

Republic Township Planning Commission Meeting  
7:00 p.m. January 17, 2011  
Republic Township Hall

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m by Chairperson James Brennan.
2. Members Present: Shannon Ambuehl, James Brennan, Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhausen, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom (arrived after Roll Call).
3. It was moved by Dan Mitchell and seconded by Tom Feldhusen to approve the agenda. The motion carried.
4. It was moved by Dan Mitchell and seconded by Bill Bergin to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The motion carried.
5. Public Comment: Bill Payne (Township Zoning Administrator) distributed copies of a letter, to each Planning Commission Member. Bill Payne's letter will be posted on the Republic Township web-site (by Fred Nannestad) with the Planning Commission Minutes.

The letter is in regard to the Township Zoning Administrator's job performance, and concerns regarding the Township Planning Commission.

Mr. Payne did indicate that he would no longer be attending the Planning Commission Meetings, and from this point onward, would like in writing from the Planning Commission, any requests or directives, regarding actions the commission is asking him to perform.

6. Election Of Officers for 2011.
  - It was moved by Bill Bergin and seconded by Tom Sandblom ,to nominate Dan Mitchell for the Chairperson position. The motion carried. Everyone was in favor.
  - It was moved by Tom Sandblom and seconded by Bill Bergin, to nominate James Brennan for the Vice-Chairperson position. The nomination carried. Everyone was in favor.
  - It was moved by Dan Mitchell and seconded by Tom Sandblom to nominate Bill Bergin for the Secretary position. The nomination carried. Everyone was in favor.
7. Committee Reports:
  - A) Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee - No Report for tonight;
  - B) Parks and Recreation - No Report tonight;
  - C) Community Services - Tom Feldhusen indicated there was a meeting scheduled for January 20, 2011 in the evening.
8. The Zoning Administrator's Annual Report was distributed by James Brennan to each commission member. The report included:
  - 24 Zoning Compliance Applications were issues in 2010 (four were housing starts);
  - The approval of the New Township Zoning Ordinance;
  - A statement that there is an urgent need to complete the Zoning Map for the Township;
  - Concern about Land Division in 2011;
  - A need to Administratively revise the Township[ Forms for Land Division
  - Having the Township Newsletter include information about Permits and Zoning.

December 16, 2010 Charles Niemi application for a Zoning Compliance Permit was approved to demolish an old house;

December 20, 2010 Jay Mattila's Land Division application was approved.

9. Fred Nannestad presented information on the Republic Website for January 1-15, 2011.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business:

- A) Review Of The Zoning Ordinance: Dan Mitchell reminded everyone that the Township Zoning Ordinances must be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Planning Commission. Dan Mitchell, James Brennan and Bill Bergin will serve on a sub-committee to review the Ordinances, and come back to the full Planning Commission with recommendations.
- B) Zoning Compliance Committee Appointments: Dan Mitchell and James Brennan will serve as our representatives on this committee.
- C) Zoning Boundary Sub-Committee: The Township Map needs to be refined. Shannon Ambuehl, Tom Sandblom and Dan Mitchell will serve on this sub-committee.
- D) Correspondence: Chairperson Dan Mitchell stressed the need for the Planning Commission to continue to use the services of the Zoning Administrator. Any requests for the Zoning Administrator's services, should be put in writing to the Township Board, by the Planning Commission. A file of all correspondence should be kept.
- E. Fire Department Status: The Planning Commission had requested the Township Board to put money into the Fire Department Budget for 2011, for their Capital Expenditure needs. Due to the financial challenges in the State of Michigan, and the uncertain funding for the Townships, money will not be appropriated for the Township Fire Department. Dan Mitchell is writing a grant for \$135,000.00 to compensate and help the Fire Department out in this time of Financial Uncertainty.
- F. Economic Development: Chairperson Dan Mitchell shared the following information:
- Bill DeGenaro has been involved in some activities to help our Township;
  - The Assisted Living is beginning to move forward in our Township;
  - Ishpeming closed its Recycling Center. This may allow our township some Opportunities;
  - A Hardware Store hopes to open in April of 2011, in South Republic;
  - The Smith Mountain Foundation is almost ready to take off in an attempt to raise some local money;
  - There is a Black Bart meeting on January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Tom Sandblom expressed economic concerns about the loss of Snowmobilers in our community because of not having gas available for them.

12. Public Comment: None

13. It was moved by James Brennan, and seconded by Shannon Ambuehl to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Bill Bergin, Secretary