

**Minutes from the
Almira Township Planning Commission Meeting**

July 5, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chairperson Ratajczak called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. at the Almira Townhall in the Village of Lake Ann.

Members Present: Vince Edwards, Melisa Martin, Ryan Ratajczak, Lori Florip, Kurt Swartz

Members Absent: Bill Ballard, Duane Newman

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Approval of Agenda: *Motion by Swartz*, supported by Florip, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion passed. Ballard and Newman absent.

Approval of Minutes: *Motion by Edwards*, supported by Swartz, to approve the meeting minutes of June 7, 2022, as presented. All ayes, motion passed. Ballard and Newman absent.

Brief Public Comment: None

Zoning Administrator: Z/A Williams was not present but submitted a written report.

Township Board Representative: Township Board member Florip reported that Township Board actions were taken on the Poverty Exemption, SOPs for the Fire and EMS Dept., and a resignation from the Fire and EMS Dept. She also stated that Dunesville will be taking place the end of July.

Zoning Board of Appeals Representative: Nothing to report.

Intergovernmental Representative: Lake Ann Village Council Member Edwards, stated that the Village has been discussing solutions to all the trash that is being put in the park containers, painting issues that need to be done in the park, the new park sign has been installed and looks great. He also stated that they are still working on Oak Street, Linwood Ave. and the street by the Methodist Church.

Conflict(s) of Interest: None

Guests: Chairperson Ratajczak introduced the new Planning Commission member Kurt Swartz. Kurt then gave a short bio of himself.

John Groneck, Cathy Groneck, Rachael Brehler, Mitch Park, Melissa Argyle, Jimmy Argyle, Andrew Taylor, Levi Meeuwenberg

Old Business:

- A. Master Plan Review – Status Update:** Vince Edwards stated that eighteen (18) people came to the public input open house regarding the master plan, and most of these people stayed for the entire open house. Some residents were concerned about the zoning of farming property, parking in the Village, and lack of speed transition signs coming into the Village. The final Master Plan report should be presented to about

September of this year. The Village is also trying to review their Master Plan but with changes in people on the Village Planning Commission, not a lot of progress is being made.

- B. Amendment 22-02 Keeping of Chickens – Public Hearing:** *Motion by Ratajczak*, supported by Edwards, to recess the Planning Commission meeting. All ayes, meeting was recessed at 6:17p.m. Ballard and Newman absent. Public Hearing was opened at 6:17p.m. Chairperson Ratajczak read Amendment #22-02 and explained the reasons for this amendment. Chairperson Ratajczak then opened the floor for anyone who wanted to speak against Amendment #22-02. No one spoke against this amendment. Chairperson Ratajczak then opened the floor for anyone who wanted to speak in favor of Amendment #22-02. Melissa Argyle had some questions and then stated that she was in favor of this amendment. Rachael Brehler stated that she was in favor of the amendment and thanked the Commissioners for the work they had done over the past several months regarding this issue. Andrew Taylor stated that he was in support of this amendment. Levi Meeuwenberg stated that he was in support of this amendment as it would have lots of benefits to families. *Motion by Swartz*, supported by Edwards to close the public hearing. All ayes, motion passed. Ballard and Newman absent. Public hearing was closed at 6:32p.m. Planning Commission meeting was reconvened at 6:32p.m. *Motion by Florip*, supported by Edwards, to approve Amendment #22-02 as presented. All ayes, motion passed. Ballard and Newman absent.

New Business:

A. Short Term Rental Application:

- i. **8861 Lake Ann Road:** Short Term Rental Application was reviewed using the Zoning Ordinance standards under Section 7.05.B. Discussion of application took place also. *Motion by Florip*, supported by Martin, to approve the Short-Term Rental Application for 8861 Lake Ann Road. All ayes, motion passed. Ballard and Newman absent. Chairperson Ratajczak stated that this application would have a one (1) year probation period.

Extended Public Comment: None

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Martin was wondering if the Township Board was looking at the increase in numbers of applications for Short Term Rentals. There are now two Short Term Rentals near her home and is concerned about how many will be allowed in an area. Commissioner Florip stated that the Township Board is aware of the number of short-term applications but at this time nothing is being planned. She also stated that cleaning companies are having trouble getting workers to clean these rentals. Chairperson Ratajczak mentioned that the number of applications has started to slow. This might be due to landlords finding additional fees for managers, cleaning, etc. was more than they thought. He also said that to keep track of how many short-term rentals in an area, keeping track of who dropped off the list, and who was next in line for application would be labor intensive.

Chair Comments: Kurt Swartz was again welcomed to the Planning Commission.

Adjourn: Chairperson Ratajczak adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Mary Dort, Recording Secretary