

DeWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820
March 31, 2014 Joint Township Board Minutes/Planning Commission Minutes

The Special Meeting of the DeWitt Charter Township Board and the DeWitt Charter Township Planning Commission was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

This Special Meeting was set by the Township Board at their February 24, 2014 meeting. This meeting was posted to be held in a workshop format to discuss Township priorities and the status of existing projects.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Supervisor Rick Galardi, Clerk Diane Mosier, Trustees Johanna Balzer, Steve Musselman (also Planning Commissioner), Brian Ross

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Treasurer Phyllis Daggy and Trustee Seeger

PLANNING COMM MEMBERS PRESENT Chair Adam Bertran, Vice Chair Bruce Keilen, Secretary Tim Fair, and Commissioners Steve Gobbo, Kristen Krol, Abby Lorenzen, Marsha Zimmerman

PLANNING COMM ABSENT Commissioner Dale Daley

Also Present: Planner Tory Niewiadomski, Planner Brett Wittenberg, State Representative Tom Leonard, and citizens.

AGENDA **Fair moved, Ross seconded, to approve the Agenda, as presented. Motion voted and carried.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT None.

Supervisor Galardi called for self-introductions of the members present. He explained that the meeting and discussion will be utilizing a “round table” format, which will allow orderly comments by each member present.

Status Update of Completed Projects

Planner Niewiadomski reviewed his written update of the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Development Plan and the priorities identified in the 2012 Joint Board/Planning Commission meeting. The status of each was discussed, with four of the nine priorities identified as now complete, and five either partially completed or ongoing.

Planner Niewiadomski explained that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss and prioritize the Comprehensive Development Plan proposed amendments as well as the work program for staff and the Planning Commission to focus on during 2014 and 2015. He noted that staff has provided an update on the Comprehensive Development Plan Amendments that are not completed, and added initiatives based on current needs. He reviewed the work program items shown in the their staff report.

Planner Wittenberg reviewed potential Ordinance Amendments and classified them as high, medium, or low priorities

as outlined in the staff report.

Those present discussed with the Planners their priority ranking, as compared with the priorities presented by staff. Both the Work Program priorities and the Ordinance Amendment priorities were discussed. The information gleaned from the discussion will be used by staff to develop the priority rankings.

Round table discussion/comments included the following topics and/or opinions: 1)the 425 on the Airport property appears to have sparked a plan for significant development 2)the community needs a Library 3)the landscaping requirements for development may need to be looked at 4)the legal obligations of the Planning Commission and its members should be included in future training efforts 5)mining regulations are a significant issue in our community 6)the Board and Planning Commission members are appreciative of staff and their guidance 7)the Township's has several areas where we need to be prettier (Web Site, Email Blasts) 8)the focus on public safety has kept our community safe, which attracts both residents and development 9)the school districts are also bringing families to our community, but without feeling safe, the school districts would not be enough to continue community growth 10)keep the taxes low so people can afford to live here 11)expand online payments for residents convenience 12)continue to be business friendly to promote balanced growth 13)adding rooftops will be the key to additional commercial/community development 14)keeping the rural feel while continuing to grow will be a challenge 15)the community leaders perception of development and community growth has changed 16)additional senior housing options need to be a priority for our community because statistics show that approximately 33% of our community will soon be senior citizens, and all families are experiencing the need for local options for their seniors 17)not everyone in the community is excited about future growth.

Supervisor Galardi and Clerk Mosier provided a handout about the upcoming Fire and Police Millage renewal and briefly discussed how members can assist with this effort.

Supervisor Galardi commented on the benefits of the Strategic Plan, and Manager Taylor's continued implementation of the plan.

Supervisor Galardi and Planning Commission Chair Bertram made closing comments and thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.