

**EMPIRE VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023**

The Empire Village Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in the Empire Township Hall.

Schous opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL –Bacon, Chase, Deering, Ellibee, Schous and Stepanek present. Collins was excused. Zoning Administrator Hall was also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – **Motion by Chase, supported by Ellibee to approve March 7, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented. AYES: 7, NO: 0. MOTION PASSED.**

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – Schous added Village Email to New Business.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None.

TREASURERS REPORT – No report submitted.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – March 2023 ZA Report was reviewed. Hall assembled and distributed an informational packet on signs. Hall mentioned the Village Sign Ordinance conflicts with the Zoning Ordinance. He also recommended a training opportunity, Breaking the Zoning Code, that is being held in Gaylord on May 9th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sign Ordinance No. 142

The sign ordinance is currently a police power ordinance and should be placed in Section 3.12 of the Village Zoning Ordinance once completed. The importance of not regulating content was discussed. The planning commission talked over areas of focus to address; signs by district, size, quantity, time limits, flags, definitions of the various signs, including temporary signs. Members discussed the possibility of allowing a total of 4 signs, which would include flags.

Temporary Sign: A display sign, banner, flag, or device intended for a limited period of display, ~~associated with a temporary event and is without permanent foundations. or attached to the exterior of a building.~~

Section 6, 1) ~~Two (2) non-illuminated signs per property not to exceed sixteen (16) each square feet of sign surface.~~ *Four (4) temporary* non-illuminated signs per property not to exceed four (4) square feet each of sign surface.

Hall recommended putting the ordinance into a table format by district. The ordinance as is reads now skips around and is hard to follow. Hall will present a new format for the next meeting.

Recreation Plan Update

Motion by Bacon, supported by Chase, to table the Recreation Plan. AYES: 7, NO: 0. MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Motion by Chase, supported by Bacon, to elect the following slate of officers for the 2023-24 year: Schous as Chair, Collins as Vice Chair, Chase as Treasurer, Ellibee as Secretary. AYES: 7, NO: 0. MOTION PASSED.

Zoning Ordinance

Members discussed the process of adopting a new zoning ordinance. Steps include Leelanau County review and holding a public hearing prior to making a recommendation to Village Council. Once the Sign Ordinance is complete, a more thorough review of the Zoning Ordinance can be done.

COMMITTEE AND VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORTS – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

PLANNING COMMISISON MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Alacia Acton, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the May 2, 2023, Village of Empire Planning Commission meeting.