

Hillsdale County Planning Commission Minutes
Monday January 25, 2016 1:30pm

Hillsdale County ISD Administration Building - 310 W. Bacon St. - Hillsdale, Michigan
49242

1. Call to Order: Chair Alan Beeker called the meeting to order at 1:31pm.
2. Roll Call:
Members Present: Chair Alan Beeker, Shelby Burlew, Christine Bowman, Ruth Brown, and Sue Smith. Chair Beeker declared a quorum present.

Excused: Ned Bever and Gary Reppert.

Also Present: Fred Fowler

3. Approval of Minutes (September 21, 2015): Moved by Shelby Burlew and supported by Sue Smith to approve the minutes as written. Approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Agenda: Moved by Christine Bowman and supported by Shelby Burlew to approve the agenda as written. Approved unanimously.
5. Public Comment: None
6. Public Hearings: None
7. Unfinished Business: None
8. New Business:
 - a. Elect Officers:
Shelby Burlew nominated Alan Beeker for Chair, Gary Reppert for Vice-Chair, and Ruth Brown for Secretary. Ruth Brown supported. Approved unanimously.
(These are 1 year terms January 2016 - January 2017).

Ruth stated that the seat formerly held by Mike Potts, ISD Supt., is open. Fred said that in the past the Planning Commission would nominate someone and give the name to the Commissioners for approval. Ruth said she would follow-up.

9. Any other Business/on-going business:
 - a. Discuss and outline Planning Commission functions:

Nick was not in attendance but had sent an e-mail message prior to the meeting stating that this is meant to come up with a list of functions the

County Planning Commission provides that, without a Planning Commission would be dealt with by other means or other boards/ Commissions such as Region 2 Planning Commission. Commissioner Caswell has asked for a list that the Commissioners can refer to when determining whether to continue with the County Planning Commission after June 30. If we "sunset" who is responsible for what? Alan said that Hillsdale County is not represented on Region 2. Alan distributed a written handout from Grant Bauman from Region 2 that explains reasons why the County Planning Commission should continue. The material includes a copy of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (Act 110 of 2006). Alan stated that the only reason for a County Planning Commission is that it is the only body that can suggest changes to the County Master Plan. Hillsdale will be updating its Master Plan again in 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding the second bullet point on page 1 of Alan's handout which states that "If there is no County Planning Commission, the County board appoints a CZC (coordinated zoning committee) to review and recommend township zoning ordinance amendments." An example was given from Jackson County where, prior to the formation of the Jackson County Planning Commission, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners designated one of its existing standing committees as its CZC. Now Jackson County is paying Region 2 dues, Region 2 is doing all Jackson County's planning and it has to go back to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for approval. Discussion concluded that, if we sunset, the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners could designate one of its existing standing committees as its CZC (coordinated zoning committee) or could pay Region 2 dues and have them take over planning, it would still have to go back to Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners for approval. Ruth said she would take the information that Alan had researched (written document) back to the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners for their consideration. Lengthy Discussion ensued. Fred and Christine both spoke in favor of keeping local control. Fred stated his opinion that when there were monthly meetings of the Planning Commission, there was more participation. "This used to be a busy committee at one time" said Fred. Alan said that only half of the County is zoned, Fred said less than half.

b. Alan led discussion about interesting legislation that is upcoming regarding medical marijuana that will affect the City of Hillsdale, unsure how it will affect the County.

c. Fred asked about term limits, when is the beginning and end of our terms? Fred thought he had term-limited off of the Planning Commission, but Marney Kast (County Clerk) said that he had one more term to go. Ruth said there is a grid showing terms and she will bring it to the next Planning Commission meeting. (This refers to the new term limits that have been imposed by the Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners, as introduced by Commissioner Caswell).

d. Fred and Alan discussed zoning and code enforcement especially in regards to junk in Fred's township and what can be done about it.

e. Alan stated that he will get a list of townships who are making changes and will draft a "friendly reminder" letter that the County Planning Commission needs to approve any amendments that they are proposing.

10. Public Comment: None

11. Communications: None

12. Next Meeting: Monday March 21, 2016 at 1:30pm at ISD

13. Adjournment: Christine moved to adjourn and Fred supported.
Meeting adjourned at 2:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Brown, Hillsdale County Commissioner