

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

7:00 P.M. Monday, February 20, 2012

Republic Township Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

1. The meeting was Called To Order by Chairman Dan Mitchell at 7:00 P.M.
2. Members Present: Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhusen, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom and Terry Knapp (Zoning Administrator). Member Absent: Jim Brennan.
3. Approval Of The Agenda: It was moved by Tom Sandblom and seconded by Tom Feldhusen to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. The motion passed.
4. Approval Of The Minutes: It was moved by Tom Feldhusen and seconded by Bill Bergin to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2012 P.C. meeting. The motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. Communications:
 - A) Communications From The Township Supervisor: Chairman Dan Mitchell distributed a copy of an email communication dated February 14, 2012, he received from the Township Supervisor. It indicated tax evaluations were lowered on two parcels of land, by the Board of Review. Land Parcel #52-12-018-002-00 was reduced \$38,900.00. Land Parcel #52-12-017-002-00 was reduced \$110,950.00. This is \$149,850.00 in lost tax revenue for Republic Township.
 - B) TIFA: Dan Mitchell reported that TIFA met last Monday and they will be existence for the coming year with the same officers. Chairman Mitchell indicated the TIFA Board does have an opportunity to do some negotiating on a \$110,000.00 tax liability that could be beneficial to the Township. Mitchell stressed that the TIFA Board needs to initiate some type of action on this situation. Tom Feldhusen agreed with Dan Mitchell's assessment of the situation.
7. Committee Reports:
 - A) Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee: Dan Mitchell reported that this Sub Committee has not met yet because the Township Supervisor has not told Faye (Township Employee) to schedule a meeting. Chairman Mitchell said he would contact Faye himself, and have her get the meeting scheduled.
 - B) Parks & Recreation: Dan Mitchell indicated that as far as he knew, the Recreational Plan has been completed by U.P. Engineering and the plan is suppose to be presented to the Township Board this coming Thursday, for their review and approval. The plan needs to be in by March 1, 2012.
 - C) Community Services: Tom Feldhusen reported that Community Services paid for a program to be put on for early elementary students at the Republic Michigamme School, and their grandparents. Iris Katers, and a group of retired teachers from the Marquette Area, put together a program to teach learning skills to the young children. The program was quite successful for the students, and each child received a book to take home and a map of the world.
 - D) RM School: Tom Feldhusen reported that school officials are working to ensure that everything is in proper order to begin work on the Heating System as soon as the weather permits. This is the first part of the successful school millage project. Terry Knapp indicated the DEQ cleared the school on this project. Tom Feldhusen also

Indicated that the Honor Roll was recently published in the Mining Journal, and that school Homecoming Activities would be taking place this Friday night.

E) Zoning Ordinance Revision: Chairman Mitchell indicated that this committee would be meeting to do the annual review of the Township Ordinances. Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom and Jim Brennan serve on this committee.

8. Zoning Administrator's Report: Terry Knapp reported the following information:

Zoning Compliance Permits Issued: None

Zoning Compliance Permits Denied:

01-26-12 Peter Carello – Proposed Lot Split – 164 Hemlock, S. Republic;

Zoning Compliance Information Requests:

01-17-12 – David Melnarik – request for land division information – Lake Michigamme;

01-31-12 – Dave Duncan – plot/site plan received, 9043 Co. Rd. 601

Letter Sent – 2nd request for additional information;

Zoning Violation:

01-19-12 – Jason Nault – Accessory Building – 1120 River Road

Sent Letter and ZCP application per PC direction;

01-27-12 – Brian Anderson – Multiple Zoning Violations – 9959 Hawks Dr.

Sent letter and list of ordinances per PC direction;

01-30-12 – Brian Anderson – Multiple Zoning Violations – 9959 Hawks Dr.

Met on site with owner and Bill DeGenaro to go over violations;

Planning Commission:

01-23-12 – Received Draft Copy of PC 01-16-12 Minutes

01-31-12 – Sent PC suggested Zoning Changes - delete section 1103 H;

Zoning Board Of Appeals:

02-01-12 – Peter Carello – Proposed Lot Split – 164 Hemlock, S. Republic

Received application for variance to be heard by ZBA in March;

02-11-12 – Sent reminder to the Township Board that ZBA requires (5) members

Response, (3) additional members will be named by March meeting;

General:

02-01-12 – Worked with Township Clerk to create new filing system for zoning records;

Chairman Mitchell, requested Terry Knapp to stop by Phil's Busted Knuckle, and meet with the owner, who needs some help/advice, on a project the EPA wants him to complete on his business property.

Dan Mitchell spoke about a trailer next to 99/59 just past South Republic. He indicated it has been there for at least one year, and now a road has been plowed to it. Terry Knapp suggested this be referred to Bill DeGenaro, who is the Township Ordinance Enforcement Person, and have him handle this situation. There was then discussion of the jobs that Terry Knapp (Zoning Administrator) and Bill DeGenaro (Zoning Ordinance Enforcement Official) do for the Township. It was noted that Terry Knapp takes his direction from and prepares a monthly report for the P.C.

Tom Feldhusen indicated he would speak with Fay (Township Financial Official), regarding Bill DeGenaro reporting back to the Township Board on action he takes concerning Township Ordinance Enforcement.

9. Old Business: None

10. New Business: Terry Knapp asked about the timeline for the completion of the Zoning Ordinances being reviewed by the P.C. Chairman Mitchell indicated this review must be completed by April 1, 2012.

Tom Sandblom asked about the Township Fire Truck. Dan Mitchell indicated the truck had been fixed and was on the road again. Mitchell shared his concerns about the Township Volunteer Fire Department from the standpoints of Liability, Safety and Training. There was then discussion about the P.C. concerns regarding the present status of the training, safety and liability. Tom Feldhusen then made a motion, that was seconded by Bill Bergin, that members of the P.C., work with members of the Republic Volunteer Fire Department, to come up with a plan to update future Fire Department needs. The motion passed.

11. Public Comment On Agenda Items: None

12. Adjourn: Bill Bergin made a motion, that was seconded by Dan Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Bergin, Recording Secretary