

BURT TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes

March 10, 2022

Burt Township Hall

The Burt Township Planning Commission was called to order by Allen Kozlowski on March 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m at the Burt Township Hall.

PLANNING COMMITTEE ATTENDEES: Allen Kozlowski, Gene Hodulik, Paul Janness, and Matt Landon. Jay Jontz excused.

ALSO ATTENDING IN PERSON: Harold Koviak, Jake Myers of Beckett and Raeder, Jim Larson, Scott Reimann and Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Allen Kozlowski

DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST : None

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES: MOTION: Moved by Landon, supported by Janness to approve the January 13, 2022, minutes with the adjustment to the minutes to delete "Jim Larson absent due to Covid".

MOTION APPROVED

REPORTS

Township Board Representative – Hodulik

1. At the February board meeting, the new budget for 2022-23 was developed and approved at the March meeting.
2. Koviak and Hodulik had a productive meeting with the new County Road Commission Manager, Matt Hall, regarding the township roads. Birchwood Road will be paved from East Burt Lake Road to Crump Road this summer. The bids have risen 10% each of the last 2 years. Some of the extra money coming from the federal government's ARPA program may be used for this project. No "tar and chip" of roads will be done this year which is coordinated through the road commission.
3. Waiting for the final sign off for Phase III of the trail but was told it's under budget. June 11 is the date chosen for the ribbon cutting for the trail and may happen at the gorge.
4. Need to have the wording of the millage increase for fire and roads to the County Clerk for the August ballot by May 10.
5. The re-siding of the township hall was approved and will be done this summer by Dennis Reimann.

6. There was one fire in the township, a barn on Birchwood Road burned to the ground.

ZBA – Koviak (for Jontz): There were 2 variances granted, a pole barn on Stratford Lane, not on the lake and an addition on a house on Peace Trail.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Larson reported that it's been very quiet..

PLANNING CONSULTANT – Jake Myers of Beckett & Raeder

The Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) program is an incentive program that will deploy \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funding to address the impacts of COVID-19 in Michigan communities.

OLD BUSINESS:

HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Beginning in the spring, Spectrum will be installing highspeed broadband along Brutus Road to cover the entire west side of the township. Spectrum is waiting on permission from Consumer's Energy to utilize their poles. The hope is to be finished by the end of the summer. Spectrum is also working on a study to bring high speed internet to the east side of the lake.

No feedback from Presque Isle Electric & Gas for broadband for the southeast portion of Burt Township, which PIEG supplies electricity.

MILLAGE SURVEY

348 millage surveys have been sent out to voters. The resulting data will be sent to the township board for their April meeting for discussion. The ballot initiatives must be submitted to the county clerk by May 10.

FIRE PIT ORDINANCE

An oversight was made in that the ordinance to amend the definition of a fire pit was previously not sent to the board for its approval.

MOTION: Made by Hodulik, supported by Landon, to send the new definition to the township board.

MOTION APPROVED

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

A storage structure of 200 sq. ft. or less must only meet front and back setbacks, not side setbacks. Jake Myers will create this ordinance change for next meeting's discussion and approval.

A resident has contacted the Zoning Administrator regarding making modifications to the rentals above his garage. Zoning Administrator informed him that Burt Township zoning does not allow such rentals.

Should this continue, court action will ensue. Research showed that no building permits were obtained by the previous owner. A building permit is required for the new owner to modify the living quarters.

NEW BUSINESS:

RECREATION MASTER PLAN: The plan must be read thoroughly and updated especially for the new phases of the trail, review of the maps, and obtain some current photographs. Public input is necessary to complete the plan. This plan is necessary for future grant applications and must be approved by the Planning Commission and the Township Board by December 31, 2022.

BRAINSTORM – how to make this a better township? A suggestion was made by Kozlowski to stock Burt Lake with whitefish. DNR approval would be needed and previous requests to stock Burt Lake with fish have been rejected.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS – Update the Recreation Plan which expires at year's end and bring your ideas/corrections to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

MOTION TO ADJOURN – made by Landon, support by Janness. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – May 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Burt Township Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary