

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
7:00 P.M. Monday, January 16, 2012
Republic Township Hall
(DRAFT MINUTES)

1. The meeting was Called To Order by Chairperson Dan Mitchell at 6:58 P.M.
2. Members Present: James Brennan, Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhusen, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom (via telephone), and Terry Knapp the Township Zoning Administrator.
3. Approval Of The Agenda: It was moved by Bill Bergin and seconded by Tom Sandblom to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. The motion passed.
4. Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Jim Brennan and seconded by Dan Mitchell to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2011 P.C. meeting. The motion passed.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. Election of officers and setting of meeting dates: Tom Sandblom made a motion to retain the same slate of P.C. officers for 2012 that we had in 2011: Dan Mitchell as President, Jim Brennan as Vice President and Bill Bergin as Secretary. Tom Feldhusen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bill Bergin made a motion that the P.C. meet on the third Monday of the month in 2012 with the exception of November and December. Bergin proposed the P.C. meet on November 12, and December 17. Dan Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. Communications: Dan Mitchell spoke about the Status of Typing the Ordinances. He referenced a communication Township Supervisor Gary Johnson sent him, dated January 12, 2012. That communication indicates that the Township is broke and the Ordinance Project with CUPPAD has been put on hold. Dan Mitchell brought out how it is his understanding that we have a technical services agreement on a yearly basis with CUPPAD for ten hours of technical services. If this is true, then the ten hours for 2012 would begin in April (when the 2012 budget year begins). At that point the typing of the ordinances could be completed at no additional charges to the township. Mr. Johnson's memo did indicate that the new deputy, has agreed to do the typing for \$10.00 per hour, after the township has money again.

Dan Mitchell brought out that without having the ordinances on file and accessible, we are in violation of the state law and the new ordinances cannot be enforced. The typing would be putting all of the ordinances in one book, with sequential numbering, and a table of contents. Once this is completed we will then need to have a public hearing, because we physically changed the ordinances. At the present time the Township has three Ordinance Books and five Numbering Systems. Dan indicated that is where things stand at the present time. Chairperson Mitchell indicated he would have Faye (Township Official) call a meeting of the Ordinance Sub Committee.

Capital Equipment Budget: Dan Mitchell indicated that recently Gary Johnson called him wanting to know the priority items of the Planning Commission for Capital Expenditures. Dan Indicated that our Township Volunteer Fire Department should be the first priority. He gave examples of our Township running a terrible liability risk every time the fire truck is called out because of the lack of proper fire equipment and the lack of training the volunteers are

receiving. This is a serious problem that is not being dealt with in our town because of a lack of leadership and money.

8. Committee Reports:

- A) **Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee:** Chairperson Mitchell indicated that he would contact Faye (Township Official) and have her call a meeting for the Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee;
- B) **Parks & Recreation:** Jim Brennan distributed a handout entitled "Goals and Objectives". It concerned goals and policies from the Republic Township Recreation Plan for 2012 to 2016, and should help serve as a guideline toward developmental strategies. Jim Brennan gave some background information on the document regarding the Township Recreation Plan. After some discussion, Bill Bergin made a motion to refer this document on to our Township Board for their approval, and then have them move it to the Engineering Company to complete the process. Tom Sandblom seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- C) **Community Services:** Tom Feldhusen reported that there is a meeting scheduled this Thursday, January 19, to review the Christmas party for the children and also the baskets that they gave out.
- D) **RM School:** Tom Feldhusen reported the school is doing some preliminary work to get ready for the project this spring and summer that will occur because of the successful millage campaign.
- E) **Zoning Ordinance Revision/Selection of Review Sub Committee:** Last year we passed an addition to our bi-laws that requires the Zoning Ordinance to be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Planning Committee. Jim Brennan, Bill Bergin, Dan Mitchell and Zoning Administrator Terry Knapp volunteered to serve on this sub committee. Dan Mitchell will be sending out the appropriate material to be reviewed. This should be completed by April 1, 2012.

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

12-29-11 – Merle Foss – Replace Entry Canopy – 9795 Co. Rd. 601

Issues Permit #ZCP122911, copy to assessor.

01-05-12 – Craig Goff – Proposed 20x30 Cabin – River Road

Issued Permit #ZCPO10512, copy to assessor.

12-28-11 – Robert Stone – request for zoning information

Provided ordinance and contact information.

01-02-12 – Steve Kimble – Property Zoning Information Request – Bat Lake

Provided ordinance and contact information.

01-09-12 – David Melnarik – request for land division information – Lake Michigamme

Provided ordinance and contact information to realtor.

There was some discussion and questions to Terry Knapp about the Anderson property on Hawks Drive and County Rd. 601. Dan Mitchell then made a motion, that was supported by Jim Brennan, to have Terry Knapp investigate this property and report back to the Planning Commission. The motion passed.

There was also some discussion about a shed on property owned by Jason Nault. Bill Bergin then made a motion that was supported by Tom Sandblom, to direct Terry Knapp

to investigate the shed on Jason Nault's property, to see if there was a building permit issued. The motion passed.

10. **Old Business:** Appointment of an Ordinance Review Committee was already covered earlier in the meeting as pointed out by Chairperson Mitchell.
11. **New Business:** Tom Feldhusen shared some details of a meeting he attended on the Marquette County Landfill Authority and some of the potential benefits for the township. He indicated there are still details that have to be worked out at this point in time.

Jim Brennan brought up some questions he had on Gary Johnson's letter to Dan Mitchell, dated January 12, 2012 regarding the township roads, and Mr. Johnson's idea of running a water main across the river, and up the bad part of Hawks Drive.

12. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None.
13. **Adjourn:** Jim Brennan made a motion, that was seconded by Bill Bergin, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Bergin, Recording Secretary