

VAN BUREN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

219 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 201, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Telephone (269) 657-8253 Fax (269) 657-0579

September 27, 2023

6:30 pm

Minutes

1. Call to order & Attendance – called to order @ 6:30pm

Present – Celinda Gilmore, Tom Motycka, Scott Cedarquist, Kurt Doroh, Pam Stermer, Tony Hemenway, Jan Petersen, Barbara Rose, Will Pugsley

Absent – Alyssa Hosbein, Ray Martin

2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Motycka, support by Cedarquist to approve 9/27/23 agenda with amendment to approve August meeting minutes (not May), approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from ~~May 24~~, 2023 – Motion by Motycka, support by Gilmore to approve 8/23/23 minutes, approved unanimously with Cedarquist abstaining due to absence from that meeting.

4. Public Comment – none

5. Reports

- a. County Commissioner – Doroh reported VBC approved \$956K for 3 years ARPA funds for kids programming, VBISD is running programming. VBC buying 8 police cars this year because none were purchased last year. County Finance Director position is open again. There have been meetings about Palisades to determine if it will open again.
- b. Land Preservation – no meeting
- c. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission – no meeting
- d. Local Visits – Rose reported Covert is looking at all plans and zoning & gave an update on the sewer system status.

Motycka reported on Decatur Township that there is a final ORV draft, Savion Solar is suing the township on how the ordinance was handled & a moratorium was adopted to not let any other solar companies in going forward.

Doroh stated that the ORV usage issue might come up at the county level, townships would be able to opt out.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Training opportunities & MSUE Citizen Planner course – our board should start spreading the word on the upcoming training available in the spring for our area boards.
- b. Coordination of local visits – document passed around at the meeting to show commissioners who is responsible for which entities in the county for the purpose of local visits, etc.

7. New Business

- a. Hamilton Township Zoning Ordinance (Small Solar) Text Amendment – Motion by Doroh, support by Rose to concur with the amendment; discussion on decommissioning & that the ordinance is well-written; unanimously approved.
- b. Ray Martin resignation – Motion by Cedarquist, support by Motycka to accept emailed resignation; unanimously approved.
- c. Privilege of the Floor – discussion on keeping this item on the agenda so board members can contribute information on off-agenda topics and general information sharing and ask questions. No action needed.

8. Adjournment – Chair Petersen adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Pam Stermer, Planning Commission Board Member

Next Meeting: October 25, 2023, at 6:30pm