

TOWNSHIP OF STRONACH
Planning Commission
(Manistee County)
2471 Main St RR3
Manistee Michigan, 49660

Stronach Township Planning Meeting – March 4, 2020

Call meeting to order with pledge at 6:30 pm.

Present were: Carl Lacki, Ann Hooghart, Bob Rishel, Connie Tewes, Phil Landis. Larry Thompson, Zoning Administrator.

Motion made to accept the meeting agenda as presented for March 4, 2020. Motion made by Hooghart with a second by Landis. Motion carried. Motion made by Landis to accept the February 5, 2020 planning meeting minutes as presented. Second by Hooghart and motion carried.

Public comment: Carolyn Cater of Ludington, candidate for 101st District was attending on behalf of 2nd amendment movement. She commented on “red flag” issue/no due process and that there are currently 23 counties in Michigan that have adopted 2nd Amendment Sanctuary resolutions.

Dorothy Batzer asked what are the objections of those who oppose passing the resolution? Cater answered that redundancy is noted as the right to carry is already protected as well as a resolution having no real authority in law.

Zoning Administrator Report: Tondus continue to plan for breaking ground for their facility in spring. A law has been passed in Michigan that medical caregivers can not sell product to the public any longer. Tom Waldon asked if anything is progressing in the park area and Larry replied all necessary permits have been obtained.

Communications: A letter was received from Beckett and Raeder regarding a public hear at Filer Township Hall for Filer Township’s master plan on April 9, 2020. If interest in commenting but unable to attend, correspondence can be mailed in or posted on the www.filertownship.com website.

Fire chief Lindeman brought a letter of support of potentially shutting down the Stronach Park for organized activities during the M55 bridge detour that will come through Stronach. His concern is with the safety of children using the park and the increase in traffic. Bob Rishel would like the letter to be presented to the Township Board. There were questions on when the detour is scheduled to begin, if the park would be available this summer, and if the shut-down would only impact organized activities. Other organizations besides the MRA also use the park.

This led to some discussion on parking issues and possibly looking into an all-way stop at the intersection by the park.

Committee Reports: Zoning board of appeals will meet Monday, March 9th and on Friday, March 13th. Carl Lacki was elected Chair, Rick Linke Vice-Chair and Rick Gerber recording secretary.

Old Business: Future use of Skocelas fire barn – Chief Lindeman gave a presentation outlining 3 options. 1. Move the fire department out to Skocelas while leaving medical services in the current hall and extend the building to include another area for residents to use/rent for meetings, gatherings, etc. The room would also be used for training purposes.

2. Shut the department down completely and sell the property. Any fire and EMS would need to be contracted through negotiations with neighboring township fire departments. Cost could be significant.

3. Downsize fire department and fire equipment.

Board and audience questions and comments centered on:

- Phase one requirement being bathroom facilities
- Efficient use of fire department funds and personnel
- Sharing of equipment among townships
- Location of building and access for business
- Firefighting function (10%) vs EMS function (90%) and separation of usage
- Growth in Township
- Adequate supply of volunteers for the fire department in the future
- Expense of improvements if selling the building

Nicki from Norman Township expressed appreciation for the assistance of Stronach Township fire department during the Dublin Store fire.

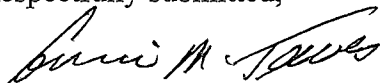
New Business: – due to the lengthy discussions on old business, 2nd amendment Sanctuary discussion is postponed until April's meeting

April Meeting Agenda

- Skocelas fire barn update
- Approval on special use permit application – Tondus
- Proposal to be a 2nd amendment sanctuary Township
- ORV
- River property

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie M. Tewes
Stronach Township Planning Commission Secretary