

TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN – PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 11, 2025/ PAGE 1 OF 3

CALL TO ORDER – The Special Meeting of the Township of Somerset Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Namrata Carolan, on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Somerset Center Community Room, 12715 E. Chicago Road, Somerset Center, Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. In attendance there were four members of the public, Steve Meckley, Nick Meckley, Elona Meckley and Patrick Carolan. Zoning administrator Tom Wiedner was also present.

ROLL CALL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS – Chairperson – Namrata Carolan – (Present) Vice Chair- Lynn Hartzler- (Present) Secretary – John Berro (Present) Board Representative – David Pumfrey – (Present)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Lynn Hartzler motioned to approve the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025. Second by John Berro: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – John Berro moved to add presentation on tiny homes by Steve Meckley under new business as item A. Second by David Pumfrey: Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved.

Lynn Hartzler moved to further approve the agenda as presented. Second by John Berro : Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – No member noted a conflict of interest for the topics to be considered by the Planning Commission at this meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: - No Correspondence was noted as received.

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COMMENTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVE, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A. Comments from Board Representative (Tom Wiedner): No Comments.

B. Zoning Administrator: No Comments.

C. Zoning Board of Appeals: No Meetings were held.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

No Members of the public came forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

A. Zoning Ordinance Language for Solar Energy Facility. There was much discussion.

Lynn Hartzler moved to table the ordinance revision. Second by John Berro: Ayes:4 Nays: 0 motion approved.

Planning Commission Members advised language change of usage from Solar Farm to Solar Energy Facility. The members also recommended to finalize the recommendation of the zoning ordinance to the board of trustees and to add the approval on their next available agenda. This was addressed as a general consensus by the Planning Commission.

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NEW BUSINESS –

PRESENTATION ON TINY HOMES BY STEVE MECKLEY:

Legal landscape for tiny homes can be complex due to varying local regulations. Understanding these laws is crucial for anyone considering building or residing in a tiny home within the state.

The presentation delved into essential aspects of Michigan's tiny home regulations, including zoning, building codes, permitting processes, land use restrictions, and potential legal challenges.

Chairperson Carolan discussed on gaining insight into these areas, prospective tiny homeowners can better prepare for the unique hurdles they may face in realizing their dream. There were other discussions by the planning commissioners as well.

Chairperson Namrata Carolan discussed training on the latest Planning and Zoning Essentials and shared monthly educative and informative materials from Township Association, Michigan Association Counties resources will be shared to the members and general public. Webinar series and information will also be sent for virtual and in person training.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ON-GOING BUSINESS –

None

ITEMS TO BE FINALIZED –

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Member of the public Steve Meckley made comments on the Solar projects within Michigan.

Chairperson Carolan once again thanked several members of the public and lastly thanked the entire Planning Commission board for assisting with reviewing current zoning ordinance. She thanked the public for taking time to attend the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM Motion by Lynn Hartzler. Second by David Pumfrey Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by Namrata Carolan.