

IONIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting

February 24, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gregg Yeomans. He then led the group in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Bowering, Harwood, Mason, Palmer, Yeomans, Weisgerber, and DePotty. Members absent: Sandborn.

(Note: one vacancy remains on the nine-member commission.)

Others present: Barbara Trierweiler.

Yeomans stated that as this is the organizational meeting for 2010, the first matter of business is to elect officers.

Moved by Weisgerber, supported by Harwood, to nominate the existing officers, Gregg Yeomans and Paul Bowering, to serve as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, for the ensuing year. Bowering withdrew his name for vice chairman as this is the last year of his term and he will not be seeking re-appointment.

Weisgerber and Harwood withdrew their nomination for vice chairman leaving the original nomination for Gregg Yeomans to serve as chairman.

Bowering nominated Joel Palmer for the vice chairman's position.

Yeomans called for a vote on the nominations. Motion carried by voice vote.

The annual review of the bylaws resulted in proposing a change to the wording of Section 3.2 Regular Meetings to indicate the "Regular meetings of the Commission *may* (rather than *shall*) be held monthly in the Courthouse on a date established by the Commission."

Moved by Palmer, supported by Bowering, to approve the change to Section 3.2 Regular Meetings. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Mason, supported by Bowering, to adopt the "Ionia County Planning Commission Bylaws and Rules of Procedure," as amended, for 2010. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Palmer, supported by DePotty, to set the meeting date and time as the fourth Wednesday of the month commencing at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote. (Note: consistent with the procedure established in 2008 and continued in 2009, it was agreed that while the specific meeting dates would be posted pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, the members should consider the meetings "cancelled" until the

chairman determines an actual need to meet. When this occurs, all members will be notified.)

Yeomans noted one additional agenda items under New Business: (B) a discussion on the board of commissioners' action to cancel its membership in the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Harwood, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Palmer, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2009 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Palmer, to approve paid invoices in the amount of \$3,590.90 (detailed list submitted with agenda) covering the period February 21, 2009 through January 31, 2010. Motion carried by voice vote.

Prior to the meeting, Yeomans had distributed a memo to the membership asking for thoughts and comments as to the ongoing role of the planning commission and what role each would like play as the commission tries to find and establish its purpose now that zoning is no longer an issue in the county. Yeomans asked for members' comments.

Weisgerber stated he felt the planning commission's purpose could now be focused on providing easy and relatively inexpensive access to statistical information pertaining to the county, such as property splits, traffic counts, etc. He also said it would be desirable for the county board to establish a vision from which the planning commission could focus its efforts.

Bowering referenced updating the Master Plan; however, the commission previously decided to wait until the 2010 census data becomes available, which would most likely be in 2011. While the update will certainly not be as costly as the preparation of the original plan, the county board will need to provide an appropriation if they are interested in having an update completed.

Mason, who is also a member of the county board of commissioners, indicated she asked her fellow board members if they had any thoughts or suggestions that would provide a direction for the planning commission. Commissioner Tiejema suggested that possibly the planning commission could network with the Ionia County Economic Alliance (ICEA). Mason suggested asking the ICEA to attend a future meeting of the planning commission. Yeomans stated he would make the appropriate contacts.

Mason also suggested that even though the planning commission may not meet on a regular basis, perhaps the chairman or any other member could, on a monthly basis, share with the membership a brief commentary on issues that may be pertinent or of interest to the planning commission. Yeomans indicated he would attempt to initiate this practice.

The commission discussed the issue of the county terminating its membership in the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. Mason outlined the action taken by the board of commissioners at its meeting yesterday. She stated she presented a motion to pay the outstanding amount of \$954 but to also send a letter relating the board's strong opposition to the WMRPC's bylaw which requires a member to provide a 6-month notice of termination. The motion failed; however, as two commissioners were absent, she indicated the issue may be brought back for discussion at the next meeting.

DePotty excused himself from the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Harwood, to adjourn the meeting (6:47 p.m.). Motion carried by voice vote.