

# MINUTES BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 --- 7:30 p.m.

Big Rapids Township Hall, 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307

## I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 P.M.

Chairman Amanda Wethington called the regular meeting of the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission to order at the township hall on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Zach Cook, Mary Davis, Gordon Oliver, Bob Hampson, Carman Bean and Amanda Wethington. Mark Sweppenheiser is absent. The record shows there is a quorum. Also Present: Zoning Administrator and Recording Secretary, Brent Mason.

## III. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Mrs. Wethington asked if any of the Commission members had known conflicts of interest with any of the items on the agenda for this meeting. No one indicated that a conflict of interest existed.

## IV. MINUTES:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the April 9, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Bean made a motion to approve the April 9, 2019 minutes as submitted. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS:

The Public hearing for the 2020 – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan commenced at 7:35 p.m. by the call of Mrs. Wethington. No members of the public were present to make any comment. Mrs. Wethington closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Bean made a motion to accept and approve the 2020 – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Hampson supported that motion. Mrs. Wethington asked the members if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, she called the question. The motion carried unanimously with six ayes.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Mason presented the members with a copy of the 2020 Draft Master Plan and mentioned the areas of concern that he has highlighted in the draft. He requested to publish a notice of intent to review the Master Land Use Plan and notify the adjoining communities and utilities that provide service to the township. Mr. Bean asked if the Master Plan would be posted on the website. Mr. Mason stated that it would be available on the website. Mr. Mason is hoping that he will receive some interest from the local residents and the airport expansion effort.

Mr. Bean requested that an aerial view with an overlay map be part of the proposed project so people could more easily see where buildings and physical features are located. Mr. Mason mentioned that he is already redesigning the future land use map and there are some changes that should be made to more accurately represent our area. The agricultural designation currently offers the most options for land usage and provides the greatest benefit to the development of the area while still providing for the values that we desire. He reiterated that determining land use area it is a juggling act because those uses can change and move rapidly.

Mr. Bean made a motion to publish the intent to review the Big Rapids Township Master Plan. Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with six ayes.

Mr. Mason reviewed current legislative information and educational opportunities that are coming to the area. He did remind the members of the training opportunity at The Shack in Jugville next Thursday, put on by the Michigan Township Association. Currently there are four people from the township attending, but the session is still open if any others wish to attend. Mr. Bean asked if the topic of recreational marijuana would be discussed. Mr. Mason answered that he believed that subject was on the agenda.

Mr. Mason mentioned that the State may approve emergency rules providing for recreational marijuana establishments in the next month. It was affirmed that the local jurisdictions do have to opt out of the provision of recreational marijuana establishments if they do not want those facilities in their jurisdiction. The members did discuss that the Board of Trustees would need to make a decision soon so that the Planning Commission could develop language if needed.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further business for the Planning Commission, Mrs. Wethington adjourned the meeting at 7:47p.m.

Motion to approve the Planning Commission minutes of May 14, 2019 by: Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ . Seconded by: Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. Roll call vote carried with \_\_\_\_\_ ayes.

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Brent R. Mason, Recording Secretary  
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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June 11, 2019  
Date Approved