

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott, Joseph Brehler, Blake Mulder and Barbara Rogers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Terrance Augustine and Jane Whitacre

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jeremy Whittum and Brian Droscha; Ruthann Clarke, Travis Keeton, Chris Garrison, Morgan Feldpausch, Claudine Williams, and John Fuentes

The May 11, 2022 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Lautzenheiser.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Drain Commissioner, Ruthann Clarke, was present to provide the Drain Commission's semi-annual update. It was reported that the 2021 Annual Report was included in the meeting materials for the Committee's review. A summary of the petition activity and large maintenance projects was also provided for the Committee's review. There was also discussion regarding the Bank Intercounty and Briggs Extension Intercounty. At a Hearing of Practicability, held in April 2022, a project was determined to be practicable. An engineering firm was selected by the Intercounty Board. It is anticipated that a project may be significant given the development within the District. Ms. Clarke reported that additional information regarding project scope and cost is expected to take 18 months to develop. There was also discussion regarding a Court of Appeals decision regarding the proposed addition of Jackson County to the Springbrook Drainage District. The court ruled in favor of Jackson County, opposing the addition. It was reported that a project will proceed for the existing Springbrook Drain, within Eaton County only. Discussion held.

Parks Director, Travis Keeton, was present to provide the Department's monthly update. An update was provided on seasonal staffing, and the beginning of the summer recreation and programming season. It was also reported that the proposed special use application has been finalized and is being submitted for legal review. Discussion held.

A legal opinion regarding the authority of the Board of Commissioners to re-organize the Parks system was presented and reviewed. Three available options were outlined in the opinion: the status quo of the appointed Parks Commission system; the Board of County Park Trustee system, which designates the Board of Road Commissioners to serve as trustees; and a Public Recreation system which could be operated directly by the Board of Commissioners. Discussion held.

Commissioner Droscha, a current Board of Commissioners representative on the Parks Commission indicated his position that the matter should not be considered until after the Commissioners address the funding inadequacies for Parks. He further indicated his support for pursuing a Parks Millage as recommended by the Friends of Eaton County Parks. He further indicated he did not feel the Board of Commissioners had the interest to administer the Parks operation at the same level the current Parks Commission does. Further discussion held. No action taken.

Construction Code Enforcement Director, Chris Garrison, was present to provide the Department's monthly update. The monthly reports were included in the meeting materials for the Committee's review. It was reported that based on recommendations received from the State while processing the transfer of enforcement administration for the City of Charlotte in 2021 the department is working with legal counsel to draft a proposed consolidated County ordinance for enforcement of the State Construction Code under PA 230 to replace the individual ordinances approved by the Board of Commissioners. Discussion held. A proposed ordinance will be presented for consideration at the next regular meeting. Further discussion held.

The monthly report on behalf of the Designated Implementing Agency was submitted for the Committee's review by the Resource Recovery Coordinator. It was noted that the recent collection event had a 20% no-show rate for scheduled appointments. Discussion held. There was also discussion regarding the solid waste planning process, local unit recycling and grant programs and the County Solid Waste ordinance.

Community Development Director, Claudine Williams, was present to provide the Department's monthly update.

A resolution to approve DCA 5-22-1, as recommended by the Planning Commission was presented for consideration.

Commissioner Mott moved to recommend the approval of the resolution approving DCA 5-22-1 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

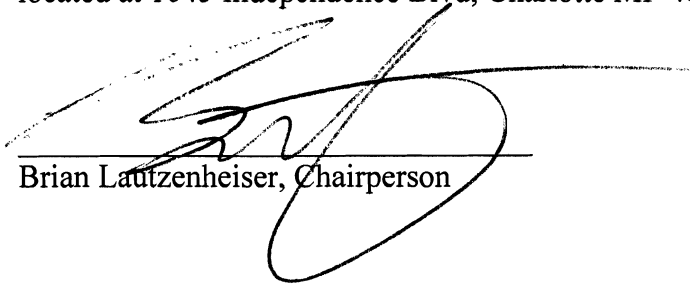
Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend approval of the resolution approving a Michigan County Veterans Service grant application to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was reported that the 2021 Annual Report of the Planning Commission was included in the meeting materials for the Committee's review. It was also reported that the recent decision of the Board of Appeals filed by Hamlin Township was not appealed to Circuit Court within the statutory time requirement.

There was also discussion regarding the work of the Zoning Ordinance subcommittee to develop language to be considered providing for marihuana facilities should a township under the jurisdiction of the County zoning ordinance decide on its authority to permit such facilities within a township. It was also discussed that the County does not possess the authority to permit the activity but must provide for the use within the zoning ordinance in the event a local unit exercise its authority to permit the activity.

Chairperson Lautzenheiser adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held at 9:00am on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 in the Board of Commissioners Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blyd, Charlotte MI 48813.



Brian Lautzenheiser, Chairperson