

Minutes

Chassell Township

Planning Commission Meeting

Dated: May 2, 2019
Chassell Fire Hall

1. Attendance: Ericka Malone, Keith Meyers, Steve Spahn, Brian Waters, Peter Torola, Dan Palosaari
2. Call to Order 7:04
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of the Agenda Brian moves, Keith seconds, all aye
5. Reading and Approval of the Minutes Brian moves to approve, Keith seconds, all aye
6. Public Comments-none. John Pekkala and wife present
7. Guest Speaker John Pekkala
 - a. Intro by Keith-John Pekkala, Houghton County Drain Commission. Brought him on to discuss the master plan and ensuring we address flood issues in the township. After the flood-The County Emergency Coordinator signed a letter addressing township officials about drainage issues in the County. Unless our municipality has created a drain commission, local municipalities are responsible for drainage issues.
 - b. Establishing a County Drain is a big project. Current areas of jurisdiction: MDOT has highway jurisdiction, County has road jurisdiction, and private property
 - c. John provided the commission with a handout for establishing a Drain District. Township board can pass a resolution to establish a drain district, give to drain commission, then the County, then County must pass a resolution either cover the bill or requiring a cash deposit to layout the drain district. This may be a good option for the Township to help raise money to fund drainage problems. This will be a large project. The Township would need to determine if we should do it as a millage township wide, or property specific through certain drainage districts.
 - d. County level-long term planning meeting
 - e. One District can have multiple County Drains
 - f. UPEA Master Drainage Plan of Chassell-John Pekkala will provide. No one on the township board was aware of this plan previously.
8. Insurance issues with dog park
 - a. Township board resolution acknowledging the creation of the dog park will be necessary. Committee agrees that this should be brought to the board for approval at next week's meeting.
9. Road Commission Report

- a. No one attended this month.

10. Old Business

- a. Chassell Township Logo -Board to ask Marianna to provide 5 options including strawberries, fish, water, logging as the 4 main categories
- b. Chassell Mercantile Update
 - i. Currently waiting on court date
- c. Historical Trail Update
 - i. Currently waiting on Bessy foundation to see what they will do with grant money
- d. Zoning Ordinance Review
 - i. Met today before meeting, approaching end of the document
- e. Master Plan Committee
 - i. In progress, no new update
- f. Community Center Update
 - i. Owner has drawings, estimates from Air Care, estimate on restrooms, he has plans to bring over what he has and discuss further.
- g. Recreational Marijuana Law - Opt Out?
 - i. On agenda for next week's board meeting
- h. RRC Self-Evaluation
 - i. Signatures sent back to MEDC, everything else is set
- i. Launch Site Engineering Study
 - i. Nothing new, waiting for flood levels to come down

11. New Business

- a. 2018/2023 Recreation Plan Update
 - i. No new info from the DNR
- b. PHFoundation Grant Presentation
 - i. Presentation is Monday at 3:30 at the Portage Health Foundation Conference Room
- c. Risk Reduction Grant
 - i. We have until the end of the month. Money is available to put GPS data into google maps, working with Michigan Tech. Township Insurance is on board.
- d. Dog Park Info & Name Contest
 - i. Teachers approached Steve Spahn about the naming contest. Plan to have school narrow down to 5 names and the commission will select a final name. Commission to provide a prize to the winner and announcement at Strawberry Festival.
 - ii. 3 North Country Trail Sawyers with Keith cleared going down to the dog park so construction can start. Need to find a way to get brush to the dump. Firepit firewood available for the taking, Brian will ask Lynn to post it on the website.
- e. Old Ice Rink
 - i. Converting to a parking area for the fitness trail and baseball since

it is currently unused space. Plan to bring to the board next week.

f. Strawberry Festival Raffle

i. Rail Trail in Bay City area on TV-A lot of match was from fundraisers, Brian had an idea to raffle off a bike during Strawberry Festival to help raise funds. \$540 bike sold to us by Downwind for \$200.

g. Determination from the building inspection on the old gas station. It has been determined to be a dangerous building. We will need to start the hearing process. Letter will be presented to the board next week.

Next meeting date - June 6, 2019 7pm

Adjourn 8:40