

MISSAUKEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes

County Annex Meeting Room

October 26, 2016 5:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Hartshorne-Shafer (Staff), Charles Belser, Craig Fisher, Bruce Miller, Susan Schwager, Dean Vivian

OTHERS PRESENT: Precia Garland, Missaukee County Administrator

The meeting was call to order at 5:05pm. The August 24, 2016 minutes were approved following a motion by Bruce with support from Charles. All in favor. The agenda for the October 26, 2016 meeting was approved following the addition of Ben Jeffs update under Old Business #5. Motion by Dean with support from Bruce. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Capital Improvement Program (handouts provided): Precia explained that the Capital Improvement Program will be on a five year cycle and will focus primarily on Administration/Facilities, Sheriff Department/Jail, Information Technology, and Parks, with departments submitting projects which will be evaluated based upon need and then prioritized. Establishment of a plan will facilitate advance planning for major expenditures. The plan will be prepared by the Administrator and subsequently reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to review by the Board of Commissioners, per the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008. The Planning Commission will determine whether or not to recommend the plan for adoption by the Board of Commissioners; the approval process will include a public hearing. A project can still be approved even if it was not included in the plan; an example of an extenuating circumstance was Sheriff's Department transport van wreck; the van replacement is an unplanned expense.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ConnectMI/Broadband update: Charles reported that a Consumer's Energy representative told him that "mini-cells" will be placed on poles near his cabins (within the next couple of years) and Verizon will cover all of the meters and eventually all meters will be read via text by Consumers. ATI is beginning to light up fiber but no news yet regarding providing service in Missaukee County. An email from Tom Stephenson indicated that Charter should be able to begin offering their low-cost broadband by December; families with children in the National School Lunch Program and seniors aged 65 and older who receive Supplemental Security Income program benefits that meet other specific criteria may be eligible for this program. Also, the Ardis Missaukee Library, McBain Library, and the Lake City Chamber of Commerce were all invited to participate in the ConnectMI Broadband Certification process and favorable responses were received from both the Ardis Missaukee Library and the Chamber of Commerce; each expressed interest in partnering with the Planning Commission to work toward this goal.
2. Ordinance amendment update: Reference documents are being collected and filed to document the process of ordinance amendment, per the MSUE checklist. Process is same as ordinance creation, including a public hearing prior to adoption.
4. Recreation Plan update: Researching possible joint or coordinated planning opportunities.
5. Parks/ Ben Jeffs update: Mimi attended the Parks board meeting held on October 13th and reported via email that day use fees were down from last year but more season passes were sold. Crooked Lake Park fees were down from last summer but the Wooden Canoe Club festival brought in a lot last summer. Overall it was a successful summer. A resident in the Ben Jeffs Park area has been in contact with Linda and is optimistic that with some work, coordination, and planning, it will be possible to bring Ben Jeffs up to its potential, once the right formula has been established.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Due to the Planning Commission's required review of the Capital Improvement Program and the time that will be required by the Administrator to prepare the report prior to the Planning Commission review, a motion was made by Charles with support from Bruce to move the December 14th meeting to January 25th. All in favor. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25th 2017 at 5pm in the Annex meeting room.
2. Dean noted that with the change of meeting from December to January, tonight's meeting will be his last due to his retirement from the Missaukee County Board of Commissioners. He was unsure as to who his replacement on the Planning Commission will be; in January of each year the Board Chair will appoint Commissioners to the various committees and Boards that they are involved in.

Objectives to complete for January 25, 2017 meeting:

1. Make contact with newly-appointed Board member in January to bring up to speed on planning matters
2. Follow up on ConnectMI contacts (library and Chamber)
3. Continue work on Ordinance amendment and Recreation Plan update

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

P.A. 116 – none

Public Comment** None

ADJOURN: 6:25pm

NEXT MEETING: January 25, 2017 5:00pmPublic Comment Rules authorized by the Missaukee County Planning Commission:** Each person recognized by the Chairman shall state their name for the record and will have a limit of 3 minutes to state an opinion. All opinions will be duly noted by the Commission & if requiring an answer will be addressed by the chairman first or his designee or in writing. The audience is asked not to interrupt at any time during public comment.