

**BURT TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Minutes

January 14, 2021

866-678-6823 code – 7861936

The Burt Township Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Jay Jontz on January 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

TELECONFERENCE ATTENDEES: Jay Jontz from Allen Kozlowski's home, the rest from home---Gene Hodulik, Allen Kozlowski, Paul Janness, Matt Landon

ALSO ATTENDING: Jim Larson, Katie Parker, Ruben Shell, Carolyn Hodulik/Recording Secretary and attending via Zoom Michael Reen from Aspen Wireless, Ben Fineman, consultant.

Declaration of any Conflict of Interest on the Agenda – None

MINUTES: November 12, 2020

MOTION: Moved by Janness, supported by Kozlowski to approve the Planning Commission minutes of November 12, 2020, as presented.

MOTION APPROVED

REPORTS

Township Board Representative - Hodulik

- 1) FOIA contact is Christy Kozlowski, Clerk.
- 2) Board of Review held December 15.
- 3) Township Hall entrance remodel waiting for windows and door.
- 4) Reappointed members to ZBA, planning, board of review
- 5) Resolution for county accessor approved (in case Fred Lindroth is not available).
- 6) Financial audit completed and results discussed.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report Representative – Jontz

2 of the 4 variance requests were approved; one was tabled, and the other one needs permits.

The next ZBA meeting is February 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR – Jim Larson

Possible 4 variances at next meeting February 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

Larson had 3 issues: definition of fire pits, how to measure a lot for the high water mark, and what to do about contractors working without permits.

OLD BUSINESS

HIGH SPEED INTERNET – Kozlowski

We had a Zoom presentation by Michael Reen from Aspen Wireless. Aspen Wireless is willing to build a buried high-speed fiber network for Burt Township at its expense. It is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million. Assuming 400 homes would commit, it would cost each home owner \$10,000 over 10 years or approximately \$117 per month for that time period of which \$83 per month is for the internet structure and the remaining \$35 per month is for the service itself. Aspen will provide the financial data presentation for Allen to send to the members of the planning commission. He discussed another approach where another company puts in an underground conduit and an ISP partner (like Charter or Comcast) installs the fiber optics. The next task is to identify at least 400 homes to contact as possible customers. Three RFP responses for feasibility studies were Cherry Capital Communications (Elk Rapids) for \$195,000 (6 – 8 months to complete), Yates Engineering (Indiana) - \$22,898 (8 weeks to complete), and GEO Partners LLC for \$3600, done off site. This will probably require an association of members to be created after the initial 10 years.

ACCESSORY BUILDING AS A PRINCIPAL USE/LOT SIZE AMENDMENT

This is tabled until next meeting to define sizes when accessory building is not the principal use (home already exists).

MOTION: Moved by Landon to table until next meeting, supported by Janness. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Amendment/Rezoning Petition Form – form was accepted as written and decided the form should be put in a file available upon request and not on the internet

MOTION by Kozlowski to accept the form as written and supported by Janness. Motion carried.

BRAINSTORMING - No new ideas

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS – None

Next meeting is March 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Burt Township Hall or remotely.

Meeting Adjourned, motion by Kozlowski and supported by Janness at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hodulik, Recording Secretary

