

# MINUTES

## Chassell Township Planning Commission Meeting

Dated: January 7, 2021

Chassell Fire Hall

Attendance: Ericka, Brian, Keith, Trevor, Steve, TJ

1. Call to Order 7:00
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. Brian moves to approve, Kieth seconds, all aye
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes
  - a. Brian moves to approve, Trevor seconds, all aye
5. Public Comments
  - a. none
6. Road Commission Report
  - a. HCRC Published updated meeting dates for the year. Next meeting is on Jan 11th.

Estimated Township Costs for anticipated projects in Chassell. Boundary Plan \$250,000 in Twp costs, Massie-\$310,000 (additional \$100k because there needs to be additional aggregate base to increase the life of the road.

January 11th Public Hearing on the 5 year plan for the County (just primary roads, none that will be paid for by the Township)

7. Old Business
  - a. Chassell Mercantile Update
    - i. Continuing to write tickets biweekly. Nothing new.
  - b. Historical Trail Update
    - i. Portage Health Foundation doing another round of recreation grants this year. Potential to help fund the Historical Trail Boardwalk.
    - ii. Working on EGLE permit app
  - c. Community Center Update
    - i. Mark Koski working on clean out of the building. KEDA and MEDC working with the owner to be eligible for MEDC funding.
    - ii. The Township Board will need to pass a Commercial Rehabilitation District Resolution to make the site eligible for the funding program.

- d. Centennial Park Accessibility
    - i. No progress
  - e. Fitness Trail
    - i. Trail signs are posted thanks to the DPW.
    - ii. Trails posted on the Keweenaw Bureau Visitor's Page
    - iii. Fitness Trail video final draft has been completed on how to use all of the equipment.
  - f. Park Board Walk/Marina Study
    - i. No update
  - g. Sturgeon River Launch
    - i. UP Engineers to send final drawings this week. Plan to put out to bid.
  - h. Cemetery Church - Dangerous Building
    - i. No update
  - i. Planning Commission Opening
    - i. Filled by TJ Palosaari
8. New Business
- a. MEDC Christopher Germain
    - i. RRC Baseline Report-Partnership between the state and local communities. Three arms: Business Development, Marketing (Pure Michigan), Community Development. Michigan's focus is placemaking and community development. The baseline Report is a roadmap to help communities. Next step is to create a Master Plan-one that can actually be implemented. MEDC took the self evaluation and blew it up on a larger scale and created the Baseline Report. The Report is a set of recommendations of things to implement, but they're just recommendations not regulations.
    - ii. If the Township decides to move forward with the process they will have access to many resources, tools and people to help with redevelopment.
    - iii. The Township Board will need to pass a resolution to proceed with this. The Township can drop out at any time if needed.
  - b. Baraga Telephone - Koray Inal / Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
    - i. 3 reps present-Koray, Sean and John. Significant broadband initiative from the government level. Several programs available for funding. RDAF Program is the most recent and Baraga Tel secured funds to provide service from the area W of Chassell and connecting Houghton and Chassell.
    - ii. 100% deployment within 6 years
    - iii. Service provided will be fiber to the home, which can increase as broadband needs increase at the home. Planning for expansion with a 1.5 multiplier and a 2 multiplier on waterfront.
    - iv. Map provided-orange is mainline fiber (old and meant to link offices not serve customers), green is where Baraga Tel currently offers fiber to the home, red is proposed over the next 6 years with the grant. Everyone in the shaded blue and red boxes will get fiber to the home in 6 years.
    - v. Other competitors in the area include Starlink, Charter etc other companies that have received RDAF funding.

- vi. PFN (Peninsula Fiber Network) based out of Marquette. Provides the backbone to Baraga Telephone. Also combined with Hiawatha Telephone in Munising.
- vii. Discuss gaps on the east side of the area. Lower Pike is included, Sturgeon River Rd was not--it is included in a different census bureau block defined by the gov program.
- viii. Discussed proposed schedule for Fall of 2021--starting at Kurt's Corner heading up Askel hill, then heading up Tapiola road connecting towards Houghton. Starting August of 2021. Year-to-year timeline to be shared as the projects progress.
- ix. Info that the Township can provide Baraga Tel to help development: Telling of industrial parks in the plans so they can prepare and setup ahead of time. Discussions with Portage Health Foundation for families in need of access. Free Wifi Locations is a initiative explored this year by Baraga Tel
- c. Snowmobile Trail
  - i. Working on re-establishing link between Chassell and the Bill Nicholls Trail.
- d. Master Plan
- e. Road Commission Survey Monkey Results
  - i. Kieth moves to approve the road plan as written, Brian seconds, all aye
  - ii. This to be approved by the Board and submitted to the County
- f. Five Year Road Plan
- g. Zoning Ordinance Committee
  - i. Committee plans to meet the week after the Township Board to wrap up the zoning
- h. Bark Park Signage
  - i. Recommend to the Board to add a sign showing where the bark park is.

Next meeting date - February 4, 2021 7pm

Adjourn 8:43. Brain moves, seconds, all aye