

IONIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting

May 12, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Bowering who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Bowering, Palmer, Yeomans, Harwood, DePotty, Pearson, and Weisgerber.

Members absent: Sandborn and Coe.

(Note: two vacancies currently exist on the commission.)

Others present: Jeanne Vandersloot, Mark Howe, and Barbara Trierweiler.

Bowering stated this is the organizational meeting for 2008 therefore the first matter of business is to elect officers. Moved by Yeomans, supported by Palmer, to elect existing officers, i.e., Paul Bowering – chairman; Gregg Yeomans – vice chairman; and Mark Howe – secretary. Motion carried by voice vote.

The annual review of the Planning Commission Bylaws resulted in no proposed changes; however, Bowering indicated a new meeting day and possibly time will need to be established as the county's board of commissioners is now holding a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Moved by DePotty, supported by Pearson, to table further discussion on this issue until later in the meeting and proceed with the regular agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Yeomans, supported by Weisgerber, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Yeomans, supported by DePotty, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Pearson, supported by Yeomans, to approve paid invoices in the amount of \$3,287.84 (detailed list submitted with agenda) covering the period May 1, 2007 through May 2, 2008. Motion carried by voice vote.

There was no public comment.

Bowering proceeded to agenda item 10 – New Business.

Jeanne Vandersloot, Orange Township zoning administrator, was present to review and request action on a proposed Orange Township Zoning Map Amendment and an Orange Township Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment. Vandersloot briefly reviewed the first issue which deals with a request to rezone three parcels from Agriculture to Commercial. Rezoning is required in order to complete the adopted PA 425 Agreement process which will allow for a medical facility to be built on the parcels. Pursuant to the state of

Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, the county planning commission is required to review the amendment as received from the Orange Township Planning Commission.

Weisgerber, who also serves as the Orange Township supervisor, outlined the project and its proposed timeline. He also stated that as he will be voting on this issue at the township level, he will abstain from voting.

Moved by DePotty, supported by Harwood, to return the document as reviewed with no comment. Motion carried by voice vote of the remaining six members present.

Vandersloot briefly outlined the proposed text amendment to the sign section, 17.12, of the Orange Township Zoning Ordinance. Moved by Yeomans, supported by Palmer, to return the document as reviewed with no comment. Motion carried by voice vote.

Bowering returned to the discussion regarding establishing a regular meeting date and time. A consensus was reached to hold the meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. It was also agreed upon 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.

Moved by Weisgerber, supported by Palmer, to adopt the "Ionia County Planning Commission Bylaws and Rules of Procedure" for 2008 with no changes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Yeomans, to set the meeting date and time as the third Wednesday of the month commencing at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

The members briefly discussed the status of the planned update to the Ionia County Master Plan.

Howe reviewed several items of interest including the potential of eventually having the GIS maps available on the county's website.

Moved by Yeomans, supported by DePotty, to adjourn the meeting (6:25 p.m.). Motion carried by voice vote.