

JAMESTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013PM

7:00 PM

**UNAPPROVED
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER -

Webster, acting chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL -

Dykstra, Keppel, Webster, Woltjer, and Tacoma were present.
Larabel was absent with notice.

INVOCATION -

Dykstra gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 2013 MINUTES -

Keppel commented that his name had been spelled "Kessel" in the August 20, 2013 – page three.

Tacoma moved and Dykstra seconded that the Minutes for the August 20, 2013 meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED – UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 AGENDA -

Dykstra moved and Keppel seconded that the September 17, 2013 agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED – UNANIMOUSLY.

GENERAL CITIZEN COMMENTS REGARDING NON-AGENDA ITEMS -

None.

NEW BUSINESS -

None.

OLD BUSINESS -

* Master Plan -

Webster asked Planner Ransford for any comments he had on the Master Plan Revisions following the Township Attorney Review.

Ransford explained that if the Commissioners were comfortable with the wording recommended by the Township Attorney, they could come to a consensus and recommend the Master Plan revisions to the Township Board.

Webster brought up a concern she had with the wording "adult uses" on page thirty-two of the Master Plan Revision.

Ransford replied that the wording meant strip clubs, etc.

Webster pointed out that the wording on page thirty-two in the document specifically instructed that the Planning Commission and Township Board should periodically review, revise, and frequently update the zoning ordinance to address needs resulting from changing trends, such as adult uses, mineral removal, etc.

Ransford affirmed this as correct. He added that the challenge of mineral rights would be big in the future and that the three things mentioned in the Master Plan revisions on page thirty-two (adult uses, mineral removal, and wireless communication facilities) are the most popular for frequent review.

Webster asked if the Commissioners had any questions.

Keppel stated that he had wondered about the terminology "adult uses" as well, but that his questions had been sufficiently answered.

Dykstra asked for clarification regarding the Michigan Right to Farm Act, mentioned on page three.

Ransford replied that it simply meant the Michigan Right to Farm Act would trump any rulings the Master Plan document.

Webster requested a general consensus from the Commissioners.

Dykstra commented that he had read the Mater Plan revisions submitted by the Township Attorney carefully and liked what he saw.

Webster asked for a motion.

Woltjer moved and Dykstra seconded to approve the suggestions given by the Township Attorney and send it on to the Township Board, as it stands.

MOTION CARRIED – UNANIMOUSLY.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY -

None.

CORRESPONDENCE -

None.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENT -

Tacoma wanted to update the Commissioners regarding the Township Board's meeting, as concerning the Planning Commission's recommendations for private family cemeteries being permitted in Jamestown Township. After much discussion, the Supervisor had decided to let Michigan Law stand, as pertaining to Jamestown Township. Tacoma mentioned that the Camminga family were in attendance at the Jamestown Board Meeting.

Woltjer pointed out that if there were no restrictions, a cemetery could be located anywhere.

Webster asked for Commissioner Tacoma's further concerns.

Tacoma stated that one issue they had discussed at the Jamestown Board Meeting was the possible need to set up a trust fund to provide for having to move existing graves someday.

Dykstra reiterated that if there were no restrictions in place, cemeteries, mausoleums, etc. could be anywhere – even right out in front of a property.

Tacoma emphatically concurred.

Dykstra mentioned that was the same as with mining rights.

Tacoma suggested that this was true only on agricultural property, however.

Ransford had the concern of the possibilities that this would bring if someone wanted to open a memorial estate business in Jamestown Township.

Tacoma stated that he could not foresee that happening for at least another fifty years – cemetery lots being very inexpensive in Jamestown Township.

Keppel concurred, saying there are many cemetery lots available in Jamestown Township, as of yet.

Tacoma agreed and stated that he had simply wanted to report to the Planning Commissioners the situation, as left by the Township Board.

Webster asked for any further questions from the Commissioners. There were none. She then requested an update regarding next month's agenda.

Ransford informed the Commissioners that they would be covering a citizen's request to sell guns from his home, another review of the plats, and the possibility of the discussion of two businesses' requests to expand this fall.

Dykstra mentioned that the Meijer Corporation was looking to build fifty new stores.

Webster asked if Meijer still owned the property on 32nd Avenue.

Ransford replied that they did. He also mentioned that the Commissioners would most likely look at the M-6/32nd Avenue Corridor Overlay again next month, as well.

Webster requested a motion for adjournment.

Dykstra moved and Tacoma seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED – UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:

Sandra VanAntwerp