

Republic Township Planning Commission Meeting

7:00 P.M. Monday, June 17, 2013

Republic Township Hall

DRAFT

1. Chairperson Dan Mitchell Called The Meeting To Order at 6:58 pm.
2. Members Present: James Brennan, Bill Bergin, Tom Feldhusen, Dan Mitchell, Tom Sandblom and Terry Knapp (Township Zoning Administrator).
3. Bill Bergin made a motion, seconded by Jim Brennan, to Approve The Agenda. The motion carried.
4. Jim Brennan made a motion, seconded by Bill Bergin, to Approve the P.C. May 20, 2013 Minutes. The motion carried.
5. Public Comment: None.
6. Brownfield Reclamation: Dotty LaJoyle, the Planner, from the Resource Management/Development Department of Marquette County made a presentation to the P.C. on the Marquette County Brownfield Inventory Project. She stressed that the County of Marquette is committed to returning blighted, functionally obsolete, contaminated or potentially contaminated buildings and property to productive use. In cooperation with the Marquette County Land Bank, the County formed the Marquette County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (MCBRA) in 2012. To further the goal of returning such properties to productive use, Marquette County Planning, in partnership with the MCBRA, is developing a countywide inventory of Brownfield Sites. Dotty distributed Brownfield Nomination Forms to the P.C. She stressed that we could nominate sites in Republic Township, the P.C. felt would qualify for a Brownfield Site. These sites may be owned by a local unit of government or a private individual. She stressed that this was an opportunity for our community to return blighted buildings/properties to productive use. Dotty stressed that a qualifying site, will only be added to the Brownfield Inventory List, if it is part of the public record with respect to environmental issues, and/or with the property owner approval.
7. Committee Reports:
 - A) Zoning Ordinance Sub Committee: Jim Brennan will be doing some work this weekend on the Zoning Ordinances. More information will be forthcoming at the July P.C. meeting.
 - B) Parks & Recreation:
 1. Ball Field: Dan Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Tom Sandblom, to accept a \$200.00 check from the Recreation Committee, to be used for the purchase of food, for the dedication of the Little League Baseball Field on Saturday, June 22, 2013. The motion carried. Jim Brennan indicated he had two signs made, that will be displayed at the ball field indicating "No Alcoholic Beverages, Smoking, Drugs, or Weapons Allowed. Violators will be Prosecuted. Tom Feldhusen made a motion, seconded by Dan Mitchell, to approve \$90.00 to pay for the two signs. The motion carried.

2. Jim Brennan(J.B.) indicated the Recreation Committee (R.C.)added one new member. There are now nine members on the R.C. He also indicated they are looking into CCI Grants for our Community. The Little League Ball field is to be dedicated on Saturday, June 22, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. J.B. encouraged the P.C. members to attend. J.B. summarized what was discussed at the last Recreation Committee as well as ideas the R.C. has for future improvements. He also spoke about the need to generate some revenue in the form of a millage (.2 of a mill for three years) to guarantee some revenue to accomplish some good R.C. projects in the future.
3. J.B. reminded the P.C. that the Road Millage was coming up for renewal. Dan Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Bill Bergin, that the P.C. support the Recreation Committee's idea of a tax increase of .2 tenths of a mill, for recreational purposes only. The motion carried. The P.C. members thanked Jim Brennan for all the work he has done.
 - C) Community Services: Nothing To Report;
 - D) RM School: Dan Mitchell reported work continues on the Roof of the RM School. This was made possible with the passage of the recent school millage.
8. Zoning Administrator's Report: The Zoning Administrator's Report from May 20, 2013 to June 17, 2013 is attached to the minutes. Jim Brennan made a motion, seconded by Tom Sandblom, to accept the Zoning Administrator's Report as presented and printed. The motion carried. There was P.C. discussion on the need for the Township Board to have a Public Hearing on "Part of Section 29, and part of Section 32, in the South East Corner of Republic Township to be rezoned from Mineral Production to Rural Residential". The P.C. passed a motion on this at the May 20, 2013 meeting and moved it on to the Township Board for them to act on. Jim Brennan will take this to the Township Board for them to act upon.
9. Old Business: Due to the weather challenges our community experienced this winter, the Spring Clean Up will be held in the Fall.
10. New Business:
 - A) Direction for the P.C: Chairperson Mitchell stressed that the P.C. needs to be more proactive with ideas for planning for community improvements. The P.C. then needs to send these ideas on to the Township Board.
11. Meeting with MEDC: Dan Mitchell is attempting to have Jennifer Tucker, from the Mich. Economic Development Corporation, participate in one of our P.C. meetings; also a representative from the Michigan State Extension Center; to help generate ideas and funding for future community improvements.
12. Public Comment: None.
13. Adjourn: The meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Bergin, Recording Secretary