

# VAN BUREN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

219 Paw Paw St., Suite 201, Paw Paw, MI 49079

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## Van Buren County Planning Commission County Administration Building – 219 E Paw Paw St, Suite 201

### July 24, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order & Attendance** - The meeting was called to order by Scott Cedarquist at 6:30 PM.  
**Present:** Tom Motycka, Scott Cedarquist, Jan Petersen, Will Pugsley, Celinda Gilmore and Tony Hemenway. Others present included Lisa Imus Ransler  
**Absent:** Alyssa Hosbein, Kurt Doroh, Barbara Rose
2. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion by Pugsley supported by Motycka, to approve the July 24, 2024, agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Motycka, supported by Peterson, to approve the minutes from the Special meeting of June 3, 2024, meeting. Motion approved unanimously.
4. **Public Comment** - No public comments were received.
5. **Reports**
  - a. **County Board of Commissioners Liaison Report:** No report.
  - b. **Land Preservation Board:** Ransler shared that marketing efforts are being developed for the upcoming grant in December. Work on the application process has been updated, and outreach will begin in an attempt to recruit additional township participation in land preservation efforts. The next meeting will be September 11, 2024.
  - c. **Southwest Michigan Planning Commission:** No report.
  - d. **Local Visits:** The Decatur Planning Commission enacted a moratorium on short-term rentals, with Hamilton Township following a similar approach. Cedarquist discussed renewable energy trends with discussion on expanded township regulations. Petersen reported that Hamilton Township had finalized a storage container ordinance.
  - e. **Staff Report:** Short-Term Rental Ordinances - With the increasing discussion on the growing trend of townships enacting short-term rental moratoriums and the potential impacts on communities. Ransler mentioned a potential webinar/seminar by MSU Extension to educate local townships on short-term rental regulations. The board was asked if they would like to sponsor this event. The decision to sponsor or participate in this webinar was deferred pending further details.
6. **New Business**
  - a. **Paw Paw Township Text Amendment:** A text amendment for Paw Paw Township was presented regarding an ordinance amendment to allow adult use marijuana processing facilities in the AGR and ARR zoning districts. After discussion, Motycka, supported by Gilmore, made a motion to concur with the recommendation. Motion approved by acclamation.
  - b. **Bylaws:** Planning Commission Bylaw changes were presented and will be further reviewed by the Planning Commission for discussion in the upcoming future.
7. **Adjournment** - Motion by Gilmore, supported by Cedarquist, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. Motion carried unanimously.