

Jonesfield Township

Richard Bluemer, Chairman

Jonesfield Township Planning Commission

January 8, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Bluemer called the regular meeting of the Jonesfield Township Planning Commission to order at 6:07 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bluemer, Mike Kenny, Mike Keenan, Jr. and John Siler, Jr.

MEMBER ABSENT: - Kathy Nock, Commission Secretary (See Below)

GUEST: Larry Tibbits

Pledge to the Flag

Public Comment: None

Chairman Bluemer called for selection of commission membership and election of officers. Dick Bluemer and Mike Keenan's terms on the Planning Commission each expire in June, 2018. Dick and Mike expressed interest to continue with Dick as Chairman. It was called to a vote with Mike Kenny motioning and seconded by Mike Keenan. Carried. Though Kathy Nock was not present, Mike Kenny motioned and John Siler seconded to have Kathy serve as commission secretary representing the township board. Carried. The formal process requires the supervisor to make member recommendations to the full township board's for approval. Tibbits will pursue this with the board.

Tibbits volunteered to take the meeting minutes in Kathy's absence. When the draft minutes are ready, they will be given to Dick and Kathy to final before the next meeting.

The October 9, 2017 planning commission minute's approval was motioned by John Siler and seconded by Mike Kenny. Carried.

The township website, Jonesfield.com, will be modified to show planning commission members and terms, meeting agendas and minutes and wind and solar ordinances when they are available.

Chairman Bluemer gave an update on the progress with Spicer Group in the development of the Wind and Solar ordinances. Spicer has been formally authorized to proceed and will produce a draft of the wind ordinance with a week or so. Dick will make copies for the commission members and schedule a meeting to meet with Spicer to edit the draft ordinance so it works for Jonesfield Township. This special session is expected before February 1. The whole process of finalizing the Wind and Solar ordinances is to be completed by April 1.

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The rest of the meeting focused on going through Jonesfield Township's Zoning Ordinance to see what changes might be warranted for the five (5) year update recommendation to the board. Specific issues that were discussed is the possibility of specifying the number of residential parking spaces that should be required so that cars are not parked on people's lawn. Another area is controlling where free ranging animals should or should not be allowed. Chickens and other fowl are becoming popular in many communities including our township. Signing was also discussed as to what the township may have jurisdiction over and where the Saginaw County Road Commission and MDOT have jurisdiction.

Rather than try and wordsmith new zoning language as a group, members will further review the existing zoning ordinances and if they believe new language needs to be developed, each member will bring draft language back to the commission at the next meeting to complete the ordinance update leading to a public hearing. Other township's zoning language will be reviewed as this effort moves forward.

Tentatively, when the wind ordinance session is scheduled with Spicer, the plan is to schedule that session in the morning and devote the afternoon to finalizing the draft of the zoning ordinance. Larry will work with Kathy to begin the draft changes needed in the revised ordinance to meet current law. This will include edits to the current homeowner wind units to differentiate them from the large commercial wind farms that are currently being addressed.

Mike Kenny made a motion, seconded by John Siler to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Carried.

Next regular meeting will be moved from April 9 to April 11, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. Larry will take care of the required public posting

Larry Tibbits for Secretary Nock