

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

December 1, 2020

Minutes Approve on January 6, 2021

Per Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-48, as it applies to MCL 15.264, the meeting was conducted electronically via a Zoom Video Meeting

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:34 PM by chairman John Chipman, with members, Doug Dow, Richard Carlson, and Bill Marske present. Also attending were township Zoning Administrator Van Thornton and township attorney Charles Hilmer. Members Grace Rappe and Andy Brown joined shortly after the start of the meeting. Member Jerry Kohn was absent.

The Agenda was reviewed and several changes were suggested. Doug Dow moved to approve the agenda with changes, supported by Richard Carlson. Roll call vote, with all voting yes, motion carried.

Minutes of the October 7, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Doug Dow moved to approve the minutes with several changes, supported by Richard Carlson. Roll call vote, with all members voting yes, motion carried

Unfinished Business: Chairman John Chipman gave an update on the status of the Union Pier Project, with the remaining work to be completed by Memorial Day, 2021. The base layer of asphalt is down with the final layer of asphalt and landscaping to be done next spring.

John Chipman discussed and reviewed the proposed Union Pier Zoning Overlay District that has been created with the help of New Buffalo Township, the proposed Zoning Overlay District will be used by both New Buffalo and Chikaming Township. It is consistent with zoning for a small village or hamlet.

New Business: Doug Dow spoke about the lakeshore preservation project and told the Planning Commission members that the Chikaming Township Board will be discussing and working on a possible ordinance to address stone revetments along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and that he will be working with a committee on a Zoning Ordinance amendment to the Waterfront Districts next year and they will look at applying for a grant through LIAA for Michigan Coastal Community Resiliency grant program.

Doug Dow reported that he and several members of the committee that worked on the new Zoning Ordinance will be reviewing it next year. They will come back to the planning commission with recommendations for proposed changes and corrections. The committee members include, John Chipman, Van Thornton, and Rich Sullivan.

John Chipman discussed the Harbert phase of the Red Arrow Highway repaving project that will begin next year in 2021. This project will include making the part of the road three lanes. As

part of this project Chikaming Township is planning to do additional work in the Harbert area that will go from Harbert Park to the Harbert Post Office with the work by the township being done in 2022. A proposal from Wightman for services for Harbert streetscape and community planning was presented at a cost of \$34,000.00. Wightman would work with John Chipman, Grace Rappe and Bernie Dahl to help design this project.

Motion by Doug Dow to approve the proposal from Wightman supported by Grace Rappe. Roll call vote, with all members voting yes, motion carried

John Chipman reviewed several sections of the Chikaming Township Master Plan, he discussed what is new in the Master Plan Update, pages 3-7. Objectives for the Red Arrow Highway corridor, pages 37-39, and public facilities and infrastructure pages 40-45.

Zoning Administrator Updates: Township Zoning Administrator Van Thornton had no updates at this time, he asked residents to send emails to the zoning department to share their experiences with using the new zoning ordinances.

Public Comment: There were many comments concerning stone revetments along the Lake Michigan shoreline and the need to protect homes along the lakeshore that are in danger of being destroyed. The public was encouraged to go to the township website and at the top of the page click on "SHORELINE ERROSION", then view the "11/12/2020 Webinar on Coastline Erosion". Current improvements in the township are appreciated and that the township takes a careful systematic approach to zoning.

Adjournment: With no further business before the Commission Doug Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM, supported by Grace Rappe. Roll call vote, all members voted yes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,
Bill Marske, Secretary, Chikaming Township Planning Commission