

VAN BUREN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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Van Buren County Planning Commission
January 3, 2024

Special Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Alyssa Hosbein, Tom Motycka, Scott Cedarquist, Pam Stermer, Jan Petersen, Kurt Doroh, Celinda Gilmore, Will Pugsley and Tony Hemenway. Others present included Lisa Imus Ransler, staff.

Absent: Barbara Rose

B. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Motycka, with support by Cedarquist to approve the January 9, 2024, agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment: none

D. New Business:

- 1. APC Towers, LLC – Bicycle Route 35 / Project# MI-1668:** The Planning Commission was asked to review for any historic information on property or in the viewshed that was significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture eligible for listing on the State or National Registers of Historic Places or located in or on an Indian Religious Site. While no members were aware of any, the Potawatomie Band had been contacted for information. The Commission will review any additional information at the next meeting.
- 2. Almena Township Zoning Map & Ordinance Amendment – Environmental Protection Overlay District (EPOD) and C-1 land use amendments.**

After a brief discussion, Motycka made a motion with support from Cedarquist to concur with the established environmental overlay district. The motion was approved unanimously. It was felt that the ordinance followed the intent of the Master Plan with stricter regulation of hydraulic soil and that there were no conflicts with adjacent municipalities.

- 3. Almena Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Add language to allow for Animal Shelters & Commercial Kennels in the Agriculture Low Density (AGLD) zoning District.**

The Planning Commission spent time reviewing the request but could not determine from the information provided if the ordinance would authorize animal shelters and commercial kennels by Permitted Use or Special Use. Motycka, with support from Cedarquist, made a motion to not concur with the proposed ordinance due to inconsistencies in the information. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Submitted by: Lisa (Imus) Ransler, Secretary