

## Eagle Township Planning Commission

### **September 7, 2023 – Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:00PM at the Eagle Township Hall.

**Roll Call:** Richard Jones (present), Eric Sutherland (present), Michelle Hoppes (present), Robin Currie (present), John Iszler (absent).

**Citizens:** Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Dennis Strahle, Cori Feldpausch, Janine Dyer, David Vanderbroek, Pam Brown, James Tallmadge, Kathy Peters, Jeff McNeilly, Brad Rich, Sandi Vanderbroek

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda:** Jones moves and Hoppes seconds to add Giffels-Webster Report and Michigan Townships Association Survey to agenda. Voice vote - all in favor to adopt agenda as presented with addition above. Motion passes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Hoppes moves and Jones seconds to approve minutes of August 29, 2023 planning commission meeting. Voice vote – all in favor to approve minutes as presented. Motion passes.

**Correspondence:** Draft ordinances for wind and solar for Clinton County. It was noted that these ordinances pertain to utility companies and not private residences.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** Strahle commented on the absence of John Iszler. It was noted that Mr. Iszler notified Currie of absence and a schedule of future absences. It was noted that the Planning Commission bylaws allow two (2) excused absences per year.

#### **Old Business**

**Ratify Bylaws:** Hoppes moves to ratify the proposed Planning Commission Bylaws. Second by Jones. Roll Call – Jones (Y), Currie (Y), Sutherland (Y), Hoppes (Y). Motion passes. Chairperson and Secretary will sign documents after meeting.

**Ratify Planning Commission Regular Meeting Schedule:** Sutherland moves to ratify the proposed Planning Commission Regular Meeting Schedule. Second by Hoppes. Roll Call – Jones (Y), Currie (Y), Sutherland (Y), Hoppes (Y). Motion passes. Chairperson and Secretary will sign documents after meeting.

**Discussion of Proposals for Assistance with Planning and Zoning:** Currie presented research on several firms that provide services related to planning and zoning. The firms included McKenna, Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc., OHM Advisors, Rowe Group, Spicer Group, Williams & Works, and Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

Public comment on firms: (Unknown): Would like the Planning Commission to only consider firms that offer only planning and zoning and not engineering. Peters: Are they impartial?, Feldpausch: McKenna is working with St. Johns. Would they take us on?

Motion by Hoppes to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) to McKenna, Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc., OHM Advisors, and Spicer Group. Second by Jones. Roll Call: Jones (Y), Hoppes (Y), Sutherland (Y), Currie (Y). Motion Passes.

**Discussion on MTA training:** Township Board approved the request to have four (4) Planning Commission Members to attend online training through the Michigan Township Association. The cost is \$250 per person and will be paid by the individual and reimbursed by the Township upon completion of the training. Training to be completed by the end of 2023.

### New Business

**Discussion of MTA Survey about Silencing Local Voices to Achieve Renewable Energy Goals:** The MTA is requesting Townships to respond to a survey regarding the Michigan Public Service Commission taking over permitting of utility-scale renewable energy facilities. The Planning Commission requests Township Supervisor to complete the survey and forward a copy of the survey to the Planning Commission and keep us informed.

**Discussion of Giffels-Webster Draft Report:** The Township forwarded a copy of the Draft Giffels-Webster report on the land use of the 1,200-acre parcel along M-100 on September 2, 2023. The final report will be presented at the Clinton County Planning Commission meeting on September 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM. General discussion on purpose of Master Plan and Zoning. It was noted that the Master Plan is a vision of the future land use of the Township. Zoning is the law that governs land use in the Township and provides oversight of that use.

Hoppes: The report is not very useful because the survey questions appeared to be leading. We will probably have to resurvey the Township residents to get accurate information for preparation of our own Master Plan.

Public comment on Giffels-Webster Draft Report: Strahle: Can we adopt Clinton County Master Plan for Eagle Township?, Dyer: Opposes Giffels-Webster report because of leading questions., Feldpausch: Will the Township Planning Commission comment to the county? Vanderbroek: Comment on planning versus authority. Peters: Could zoning be trumped by the county? Dyer: Appreciates public comment, Feldpausch: Clinton County allows people to speak at their meetings and encourages Planning Commission to attend.

Motion by Hoppes to Recommend to Eagle Township Board to pass on to Clinton County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners to take no action to change any part of the Clinton County Comprehensive Plan or Zoning that affects Eagle Township. Second by Sutherland. Motion by Currie to amend motion to add that Eagle Township has created a Planning Commission and are working on a Township Comprehensive Plan and are getting quotes for doing our own Zoning in Eagle Township. Second by Jones. Voice vote - All in favor of accepting amendment. Motion Passes. Roll Call vote to adopt motion as amended: Jones (Y), Sutherland (Y), Hoppes (Y), Currie (Y). Motion Passes.

**General Public Comment:** None.

**General Planning Commission Discussion:** Discussion of Township email addresses for Planning Commission members. Township Clerk Briggs-Dudley informed the Planning Commission that email addresses would be issued within about two weeks.

Discussion of Township allocation for Planning Commission. \$100,000 has been allocated.

Currie will prepare the agenda going forward.

Next meeting October 5, 2023 at 7PM.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Hoppes to adjourn. Second by Jones. Voice vote – all approved. Motion passes. Adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Sutherland, PE

Secretary