

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

Public Hearing for proposed 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance – July 22, 2020

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

Present were: Carl Lacki, Ann Hooghart, Bob Rishel, Connie Tewes, Phil Landis, and Larry Thompson, Zoning Administrator. Motion made by Hooghart to accept the hearing agenda for July 22, 2020. Second by Landis and motion carried. Motion made by Landis to accept the July 1, 2020 regular planning meeting minutes as presented. Second by Hooghart with motion carried.

Opening Remarks: Chair Bob Rishel opened the meeting asking if any of the eight members of the audience had any questions regarding the purpose of the meeting. He summarized what the proposed ordinance was for and discussed why he feels being a 2nd amendment sanctuary is important for Stronach Township. Things have changed in the last couple of years regarding the way gun rights are being challenged. Rishel feels it is important to make it clear to Lansing that the Township feels strongly about its 2nd amendment rights.

He then asked for board members' opinions. Phil Landis felt that the ordinance was important in the context of defense of a person's home. Ann Hooghart respected the 2nd amendment and supported the proposed ordinance. Carl Lacki gave examples of changes in Canada's firearms laws and felt that people need to stand up for their rights. Connie Tewes commented that the proposed ordinance is redundant and unnecessary as the 2nd amendment is already in place. The ordinance would not be able to prevent the federal or state government from taking guns if laws were to change. Larry Thompson, zoning administrator, noted that Stronach is not the only township pursuing this type of action. He is concerned after the events in St. Louis.

Public Comment: Alvin Rishel of Filer Township was attending for informational purposes and was glad to see Stronach Township's planning board addressing the issue. He stated that the Bill of Rights is specific to the federal government and people still need to make a statement as history has shown.

Stronach Township resident Dan Beatty feels that the 2nd Amendment is the insurance policy to the Bill of Rights. He noted that 46/82 counties in Michigan are now 2nd Amendment sanctuary counties.

Tom Waldon, Stronach resident, supports the proposal as he feels that with the way things are going now, it sends a positive message about protecting rights.

Another resident, Robert Sell, commented that he did support the proposed ordinance, but as with most things, Big Brother can't be stopped. People need to get the word out and fight for the right. He questioned what would happen if a new set of board members in the future did not agree with the proposed ordinance or federal laws changed on gun ownership, what then?

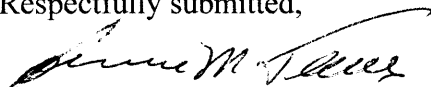
Closing Remarks:

From the board members: Hooghart – has studied the ordinance and wishes to be able to defend her property; Carl Lacki – would like to move forward with the ordinance. Tewes commented that it would be appropriate in the future for public comments to be heard before the board voices its perspectives to ensure that any audience member feels comfortable stating a perspective without the issue already being decided by the board. Rishel stated that the change could be incorporated for future public hearings.

After determining that discussion had ended, Ann Hooghart moved to accept the proposed ordinance. Carl Lacki seconded her motion. Roll Call vote: Ann Hooghart – yes, Carl Lacki – yes, Bob Rishel – yes, Connie Tewes – no, Phil Landis – abstained as he would be voting as a Township Board member at the August 12th regular board meeting. Motion was passed 3-1.

Hearing adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie M. Tewes
Stronach Township Planning Commission Secretary