

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
7:00 P.M. AUGUST 16, 2010
REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP HALL

1. The meeting was Called To Order at 7:04 P.M. by Chairperson Dan Mitchell.
2. Members Present: James Brennan, Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhusen, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom and Bill Payne (Zoning Administrator).
Members Absent: Steve Koski, Paul Polanski and Marie Serafin.
3. Approval Of The Agenda: Chairperson Dan Mitchell wanted to add an item labeled Zoning Issues Protocol under New Business. It was then moved by Tom Sandblom and seconded by Jim Brennan to approve the Agenda with this addition. The motion carried.
4. It was moved by Jim Brennan and seconded by Tom Sandblom to Approve The Minutes of the July 19, 2010 meeting and to put in the request that Bill Payne, put in the land divisions and property addresses. The motion carried.
5. Public Comment: None
6. Discussion of the 2011 Fire Department Capital Equipment Needs:

Republic Township Fire Chief Al Koski presented a handout to the Planning Commission that listed the needs of the Republic Fire Department and categorized them into a system of priorities from most serious needs to those that are of less importance. The needs were:

- 1) Upgrading of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus;
- 2) Replacing or Refitting the Class "A" Pumper;
- 3) New Fire Ropes that are used as lifelines for personnel;
- 4) New Radios and Pagers;
- 5) The following equipment needs attention to ensure proper operation and comply with Testing Standards: Hose Testing, Hydrostatic Testing of Compressed Gas Cylinders, Truck Pump Testing, and Ladder Safety Testing;
- 6) Costs Associated with Firefighter Training and Certification;
- 7) Costs associated with acquiring Equipment for Water Rescue;
- 8) The Fire Department is in constant need of Batteries;

Dan Mitchell spoke about the Planning Commission's intent to help the Fire Department. He indicated the Planning Commission would follow up with the Fire Department, prior to going to the Township Board, in October, with Budget Recommendations for the Fire Department.

The Planning Commission members felt that we should invite the Republic Township Department Of Public Works to the September 20, 2010 meeting with the intent of discussing their Capital Expenditure needs for 2011, as we just did with the Fire Department.

7. Committee Reports: Chairperson Dan Mitchell reported that the Proposed New Zoning Ordinances for the Township, that the Planning Commission worked on so diligently, was sent on to the Republic Township Board. The Township Board Reviewed the document and approved it.

The Township Clerk never published the New Zoning Ordinance Document or the minutes of the July Township Board meeting. The Township Board will now have to revisit the New Zoning Ordinance document again at their next meeting. The Township is still acting under the Old Zoning Ordinances of 1995 until the new Document is approved and Posted by the Clerk. It was noted that the last official posted minutes for the Township Board were in October of 2009.

- Parks & Recreation: Tom Feldhusen reported that the Raft cannot be used because of the way it has been constructed. Jim Brennan questioned the logic of this.

Tom Feldhusen spoke about the community involvement in Black Bart Day. He felt there was a positive feeling for the event, and indicated that the Organizing Committee for the Event learned from this experience.

- Community Services: Tom Feldhusen reported work is still being done on the Lighting Infrastructure.

- RM School: Tom Feldhusen reported that RM High School students need 20 hours of Community Service to graduate. He had discussions with the high school principal regarding getting high school students involved in the Community Wide Clean Up and receiving credit for Community Service Hours.

8. Ordinance Numbering Report:

Chairperson Dan Mitchell reported that all Zoning Ordinances are numbered and dated. There are three current Ordinances that are not legal because they have no dates by their number.

Dan Mitchell reported that the new Zoning Ordinances will again go before the Township Board at their next meeting. If approved, Michelle from CUPPAD, will send them to the Mining Journal for publication the next day.

Dan Mitchell reminded everyone that the new Zoning Ordinances become effective after the Township Board reviews and approves them, then they must be published in the local newspaper. Dan pointed out that the Mining Journal has been designated as the official newspaper for Marquette County by the Marquette County Board.

9. Questionable Zoning Conditions:

Chairperson Dan Mitchell gave an update on three possible Zoning Ordinance Violations located at 739 Kloman; 321 Koeber; and 680 Kloman in Republic. He indicated these situations need to be resolved by Zoning Administrator, William Payne.

10. Neighborhood Rehabilitation Plan:

Tom Feldhusen gave details of the "Neighborhood Rehabilitation Plan" that were discussed at the last Township meeting .

- 1) A letter will be sent to all residents informing them of this program;
- 2) Defined Zones will be established;
- 3) Property Owners in each Zone will be requested to clean up their residences.

If it is deemed that the residence still needs cleaning up, the Township will clean Up the residence and bill the Property Owner.

Dan Mitchell felt the intent of the program was good but pointed out that there presently is no Ordinance to support such a program.

Tom Sandblom made a motion that the Neighborhood Rehabilitation Plan discussed by the Township Board, be sent to the Planning Commission with the intention of developing an Proper guidelines and an Ordinance for such a program. Jim Brennan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Zoning Administrators Report:

Bill Payne distributed his report. There was an application for a Zoning Compliance Permit from Laura Korpi to demolish an old camp and move a garage. This was approved on August 10, 2010.

12. Old Business - Small Scale Alternative Energy Ordinance Discussion

Bill Payne distributed and went over material dealing with Solar and Wind Generating devices. He also had language for a Township Ordinance dealing with this topic.

Dan Mitchell indicated that this would have to be a separate stand alone ordinance (2010-3).

It was moved by Tom Sandblom and seconded by Jim Brennan to table this material until the September meeting, so each Planning Commission member could read over all the material. The motion carried.

13. New Business:

Changing Number Of Members:

Dan Mitchell distributed and went over Steve Koski's letter of resignation from the Planning Commission effective July 22, 2010. Steve will be moving to Lansing, Michigan to attend Law School. The Planning Commission is now set at seven members.

Tom Sandblom made a motion to send Steve a letter expressing our gratitude for his service on the Planning Commission. Tom Feldhusen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Annual Review Of Zoning Ordinance:

Dan Mitchell distributed a proposed Amendment to the Republic Township Planning Commission By Laws. Tom Feldhusen moved to accept the proposed amendment, Bill Bergin seconded the Motion. The motion carried.

Bill Bergin was directed by Chairperson Dan Mitchell to work with the Township Office to ensure This Proposed Amendment be published in the Mining Journal at least 15 days prior to the September meeting.

Zoning Issues Protocol:

Chairperson Dan Mitchell reported that there are a number of unresolved issues related to Zoning Ordinance Violations. There presently are two township officials involved in this area of Ordinance Compliment. There is some confusion regarding each official's responsibility.

Tom Sandblom, Bill Bergin and Dan Mitchell volunteered to serve on a sub committee to come back to the full Planning Commission with recommendations to clarify each officials role and responsibility.

- Fred Nannestad distributed and went over the Republic Website Report for August 1-14, 2010.

- Chairperson Dan Mitchell gave Recording Secretary Bill Bergin information that was presented to him by Township Treasurer Faye Mattila. He requested Secretary Bergin to include this Information in the meeting minutes.

The written communication from Faye Mattila is dated August 10, 2010. It reads as follows:

Planning Commission:

I still have in my desk the following checks for Permits that have not been given as approved applications:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4-28-09	Steve Nesbetl	Cash	\$50.00
4-13-10	Ray Kenney	#3854	\$250.00
4-19-10	Don Heleste	#2739	\$40.00
5-19-10	Dave Allaen	#2592	\$40.00
6-24-10	Larry Barnes	#2104	\$40.00
6-24-10	Terry Knapp	#1006	\$40.00
7-22-10	Bruce Stuhlmacher	#5549	\$40.00

Also there was never any bill sent for the Carlson land division --- Special meeting charges nor was any bill sent for Bruce Puper --- Special meeting charges --- only the \$50.00 (1st Split) application for both.

Faye Mattila
Treasurer

14. Adjourn:

It was moved by Bill Bergin and seconded by Tom Sandblom to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M.
The motion carried.

Bill Bergin
Planning Commission Secretary