

Republic Township Planning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, September 16, 2013
Republic Township Hall
Approved @October 21, 2013 P.C. Mtg.

1. Chairperson Dan Mitchell Called the Meeting To Order at 6:58 P.M.
2. Members Present: James Brennan, Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhusen, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom and Terry Knapp (Zoning Administrator).
3. Jim Brennan made a motion, seconded by Tom Sandblom, to Approve the Agenda. The motion carried.
4. Jim Brennan made a motion, seconded by Dan Mitchell, to Approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2013 P.C. Meeting. The motion carried.
5. Public Comment: Dan Mitchell indicated he was going to "Step Down as Chairperson of the P.C. and turn the meeting over to the P.C. Vice President (Jim Brennan)". Mitchell indicated he had a conflict of interest and would not represent the P.C. on this "Conflict of Interest". His comments were going to be made as a member of the public, not as a member of the P.C. No P.C. member expressed disapproval of this.
6. Correspondence: Acting Chairperson Brennan referenced a letter from the Republic United Methodist Church that each P.C. member had, along with a copy of a "Lot Survey for Lot #11 of Block #5 Plat of the Village of Iron City and Lots #3 and #4 of the Plat of Republic Iron Co's Addition to Iron City". The letter was written by Dan J. Mitchell, the Chairperson of the Administrative Council for the Republic Methodist Church. (The letter is attached to the hard copy of these minutes). Mitchell read the letter to the P.C. Mitchell also indicated that each Township Board Member was sent a copy of this letter.

The letter referenced "Recent water line construction in front of the Church that has resulted in the Township's invasion of privately held land by the Methodist Church." The letter referenced the Lot Survey Copy that each P.C. member had, and also expressed concern regarding the Township installing a driveway entrance on to the property, as well as road gravel that was dumped to fill the section of land behind it. The Church has contacted their attorney to seek legal advice. The letter indicates the Church would be willing to sell the right of way to the Township, upon an agreeable price.

After some discussion, Jim Brennan made a motion, seconded by Bill Bergin, to accept the letter that was presented to the P.C. by the Chairperson of the Administrative Council of the Republic United Methodist Church; and the P.C. is requesting a response from the Township Board, at their next meeting, on how they plan to resolve this issue. The motion carried. (Dan Mitchell did not vote on this motion. He abstained.)

There was also correspondence from Michigamme Township regarding work being done on their new Master Plan. Dan Mitchell referenced an article that appeared in the September 15, 2013 edition of the Mining Journal Newspaper. The article indicated the Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering several webinars this month to aid fire departments and

emergency medical service agencies with the process of applying for a 2013 grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Mitchell encouraged our local Volunteer Fire Department, to get involved in one of these Webinars.

7. Committee Reports: Acting Chairperson Jim Brennan, passed the Chairperson position backed to Dan Mitchell at this point.

- A) Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee: Now that Jim Brennan is back, this committee will be meeting within the next few weeks. There was also a discussion of a Fluoride issue in the Township and the need for a new ordinance.
- B) Parks & Recreation: Jim Brennan reported that a letter in support of the upcoming Recreational Millage will be going out in October to all registered voters in the Township. The costs associated with the mailing are being taken care of by a private citizen, who does not want to be identified publicly. Tom Sandblom made a motion, seconded by Dan Mitchell, for the P.C. to support the Recreational Millage and the letter being sent out to encourage registered voters to support this millage. The motion carried.

Brennan reported that the Recreation Committee will be meeting with the RM School Board, to try to get Soccer started at the school. The Recreation Committee would help fund the maintenance fee for the field. The infield of the track could be used. There is a qualified individual in town with Soccer experience to teach/coach young people in the game of Soccer. That person is interested in helping out. The Rec. Committee will also be requesting the RM School to allow students to get Credit for Community Service, in helping out in the cleaning and maintenance of the Township Campground. Letters will be presented to the RM School Board on these issues as well as utilizing the School Gym for a Baseball Clinic, with the idea of maybe beginning a school baseball program. Tom Sandblom made a motion, seconded by Dan Mitchell, to support the efforts of Jim Brennan and the Recreation Committee in the areas of Soccer, Community Service Credit for RM students, and baseball opportunities. The motion carried.

Munson Park Grant: Dan Mitchell expressed concern about the quality of the Grant that was submitted to the DNR for Munson Park. The Grant came back with a low score. There was no Marketing language in the Grant or no Area Support Language in the Grant. The Grant was written by Sanders & Czapski Associates, PLLC. The Grant received 185 points out of a possible 520 points. Jim Brennan is doing a lot of the leg work now, to try to increase the point value. The P.C. felt Sanders & Czapski should be out doing the leg work. That is what they are getting paid for.

- C) Community Services: Will begin meeting again in October.
 - D) RM School: Preliminary numbers indicate student enrollment is slightly increased.
8. Zoning Administrator's Report: The Zoning Administrator Report from August 19, 2013 to September 16, 2013 is attached to these minutes. Terry Knapp explained why Charles Niemi

received approval for Land Division at 9272 Hawks Drive on 8-2-13. Bill Bergin made a motion, seconded by Tom Feldhusen, to approve the Zoning Administrator's Report. The motion carried.

9. Old Business: There was discussion on the Water Line Grant. The Fall Clean Up will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2013. Dan Mitchell will notify the Township Supervisor of this date.

10. New Business:

- A) Dan Mitchell will try to have Jennifer Tucker, from MEDC, at the October P.C. meeting. She will share what resources MEDC has that could potentially help Republic Township.
- B) Economic Development: Dan Mitchell shared some Economic Development Activities he is involved in to help the Township.

11. Public Comment: Fred Nannestad spoke about:

- A) Getting a letter of support from Michigamme Township on our DNR Grant;
- B) The Fluoride Ordinance;
- C) Questioned whether the Township got either a DNR or DEQ permit for the School Lake Fill. Fred will bring this up at the next Township Board Meeting.
- D) Questioned whether a Zoning Permit was issued to the Township for the Pavilion addition.
- E) Spoke about Marquette County surfacing County Road 601. All but one resident, John Ison, got tapered driveways. Mr. Nannestad felt this was disgraceful. (Dan Mitchell suggested that Mr. Nannestad contact the Marquette County Road Commission regarding this concern.)

John Ison addressed the P.C. and expressed frustration regarding a neighbor who is in Violation of the Republic Township Zoning Ordinance.

12. Adjourn: Bill Bergin made a motion, seconded by Tom Sandblom, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Bergin, Recording Secretary