

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
ERIE TOWNSHIP  
ERIE, MICHIGAN  
Regular Meeting  
February 16, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Bill Jacobs called to order the Regular Meeting of the Erie Township Planning Commission on February 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Township office, Erie Road, Erie, Michigan.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Bill Jacobs	Present
Dave Cousino	Present
Dr. Larry Guinn	Absent
Dan Taylor	Present
Paul Perry	Absent
Robert Schwartz	Present
Manny Evola	Present

Also present: Mike Demski and Recording Secretary, Kristine Crammond.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Dave Cousino made a motion to approve the Agenda. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- a. Dan Taylor made a motion to nominate Bill Jacobs as Chairperson. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried. Bill Jacobs accepted the position.
- b. Robert Schwartz made a motion to nominate Dan Taylor as Vice Chairperson. Manny Evola seconded. Motion carried. Dan Taylor accepted the position.
- c. Manny Evola made a motion to nominate Paul Perry as Secretary. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried. Paul Perry was not in attendance to accept or decline the position.
- d. Robert Schwartz made a motion to have Kristine Crammond continue as Recording Secretary. Dan Taylor seconded. Motion carried. Kristine Crammond accepted.

**6. Committee Appointments (Ordinance Updates Committee)**

Dan Taylor made a motion to appoint Paul Perry, Robert Schwartz and Bill Jacobs to the Ordinance Update Committee. Dave Cousino seconded. Motion carried.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dave Cousino made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 Planning Commission Special Meeting. Robert Schwartz seconded. Motion carried.

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Budget Report**

Bill Jacobs reported the budget looks good. There have not been any meetings.

Manny Evola made a motion to approve the budget ending 01/31/2021 and place on file.

Dan Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

### **B. Public Comment**

Diane La Plante commented on the great progress Suder Avenue Storage is making. She stated the fencing around the property looks really good.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Update – Temperance Solar**

Mike Demski stated the construction of Temperance Solar is complete. There was some concern regarding the trees and plants that were installed. The property owner received a warranty from the company that installed the trees and bushes. The Township has a copy of the warranty.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Zoning Ordinance 117- Proposed Updates**

Bill Jacobs would like the Ordinance sub-committee to look items 1-3.

#### **1. Residential permitted occupancy in Agricultural Districts.**

There was discussion regarding two-family housing in AG property.

#### **2. Agri-tourism definition and requirements**

Within an agricultural operation, any activity carried out on a farm or ranch that allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment or educational purposes to view or enjoy rural activities.

#### **3. Yard Setbacks**

Mike Demski stated the Ordinance needs clarification as to how setbacks are measured.

### **B. Decision of current State Marijuana laws**

Bill Jacobs stated we may want to revisit Marijuana laws again.

Bill Jacobs stated the last time Marijuana laws were looked at was for Medical Marijuana when surveys were mailed out to registered voters. The response was 60% against and 40% in favor. Once Recreational marijuana was approved in the state, the Planning commission held a public meeting and it was decided at that time that Erie did not want to allow the growing, processing, transporting, testing or retail sales.

### **C. Downtown Revitalization Update**

Dan Taylor reported on Mannik & Smith as it relates to their architectural drawing and their vision on Downtown Erie. Dan stated that it will be summer before anything comes our way. Dan stated the Township Board gave 15,000 to the Down Town Revitalization project that would off-set Mannik & Smith fees.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane La Plante stated Temperance Solar has done a great job. It has been amazing to watch the construction of the solar farm.

**12. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS**

Dan Taylor thanked Manny Evola for joining the Planning Commission.

Robert Schwartz commented on the numbers of barns that are falling down. He expressed safety concerns.

**13. MEETING DATES**

Tuesday	March 9, 2021	Township Board Meeting	7pm
Tuesday	March 16, 2021	Planning Commission	7pm
Sunday	March 21, 2021	Park – Spring walk through	12pm

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Robert Schwartz made a motion to adjourn. Dan Taylor seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kristine Crammond  
Recording Secretary