax Notice from the County on the front door. MIOSHA did testing at the site and found asbestos in the roofing material. He asked the members of the Commission to visit the site in person.

Treasurer Schuhknecht mentioned that the Dangerous Building Ordinance and it being in effect. It would be applicable for the Diorite School as well as the Junak residence across from the hall.

Gischia inquired about abandoned railway and who the current owners are of the property. It was decided that an inquiry to Moose Country Trails would be the best bet.

Schuhknecht also mentioned the positive feedback on the disc golf proposal and will forward any information from the Negaunee Park to Carr and Kennedy.

Laakso asked for a budget from the Commission by March, per by-laws, for the roads and recreation plan.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ruppel to adjourn, seconded by Gischia. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Stratton, Recording Secretary