

Chassell Township Planning Commission  
January 5, 2017  
Chassell Fire Hall

Attendance: Brian Waters, Keith Meyers, Dan Palosaari, Lou Helman, Doug Hamar and Julie Meyers

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the Commission. (moved by Keith, seconded by Dan, unanimously approved).

There was no public comment as no one from the public attended the meeting.

**Abandoned/Dangerous Building Committee:** This discussion will take place during old business.

**Park and Recreation Committee:** Brian discussed the potential opportunity for RV spaces in the park. Scott MacInnes and Chris Holmes have been looking into this. There may be space for around 28 to 30 spaces. Some of this space would include Township owned land at the north end of the park is not currently being mowed.

**Old Business:**

- a. Still seeking candidates for the open seat on the Planning Commission.
- b. Updates/Changes to the 2012-2017 Recreation Plan: Brian encouraged the Commission members to review and suggest needed changes. An updated plan will form the basis for future action and grant requests. Brian gave the example of having exercise areas along the path.
- c. Abandoned/Dangerous Building Ordinance: Keith discussed his work with Scott MacInnes on reviewing the ordinances and brought draft amendments he prepared to the dangerous building ordinance, a draft civil infraction ordinance and a draft blight ordinance. The amendments to the dangerous building ordinance would provide for a three member panel instead of a single hearing officer and would provide for ticketing property owners who do not comply with the final order of the Township Board. The draft civil infraction ordinance would enable ticketing for not only the dangerous building ordinance, but for the draft blight ordinance and the existing abandoned vehicle ordinance. This approach has been very effective in Houghton. Instead of going to court, tickets can be turned over to a collection agency. Scott MacInnes has advised that ticketing has been an effective approach for getting property owners to take action in Houghton. The draft blight ordinance would require that all buildings in the US 41 commercial corridor be painted and sealed as defined in the draft ordinance. Property owners would be provided a one year notice regarding their non-compliance in order to allow them to budget for the expense. This feature came out of a discussion Keith had with Dave Mattson. This would help to assure reasonableness in the treatment of Township residents. If a property owner continues to be noncompliant after one year, they would be subject to receiving tickets as set forth in the draft blight ordinance and as enabled by the draft civil infraction ordinance. Keith also discussed that in reviewing the existing ordinances, he and Scott MacInnes discovered that there is an existing junk vehicle ordinance and that language for ticketing under this ordinance has been included in the draft civil infraction ordinance. Brian indicated his support for junk vehicle ordinance and indicated that we need to have these things on the Internet. Doug

indicated that there should be a process in place for reviewing ordinances every three years which all were in agreement about. Dan indicated his support for the draft ordinances and Brian made the motion that the draft amendments and draft ordinances be approved and forwarded to the Township Board for consideration. It was confirmed that this involves both commercial and residential structures in the corridor. Dan seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously adopted. Other considerations before final adoption by the Township Board included what should constitute the US 41 commercial corridor and timing of enforcement so citizens can paint during times of the year when that can be completed.

#### **New Business:**

Brian was not sure if anyone was able to attend the DNR grant workshop.

The next meeting was set for February 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.