

M403 ELM STREET
JOINT TOWN BOARD PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES
January 9, 2017 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Carolyn Opitz. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Debbie Derfus, Dave Swenson, Carolyn Opitz, Gary Franz, Joe Burger – Present.

Visitors: Carolyn introduced Rebecca Frisch & Dean Johnson, Marathon County Conservation, Planning & Zoning

Comments from Audience:

Approval of Minutes: Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2017 – Clerk explained the minutes for the December 12th meeting have already been approved by the board; there was an error made on the agenda listing these minutes for approval. Joe/Debbie moved to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2016 meeting as printed and presented. Roll Call: Debbie, Dave, Carolyn, Gary, Joe – All Ayes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Carolyn explained the reports would be omitted to accommodate the presentation of information from the Marathon County CPZ department staff. The Board will address the approval of checks and a report from Joe Burger.

CLERK – APPROVAL OF CHECKS AND FINANCIAL REPORT – The checks to be approved were presented; the reconciliation was not presented. Board questions regarding check list: Majority of the checks are tax refunds? Yes, overpayment on taxes. Is this from taxpayers paying what was last year and over paying; Clerk, no these are typically refunds for payments from escrow companies. Debbie/Dave move to approve checks 14609 – 14670 as presented. Roll Call: Debbie, Dave, Carolyn, Gary, Joe – All Ayes. Motion carried.

JOE BURGER – MARATHON COUNTY ADDRESSING – Joe has a copy of the draft created by Marathon County of the county wide addressing. The concern with the draft plan he wanted to address is the \$20/per address stipend. Told before signs are \$35; in addition, the county is also hiring a consultant to help with whole procedure. The town's will be assessed a portion of what is paid to the consultant? Rebecca explained the county board guaranteed up to \$20 per address to the towns. The consultant part of that will require an RFP to produce, create & installation. There will be a cost to the town for consultation & installation. Rebecca further explained the Public Safety Committee would like to see uniform installation and to reach that goal, possibly hire a company to install the signs. Each municipality will get credit of \$20 per address towards that cost. Further questions should be addressed & shared with the Public Safety Committee as the plan is in draft stage. Meeting January 25th that Joe will attend.

John Bujalski asked if there is remuneration to the residents for costs associated with changing addresses? Joe explained no but the County is working with other departments to work with residents to make the efforts easier.

Dorothy Olson asked if the existing signs would become available to the residents and what is going to happen with the old signs. Rebecca cannot answer that question at this time. She further explained, that because of magnitude of project, the Postal Service will be switching the addresses for people; residents will be responsible to change some of their information but there are many major organizations and business that are working together to help with the changing of the address.

Bruce Wineman asked if the draft plan is available to citizens and how to get a copy? Available on the website and Joe has the information if anyone wants to look at it.

Move to Discussion of Town Involvement in Marathon County Planning & Zoning – Dean Johnson and Rebecca Frisch presented a power point presentation that is attached to these minutes.

Questions from the audience included whether or not there is a difference if there is no zoning are the charges the same in the budget or is there a break? Budget is tax levy, fee/revenue, grant and donations. Services paid for by fees and levy and there is no distinction. The levy is the same.

Is the fee schedule the same? The user fees (permit costs) apply to those people applying for permits under county zoning. Is there a difference for an individual's taxes? No, the county assessments are the same whether the township is in county zoning or not.

Can townships adopt county zoning at any time beyond February 16th deadline? Yes, a township can adopt county code and map in the future.

There is concern about the meeting times of the county board of adjustments and if town zoning; the meetings would take place in the evening and be more accommodating to citizens. The CPZ department has not had any suggestions or complaint of timing of meetings; it is something the department is willing to addressing through satellite offices and flexible hours.

Carolyn asked for clarification on the resolution. Rebecca explained that resolution went to all townships who were under county zoning last year and if the Board decides to adopt county zoning this would need adoption.

Debbie asked what is needed to adopt town zoning. Rebecca explained that if the resolution is not adopted at a regular town board meeting by February 16th there is no zoning in towns other than shore land regulations. Farmland Preservation is also not in place if the town does not adopt a plan and map. Have no zoning and want zoning; you will have development during that time frame; where you have the potential to deal with non-conforming uses.

Can a township adopt the county code as town code and shorten any of the timeline to meet the requirements of adopting town zoning? This needs to be discussed with the town attorney; also looking at the notification requirements as well as implementation of regulations.

Are farmers eligible for Farmland Preservation without any zoning? No, not with current regulations.

If the town were to take over the county code as town zoning code, what's the advantage to town zoning? John Bujalski stated there is better local control and more local interaction with town zoning.

Unfinished Business

Set Date for Caucus – Caucus was set for January 19, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

New Business

None

Debbie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. Dave second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Rahn