

**ADA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2013 MEETING**

A meeting of the Ada Township Planning Commission was held on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Korth at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Korth, Commissioners Lunn, Leisman, Jacobs, Lowry, Butterfield, Easter, and Planning Director Ferro.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Lunn, supported by Easter, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2013 MEETING

Motion by Easter, supported by Lunn, to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2013. Motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment, to make technical corrections to Ordinance No. O-011209-5, Heliport Regulations

Jim Ferro stated the reason for this amendment is that between the time the heliport rules were adopted in January 2009 and the time they became effective in August 2010 after a referendum election where they were approved, we had an intervening zoning ordinance amendment in February 2010; and in that ordinance amendment we divided what used to be the agricultural AG Zoning District into three new districts, had three new district chapters inserted into the text of the ordinance and amended the zoning map to rezone land that was formerly in the AG District into one of the three new zoning districts that are AGP, RP1 and RP2. He stated after the August 2010 referendum vote the rules pertaining to heliports that were adopted in 2009 went into effect, and the problem that was created is those rules still refer to the Agricultural Zoning District. This was discovered recently when I had a pre-application meeting with someone who is interested in submitting a heliport application between 3 Mile and 4 Mile on Pettis Avenue, and then realized those rules still refer to a zoning district that no longer exists. The amendment makes technical corrections to the rule to delete references to the AG Zoning District and insert the appropriate language into the AGP Zoning District, and the RP1 and RP2 districts. He stated the hearing notice was advertised for a public hearing, and published in the newspaper.

Korth opened the public hearing; with no comments he closed the public hearing.

Leisman asked if it adds any lands or takes any lands that were originally zoned to allow heliports.

Ferro stated no, it doesn't.

Motion by Lowry, supported by Lunn, to approve the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment, to make technical corrections to Ordinance No. O-011209-5, Heliport Regulations. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. STAFF/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Ferro updated Commission members on the status of discussions concerning co-locating wireless telecommunications antennas on the elevated water tank at the Forest Hills Eastern campus, as an alternative to AT&T Mobility building on the site for which the special use permit was approved at Knapp St. and Egypt Valley Ave.

Status of Ada Village Urban Design Plan

Ferro and Korth reported on the status of the Village Design Plan.

Information Regarding Regulation of Oil and Gas Exploration/Production

Ferro pointed out that Commission members' had information in their packets from a local non-profit group, Kent County Conservation, as well as information from MSU Extension, regarding oil and gas drilling operations and the ability of local governments to regulate this activity. He stated that Supervisor Haga requested that this material, which was recently presented to the Township Board, be provided to Planning Commission members for discussion and consideration regarding the possibility of Township regulations.

Following discussion, Korth suggested that Ferro provide additional materials regarding this topic to the Commission in the future, including the action that Cannon Township has recently taken.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Easter, second by Jacobs to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Burton, Township Clerk

SB/dr