

# **Bridgeton Township Planning Commission Meeting**

## **Date: November 11, 2024 7:00 PM**

Called to Order with Pledge of Allegiance: Called to order at 7 PM by J. Howes

Roll Call: McClintock, present, Dore, present, Howes, present, Clough, present, Hawkey, present

Motion to approve agenda for date 11/11/24: D. McClintock Second: B. Dore Motion Carried

Motion to approve minutes for date 10/14/24: D. Hawkey K. Clough Second: Motion Carried

Public Comment on agenda items: None

Secretary Report/Communications: Secretary McClintock reported she had not received any communications.

### Reports:

Township Board Rep: Bob Dore reported that two new desks and reference book materials had been purchased. Insurance has been purchased "terrorism insurance" that will be used to cover any issues with ballots and ballot boxes. Mr. Dore reported that road monies that the board had voted to set aside late spring or early summer will be used to pave west 112th St. Mr. Dore stated that the were remaining ARPA funds and had been set aside for a project that would benefit a large number of residents. Mr. Schuiteman, interim supervisor, defended the decision to use the money for the 112th paving project due to the extreme condition of the road and the amount of traffic on the road. There was a verbal debate/exchange between Mr. Dore and Mr. Schuiteman until Mr. Howes called the meeting to order stating that the issue could not be resolved at this time during the planning commission meeting.

### Old Business:

Brooks Forbearance: Mr. Howes stated that this issue has been tabled to be addressed by the incoming administration on the Township Board.

Master Plan Survey updated: K. Clough reported that the survey had been completed and submitted to the Township board. The board had offered modifications that included a due date and an address for returning the survey. The survey will be printed and will go out in the winter tax bill.

### New Business:

Township election results: There were 1,117 ballots cast in Bridgeton Township during the November 5, 2024 election: Jason Mansfield was elected Township Supervisor, Jaime Holmes-Treasurer, Ann Marie Kossen-Priddy-Clerk Trustees-Bob Dore and Peggy Herman-Hinton. The newly elected board will be sworn in at the next board meeting on November 20, 2024.

ZBA hearing is scheduled on 11/13/24 at 7:00 PM to address a variance appeal of ordinance #3.09 (building/lot size).

Confirmation of Planning Commission meetings for 2025: All meetings will begin at 7 PM. (No December 2024 meeting) Meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of every month: Jan 13, Feb 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug 11, Sep. 8, Oct 13, Nov 10.

Public Comment on non-agenda items: Community Member Kathy Kubon asked what was being done to address violations of the camping ordinance. Ms. Kubon wanted to know how enforcement was taking place as her neighboring property had resident in violation who had added a pontoon boat to the property. K. Clough reported that although it is not her role as a planning commission member she had volunteered to go on a drive with Bryan Kolk, Zoning Administrator, to identify properties that were not in compliance. A letter was sent to each resident letting them know in writing that they were in violation of

township camping ordinances and that they had 30 days to come into compliance. Ms. Kubon said it had been longer than 30-days and expressed that she was tired of coming to meetings and not seeing an enforcement action taken. She stated that she wanted to see Mr. Kolk doing his job. Mr. Kolk explained that those in violation of zoning ordinances need to be given an opportunity of come into compliance with ordinances. Mr. Dore asked about the formal compliant process. Mr. Kolk explained that when a written complaint was made by a community member he would investigate and speak to residents if they were in indeed in violation of any ordinance. He would then submit his interaction to the Supervisor Barnhard. K. Clough volunteered her time again to see if those who had been sent letters had followed up and come into compliance. Ms. Kubon expressed that she was done coming to meetings when nothing gets done about people who break the rules. Ms. Kubo was clearly angry and frustrated and made a statement "that she would be hunting" that was threatening in nature. Ms. Kubon left the meeting. Mr. Howes called the meeting to order and stated for clarification that the Planning Commission is not an enforcement agency. The planning commission is appointed by the supervisor to guide the elected members of the township board in changes, modifications and intent of ordinances. Mr. Howes stated that he would like to review the camping ordinances to investigate what would need to be clarified.

Other: Mr. Schuiteman, interim Supervisor, shared the following 1). He had talked with Ryan Coffey at the MSU extension office about the camping ordinance. Mr. Coffey had offered to meeting with the Planning Commission to offer any support in refining the current ordinances. 2). He had spoke with Catherine LaVum who reported that the Army Corp of Engineers are surveying the Maple River for silt levels and they will be in the area on Tues-Thurs of the coming week. 3). Recent changes in the law allow townships to work with the state police to implement speed limit changes.

Motion to adjourn: K. Clough Second: B. Dore Motion Carried: Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted by  
DeAnn McClintock, Planning Commission Secretary