

HILLSDALE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes

Monday, July 20, 2015

1:30 p.m.

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 1:30pm.
- 2. Roll Call: Members Present:** Chair Alan Beeker, Vice-Chair Gary Reppert, Christine Bowman, Sue Smith, Ruth Brown, Shelby Burlew and Fred Fowler. Ned Bever arrived at the meeting at 1:47pm.
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Nick Wheeler
- 3. Approval of Minutes (January 26, 2015):** Moved by Bowman and supported by Reppert to approve as written. Motion approved unanimously.
- 4. Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Beeker and supported by Bowman to approve the agenda with the addition "election of secretary". Motion approved unanimously.
- 5. Public Comment:** None
- 6. Public Hearings:** None
- 7. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Bowman moved to set a public hearing for the Master Plan at 1:45pm on September 21 at the ISD. Burlew seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Nick and Alan will coordinate posting.
- 8. New Business**
 - a. PA 116 Applications
Camden Township Enrollment – Reuben L & Rosa J Graber (Section 28 T8S R4W 2.4 acres m/l & 26 acres m/l also Section 33 T8S R4W 24 1/6 acres m/l & 72.50 acres m/l)
Fowler moved to approve, supported by Smith. Motion approved unanimously.
 - b. Election of Secretary
Bowman moved to elect Ruth Brown as Secretary, Smith supported.
Chair Beeker asked if there were any other nominations for secretary from the floor, there were none. Motion approved unanimously.
- 9. Any other Business/on-going business:**

Nick talked about the ordinance that includes a 5 year sunset, meaning that, if nothing is done, the "sunsets" on the Hillsdale County Planning Commission on 6-30-16. Discussion ensued. Chair Beeker said that, if there is no County Planning Commission, we would not

have to update the Master Plan, you only have to write a letter to the state explaining that no County Planning Commission exists. Brown said that Commissioner Caswell asked Nick for something in writing on what the specific implications are if the County Planning Commission "sunset." Nick said any PA applications would go directly to the County Board of Commissioners. Beeker said that any Hillsdale County planning would go to Region 2 or Region 9. Smith said that she did want to give up local control. Fowler said he was in favor of keeping the county planning commission, not letting it go to the Region. Reppert agreed, but suggested we have quarterly meetings. Beeker said Region 2 is very Jackson-oriented. The procedure for keeping the County Planning Commission is a Public Hearing, and then it must be approved by the County Commissioners. Brown said that she was in favor of letting the County Planning Commission "sunset" because we have been struggling as it is, the last 2 meetings, there was no quorum. We have been working on updating the Master Plan for the 2 years Brown has been a Commissioner and it is still not done. Fowler said that, truthfully, we have been working on updating the Master Plan for 4 years. Fowler said that the County Planning Commission used to be a busy committee at one time. Nick said that 4 years is "not out of line" for updating the Master Plan, especially because we have had some personnel changes. Bowman commented that we should be looking at things and making recommendations. Also, that the Master Plan will be easier to update the next time we do it. Beeker agreed with Nick's comments and said that the city master plan has taken 2 years to update and taking 4 years to update the county master plan is "not out of line." Reasons it is taking so long are that we are an all-volunteer board and that we have had some personnel changes. Discussion ensued. Smith asked what it would take to complete the process of updating the County Master Plan. The last step is the public hearing. It does not need to go back in front of the County Commissioners. Nick suggested it would be a good idea to have a quorum at the September meeting. Fowler moved we continue the Hillsdale County Planning Commission, Smith seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

10. Public Comment: None

11. Communications:

- a) Nick said that he had taken care of the Pittsford Township request for hard copies of all correspondence related to the County Master Plan.
- b) Chair Beeker led discussion regarding replacing Mike Potts's seat on the County Planning Commission, he was representing the ISD. The ISD does have a new Superintendent, Ronna Steel. Brown read a letter that describes the procedure for this, stating that, "one citizen member representing the educational interests of the County..." Beeker said that this means that the person is not necessarily the ISD Superintendent. The letter said that the person would be appointed by the County Commissioners "from names nominated by the Hillsdale County Superintendents Association." Bever said that the person has always been the ISD Superintendent in the past. Beeker said he would find out when the Superintendents Association meeting is and ask them to nominate someone.

12. Adjournment: Fowler moved and Bever supported to adjourn. This motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03p.m.