



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

February 24, 2016

Call to Order:

On this 24th of February 2016 the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Baldwin Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Bryan Lawrence at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Oath of Office: The Oath of Office was given to Commissioner Deborah Guy.

Roll Call:

Commissioners present were Bryan Lawrence, Richard Marshall, Rich Harris, Peggy Patten, Deborah Guy and Judy Thorson. Planner Bridget Chard was also present. Liaison Randy Atwood was absent. The sign in sheet is attached. Added to the revised agenda is "2015 Planning Commission Expenses", "Handout of Revised Bylaws" and "Riggins Rules". *A motion was made by Commissioner Marshall to approve the February 24, 2016 revised agenda which was seconded by Commissioner Thorson; all in favor; motion carried.*

Secretary's Report:

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of 27.January.16: *A motion was made by Commissioner Thorson to approve the January 27, 2016 regular meeting minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Patten; all in favor; motion carried.*

Handout Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2015: The Planning Commission minutes of November 18, 2015 were handed out to be put into the Commissioner's Books.

Land Use Requests: None.

Communications:

- **Notice of Position/Interview Applicant:** No action.

Old Business:

- **Shervision:** Commissioner Marshall continued to voice concern regarding the Workshop Summary and the Countywide BR&E Program portions of the Shervision proposal. Shervision is a County visioning group facilitated by the Initiative Foundation. This group has requested to have township representatives

be part of the core group for the County visioning process. Top three goals are to come up with a community vision and plan, discuss business retention county wide and broadband expansion. It was stated at the Baldwin Township Planning Commission's January 27, 2016 meeting that the Township should be cautious with respect to goal #2 to "Develop and Coordinate a Business Retention & Expansion Countywide" and to their involvement in Shervision overall indicating a concern of preferential treatment to certain businesses.

- **Feedlots:** Commissioner Lawrence reported on the Animal Units and Permitting portion of feedlots. He said that 0-50 units would not need a permit. There was no additional information regarding the confusion over setbacks or whether or not there was a permit requirement for next tier.

Comprehensive Action Plan Work: The Comprehensive Plan should move the community forward and is a vision for the future of the community. It is not a stale document but a dynamic document and always a work in progress. Not only is the Comprehensive Plan a vision for the community but also a historical assemblage of facts and ideas. After much discussion, Planner Chard indicated that if the commissioners do want to work on the Comprehensive Plan's action items to let her know and she will help them with it. *A motion was made by Commissioner Marshall to table further discussion on the Comprehensive Action Plan Work to the March 30, 2016 meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Patten; all in favor; motion carried.*

New Business:

Solar Language: The Planning Commission had tabled discussion of the new Solar Ordinance and some language changes from January. In addition, Planner Chard had also given them solar language from Stearns County and Wright County to review. Commissioner Lawrence gave the Planning Commission an overview of the Solar Ordinance and the discussion on whether or not there should be changes when there is an ownership change. Specifically, the issue had to do with the Interim Use Permit (IUP), shares and credit issues. Planner Chard went over what a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) versus an IUP are different and what you could do with conditions on each permit. She also went over setbacks and sureties and the differences between them. No action taken on the matter.

2016 Work Plan: After review the 2016 Work Plan was accepted as submitted.

Commissioner's Corner:

- Commissioner Marshall discussed having a planning commission packet available ahead of the meeting for review.
- Commissioner Thorson requested to add to the minutes:
"Planning Commissioner's Corner February 24, 2016"

Regarding the meeting packets for Planning Commission meetings for the public, I suggest that there be two packets at the back table like at the Town Board meetings, instead of one packet at the podium, as has been the recent practice. This would make the information more accessible to the public. Ideally even more than two packets would

be ready for public review, but two meets the standard established by the Town Board. Also I suggest that any graphics (like diagrams, graphs, maps) be provided via the overhead projection system so that all (the commissioners AND the public) may view these resources together. Open communication promotes trust in the activities of the commission and other groups within the township. Perhaps these changes could be in place for the March 30, 2016 Planning Commission meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Judy Thorson

Planning Commissioner”

Commissioner Thorson’s suggestion will be given to the clerk to be put on the Town Board agenda.

- Commissioner Lawrence encourages everyone to attend the caucuses on March 1. He also encourages everyone to attend the Baldwin Township elections and Annual Meeting on March 8.

2015 Planning Commission Expenses: The Planning Commission expenses were reviewed.

Riggins Rules: The current copy of Riggins Rules were handed out.

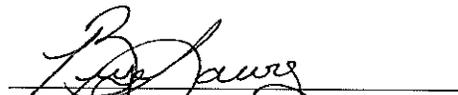
Other: None.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Commissioner Patten which was seconded by Commissioner Marshall to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. with the next Planning Commission meeting to be held on March 30, 2016. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.



Respectfully submitted:
Cheryl Goetz Dobson
Deputy Clerk


Bryan Lawrence, Chairman

3/30/16
Date

Amendments: _____