

Lake County Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2013

Meeting held in Lake County Commissioners Room, Lake County Courthouse, 800 Tenth Street, Baldwin, Michigan.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON LINDA VAN DOLSEN AT 3:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE: Present, Don Arquette, Linda Van Dolsen, Ernest Wogatzke, Gwen Warren, Ken Shoemaker, Patrick Johnson.

ABSENT: Patty Pacola,

EXCUSED ABSENT: Colleen Carrington

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES: Motion by Don Arquette to approve the minutes, seconded by Ernest Wogatzke, to approve the minutes with a minor grammatical correction. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence that will not be discussed at other points in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There was discussion on the results of the business survey sent to the Township officials and boards. Only two of the responses were received by the planning commission, those being Webber Township, and Newkirk Township. It was decided that phone calls would be made to the Townships to encourage a response.
- Recreational Plan: The County Commissioners have a created a new ad-hoc committee to work on economic development. There were actions items from the February meeting, and progress on those items was discussed.
- County Park: The progress of the construction of the County Park in Webber Township was discussed, and it was decided that a contact was to be made to inquire about the possibility of developing a point person to oversee the project and to clarify the various responsibilities by the different groups involved. The contacts were to be made with the Lake County Commissioners, and Seth Hopkins. There was broad discussion about other possibilities for the Park property in addition to the current project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Amendment to Ordinance 25. The group discussed the need to clarify the Planning Commission position of “ Liason to the County Commissioners “ The position is currently filled, but the appointee has not been attending the meetings. The position of Lake County Commissioner Colleen Carrington on the Planning Commission board at this time lessens the need for a liason between the groups. A motion was made by Gwen Warren to rescind the appointment of a liason between the Commissioners and Planning Commission until the time that such a position is necessary. This motion was subject to the advice of the County Commissioners.
The motion was seconded by Don Arquette, voted on, and passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Ken Shoemaker: Chase Township has a group studying various forms of income stream aside from tax revenue, such as fairs, festivals, ect. Chase Township is also looking into getting DSI internet for Chase Village and Township residents. This would most likely be in the form of a rate discount to users.

Gwen Warren: Mason County hired a person to seek out industry for their community, and it worked very well.

General Discussion: There seems to be a lot of interest in working on jobs and business growth by the citizens, but it is difficult to get the Townships to work together to get anything started. In general, the infrastructure is lacking in Lake County to support any major industry along the corridors. The property is available, but there is no public water, sewer, high speed internet, etc.

Linda Vandolsen: It is our jobs as Planning Commission members to communicate the positive aspects of job growth and industry creation to our Townships. Explain how it could be helpful, and that the citizens are asking for it. (Based on the results of our polling)

Motion to adjourn by Ernest Wogatkze, seconded by Ken Shoemaker. Motion voted on and passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING 04 / 16/ 2013 AT 3 PM IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ROOM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Johnson