



PLANNING COMMISSION

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1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call: A meeting of the Osceola County Planning Commission (Commission) was called to order by Rich Jacobs, Chair, at the Osceola County Courthouse on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Rich led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Commission members were present:

- Larry Emig
- Ken Ford
- Peggy Graham
- Rich Jacobs, Chair
- Jerry Lindquist
- Aaron Mitchell
- Alan Tiedt
- Greg White

Other individuals present included Dan Massy, Recording Secretary, and two members of the public. A third member of the public joined the meeting soon after it started.

2. Brief Public Comments: Members of the public were given time later in the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda: Ken requested that Doug Miller, member of the public be allowed to make a presentation regarding the proposed Michigan Potash Company project. The Commission felt this would be fine.

(18-08) *Motion by Alan Tiedt, supported by Jerry Lindquist, to approve the agenda with the noted addition. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. Approval of the Minutes of January 17, 2018: Minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting were reviewed. No discrepancies were noted.

(18-09) *Motion by Larry Emig, supported by Greg White, to approve the minutes as presented. Recommendation carried unanimously.*

5. Financial Report: Dan presented the Financial Report. There were no questions and the report was placed on file.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Connect Nation: Dan provided a copy of the article "Report: Osceola internet access among worst in nation" that appeared in the Cadillac News. He also provided background on information in the article and the Federal Communication Commission's upcoming Connect America Fund auction.

b. Nestle Water Update: Dan provided two articles from the Cadillac News, “*DEQ approves Nestles’s water withdrawal application*” and “*Michigan House seeks to give large waters users control over*”. Jim Maturen, member of the public and former county commissioner, was given time to address the Commission regarding his concerns regarding Nestle's water withdrawal. He provided a copy of the newsletter “*Michigan Turkey Tracks*” which contained a related article.

State issues were also discussed. Legislation is pending to increase the bond to drill an oil and gas well from \$35,000 to \$50,000; however, the legislation does not include water. The Commission felt water wells should also be included. HB 5638 which involves revising the process for permitting large quantity water withdrawals was discussed. It makes the permitting process more lenient. It is now being sent to the Senate for approval.

(18-10) *Motion by Larry Emig, supported by Ken Ford, to send a letter to our State representatives stating our position. Recommendation carried unanimously.*

Ken will work with Dan, who will draft the letter. A final draft will be sent to all Commission members for comment before it is presented to the Chair for signature.

c. Michigan Potash Company Update: Dan provided two articles related to the Michigan Potash Company project. Ken provided one article regarding water use related to Nestle Waters North America and Michigan Potash LLC. Doug Miller, member of the public, provided a PowerPoint presentation concerning issues several groups have with the Michigan Potash Company (MPC) project.

The Commission discussed the MPC project for an extended period of time. Although employment and investment were considered the project is viewed primarily in a negative manner.

d. Burdell Township Rezoning: Dan told the Commission that the group opposing the rezoning on Diamond Lake had obtained enough signatures to put the rezoning issue on the August ballot.

7. New Business & Correspondence

a. Recycling: Dan provided a handout and spoke about Michigan’s new recycling initiative. He pointed out that as compared to other states Michigan’s recycling rate and tipping fees are among the lowest in the nation. As part of the initiative we may be updating our Solid Waste Plan.

b. Village of LeRoy/LeRoy Township Joint Recreation Plan: Notification was received from the Village of LeRoy notifying the Commission that they have adopted a joint Recreation Plan with LeRoy Township.

8. Extended Public Comment: None

9. Adjournment

(18-11) *Motion by Alan Tiedt, supported by Aaron Mitchell, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned by Rich Jacobs, Chair, at approximately 5:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission is June 27, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the County Courthouse.