

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

7:00 P.M. JULY 19, 2010

REPUBLIC TOWNSHIP HALL

1. The meeting was Called To Order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Dan Mitchell.
2. Members Present: James Brennan, Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhusen, Steve Koski, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom, and Marie Serafin.

Members Absent: Paul Polanski and Zoning Administrator Bill Payne.

3. Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Jim Brennan and seconded by Steve Koski to approve the Agenda. The motion carried.
4. Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Tom Feldhusen and seconded by Jim Brennan to approve the Minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting. The motion carried.
5. Public Comment:

Bill DeGenaro addressed the Planning Commission regarding the need to develop a budget for the enforcement of the Township Ordinances. He shared a situation that recently occurred in our community where six animals were taken out of a house that was full of waste. Mr. DeGenaro stressed the financial implications associated with the legal costs and manpower costs to help clean up our town

6. Discussion Of The 2011 Fire Department Capital Equipment Needs:

Chairperson Dan Mitchell spoke about the necessity of developing a long term financial plan for the Township Volunteer Fire Department's Capital Expenditure Needs.

Al Koski, Chief of the Fire Department and Firefighter Mark Ryan were at the meeting to represent the concerns and needs of the local firefighters. Al and Mark spoke about the following needs and concerns:

- A) The Fire Truck is old. It is a 1984 Two Wheeler.
- B) The Fuse Panel on the fire Truck is old and weak.
- C) The Plastic Valves on the Fire Truck leak.
- D) The Department needs eight new Air Packs and Bottles.
- E) New Radios, Pagers, Hoses, Life Lines and Batteries are needed as well as Blocking Material to help provide stabilization for emergency situations.

Al and Mark also spoke about the challenge of recruiting Firefighters who are committed and willing to put in the State Mandated Training Hours .

Chairperson Dan Mitchell requested Chief Koski to develop a prioritized list of the Fire Departments Capital Equipment needs for the next three years and present that at the August 16, 2010 Planning Commission Meeting.

7. Committee Reports:
  - Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee: Jim Brennan, Steve Koski and Dan Mitchell met. There will be a new numbering system for all ordinances by number and by year. They also discussed developing a process for deletion of ordinances that are no longer appropriate. They intend to have all of the Current Ordinances cleaned up by November of 2010.

- Parks and Recreation: Jim Brennan reported that the Fishing derby went very well. There were a lot of positive comments in the community about it.

- Community Services: Tom Feldhusen spoke about gas not being delivered to Republic during the winter, and how this affects businesses who lose out on Snowmobilers who will not come here because of this.

Marie Serafin inquired about an Artist who did some work for the Township but was not paid. Steve Koski was aware of this situation and briefly explained it.

There was discussion of a miscommunication that resulted in Camping Fees not being accessed.

It was also noted that the Fishing Pier will probably not happen until next year.

- Republic Michigamme School: Tom Feldhusen spoke about the school district's positive feelings now that the Kennecott Mine is giving the school system hope for financial help. Tom mentioned that TV-6 was also getting positive about this.

8. Ordinance Numbering Report: Chairperson Dan Mitchell indicated this was already addressed under Agenda Item Number 7, Committee Reports.
9. Zoning Ordinance Discussion: Chairperson Dan Mitchell reminded Planning Commission members that we have already moved to the Township Board the New Zoning Ordinances that we worked on. New Zoning Ordinances are presently at the Township Board for review and approval. Dan mentioned The Marquette Planning Commission has written some comments about Single Family Dwellings in MR and MP zones.
10. Zoning Administrator's Report: Chairperson Dan Mitchell distributed the Zoning administrator's report. Zoning Compliance Permits were approved by William Payne, the Republic Township Zoning Administrator, for:
  - Larry Barnes to build a storage facility; (Approved on June 23, 2010);
  - Terry Knapp to add a garage; (Approved on July 7, 2010);Tom Sandblom made a motion to approve the Zoning Administrator's report. Jim Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed.
11. Chairperson Dan Mitchell distributed a handout on Wind Energy prepared by Zoning Administrator, William Payne. Discussion ensued and concerns were expressed regarding:
  - The information only dealt with Wind Energy. It needed to be expanded to include Solar Energy.
  - That the 100 foot Maximum Rotor Diameter needed to be reduced.
  - There should be language on Noise Level;
  - Concern about the Setback requirements;Chairperson Dan Mitchell indicated he would send the material back to William Payne, and request him to address the above concerns.
12. New Business: Chairperson Dan Mitchell indicated he has received several phone calls regarding possible Zoning Ordinance Violations at the following addresses in Republic Township:
  - 739 Kloman; 321 Koeber; and 680 Kloman;Jim Brennan made a motion to refer this matter to Zoning Administrator, William Payne, to ensure all three residents are in compliance with Zoning Ordinances and any permits that may be required. Tom Feldhusen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Fred Nannestad distributed and went over the Republic Website Report for July 1-17, 2010.
- Jim Brennan questioned the status of the property on School Lake Road with regard to the removal of the existing buildings.
- Steve Koski brought up the idea of the Township using the Road Millage Money for Street repairs. Discussion ensued. Dan Mitchell made a motion that the Planning commission go on record as rejecting the idea of using Road Millage Money for Township Street Repair. Jim Brennan seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Bill DeGenaro informed the Planning Commission that the Smith Mountain Foundation has been incorporated as a 501 C 3, to benefit the Township with funding for a wide variety of projects.

13. It was moved by Jim Brennan and seconded by Tom Feldhusen to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

Bill Bergin  
Planning Commission Secretary