

**Colfax Township, Weldon Township and
Village of Thompsonville
Community Joint Planning Commission**

Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Sue Meredith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call: Jack Richter, Shelley Greene, Steve Heller, Sue Meredith, Pat Workman and Craig Meredith. Absent: Peggy Minster (excused), Marty Lonn (excused), Bryan Matthews (excused), Don Suchocki (excused), Debra Franke (excused), Eugene Allen (unexcused). Guests: Harry Burkholder, Ron Evitts, Ron Hitesman, Charles Mayer and Dan Rusch.

Citizen Matters. None.

Agenda Additions/Corrections. Agenda approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes. Jack moved to accept the March 1 minutes as presented, seconded by Craig. Ayes: all; motion carried.

Master Plan Project Session. Harry provided a progress report on the past four months and next steps for the township boards and village council. He expected to have a draft of the master plan at the May 3 meeting. Once the planning commission agrees on the draft, it will be sent to the township boards and village council for their approval. Upon approval, the planning commission is to publish a notice to those who received the Intent to Plan letter and that begins the 63-day public comment period. Following that period, the planning commission approves the draft master plan (or doesn't), holds a public hearing and then submits it to the townships and village for approval. This timing places adoption of the master plan in mid-summer. Harry then reviewed comments from the public open house for the group's consideration. In some cases the intent of the comments was unclear, and other comments required funding which is not currently available. Comments were incorporated into the draft master plan where appropriate. Mr. Mayer questioned the natural/wildlife corridors outlined in brown color on the future land use map. It was explained that it is not a zoning map or a representation of the Natural Rivers setback but is a visual reference for various waterways. Harry led discussion on the future land use map and reminded the group it is a general vision for the future and can always be changed. After discussion and modifications, the group selected a map to work with going forward. Harry will bring a revised map and draft master plan to the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

Budget/Ordinance Amendment. Jack reported the Colfax Township board amended the ordinance and that action was also taken by Weldon Township and the Village.

Zoning Administrator. Shelley said one additional letter was received. Ads were placed in the Record-Patriot, Cadillac News and Insider. Sue appointed Jack and Pat to develop a job description for presentation at the May meeting. Sue, Peggy and Shelley will work on a hiring policy.

Insurance. Shelley provided copies of Burnham & Flower's proposal without the premium. Jack suggested tabling the issue until the May meeting and review together with quotes being pursued by Don and Geno. The group agreed to invite Jeff McCray from Burnham & Flower to the next meeting to answer questions the group may have.

Legal Advisor. Ongoing.

Training. Sue handed out details on the Placemaking Summit scheduled for May 21 in Traverse City. Anyone interested should email Sue for registration. Shelley provided information on tuition reimbursement through ParPlan.

Annual Report. Shelley provided copies to each entity at their March meetings. Sue and Jack approved the invoice submitted for preparation of the report.

Printer/Copier. Shelley presented prices and features of several models including print cost per page. Pat moved to approve purchase by Shelley of an HP Officejet Pro 8600 Plus from Staples in the amount of \$229 plus a USB cable, seconded by Jack. Ayes: all; motion carried.

New Business

GT Band Grant Application. Shelley felt she did not have enough information to apply for a grant at this time. Research online appeared to indicate GTB grants were awarded for specific projects. Craig was aware of other entities that received grants for planning and zoning and will pursue application for the December cycle.

Public Comments. Mr. Mayer made suggestions to involve the community and expressed concern that the draft master plan process is a format rather than a plan for Thompsonville. Mr. Evitts suggested Lindy Road as a light industry development corridor since it will become a Class A road in the near future and that private road development follow utilities and fire department requirements.

Adjournment. Pat moved to adjourn, seconded by Jack. Next regular meeting is May 3. Meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Greene
Secretary

Minutes are proposed until approved at the next meeting.