

MINUTES OF THE AUGRES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Quarterly Meeting

March 6th, 2023

9:00 A.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Jesse Young, Patricia Tremble, Ross Maser, Donna Wilson and Zoning Administrator Art Gallop

ABSENT: Barbara Luberda

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Herzog, and Michael Oxley.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL of AGENDA: Motion made by Pat Tremble to approve the agenda as presented. Motion supported by Donna Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Motion made by Tremble to approve the minutes of the January 9th, 2023 Planning Commission meeting. Motion supported by Wilson. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BOARD COMMENT: Chairman Young welcomed the board members. There was some discussion on Barbara Luberda being unable to attend due to health issues.

TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE REVIEW: The zoning ordinance review continued with Chapter 2 - Definitions picking up at page 2-5, where the board left at the last meeting. The definition of 'Family' was updated to suit the times and the definition of a 'rental' was discussed. Chapter 4 - General Provisions had minor corrections (capitalizations) with much discussion on section 4.20 Single Family Dwelling Standards with the addition of footprint/foundation added to the minimum dwelling size of a structure, followed by other grammatical corrections. Discussion followed as Art Gallop brought up the topic of non-conforming lots. As much time had elapsed Chairman Young moved onto the remaining agenda items, leaving Chapter 5 (and onward) was for the next PC meeting.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Oxley reminded the board that the need of an OEO came up after watching an MTA zoning seminar on the topic. Supervisor Jim Herzog discussed with Sheriff Tim Robbins our patrol officer, who said he would do the job if his boss agreed. Herzog spoke with County Sheriff Mosciski who said he had no problem with Robbins being the OEO. Tremble inquired about liability, would the township need to cover Robbins when in the enforcement capacity? Also it was questioned whether an OEO would be the one to seek out residential issues, to which Herzog stated that the OEO would only be used after complaint procedures were followed and an actual citation was issued (following the Civil Infraction ordinance).

Originally thought that it would be a job which fell to the clerk, Barbara Luberda pointed out (previous meeting) that the clerk already had a lot on duties. After thinking about it, Oxley agreed Luberda was right, and that he thought Luberda might be a good choice for the OEO. Although it was never asked of Luberda, with her health issues, that no longer seemed to be something which was going to be possible. All PC members agreed to the need for and OEO. Topic tabled.

SOLAR FARMS:

Chairman Young asked if everyone had received the Consumers 'General Solar Ordinance Provisions' document that Clerk Oxley had received from Bob Balzar our Consumers Energy representative. It was Young's opinion that all we need for a township solar farm ordinance is in that document and well as in the Whitney Township Solar Ordinance which recently appeared in the Arenac Independent (given as a handout at this meeting). No decision was made at this meeting.

TOWNSHIP BLIGHT ORDINANCE: Young made sure that all board members had a copy of the Blight Ordinance (#17) which was adopted by the Au Gres Township board of trustees in March of 1992. Oxley

explained that during most of his years as Clerk, that, to his knowledge there was no blight ordinance in the township. It was Supervisor Herzog who came across the document earlier last year. Young tasked the PC board members to review the document so as to renew commitment to its purpose as some later meeting. Do we need to change or add anything in that ordinance, or is it acceptable as written?

NEXT MEETING DATE: After some discussion it was decided to continue with the zoning ordinance review at the next meeting to be held on March 13th at 9:00am.

BOARD COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Herzog thanked the all board members and the zoning administrator for their service. Herzog knows how much goes into, not only the meetings, but the digesting of all these handouts while at home between meetings.

Clerk Oxley added that he is going to request that PC board members be paid \$50.00 per meeting (up from \$25/per) when the township board holds it annual meeting on the 14th of March.

ADJOURNMENT: TIME – 10:40. Motion made by Wilson to adjourn the meeting. Supported by TTremble. Voice vote. All Ayes. No Nays. One Absent. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved at the Planning Commission Meeting _____

Jesse Young, Chairman _____

Michael Oxley, Clerk _____