

**Minutes from Meeting Dated 2-3-2026**

**Call to Order:** Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Present - Denny Briggs, Cori Wilber, Matt Stahlin, Nate Wolff. Absent - Nancy Solomon

**Recognition of Visitors:** Six members of the community were present along with Zoning Administrator Jeanne Vandersloot.

**Approval or Changes to the Agenda:** Stahlin made a motion to accept the agenda. Seconded by Wolff. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** Wolff made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Stahlin. Briggs in favor. Wilber abstained (absent). Motion carried.

**Report from Township Board Rep (Wolff):**

1. Wolff stated the Board passed the Zoning Moratorium Ordinance without incorporating the PC's recommended changes. Briggs questioned why the Board made that decision vs. sending the draft back to the PC. Some members felt this bypassed the commission's deliberative role. Wolff referenced an email that Supervisor Smiley sent the PC after the Board meeting, which stated the change was based on a legal review that found the commission's version legally unsound. Briggs requested that his displeasure with the Board's decision not to send the ordinance back to the PC be noted.
2. **NDA Ordinance:** A new ordinance approved by the Board prohibits officials from signing an NDA in their official capacity when contacted by developers, effective 30 days after the January board meeting. A concern was raised about potential conflicts of interest for members who sign NDAs for their regular employment on a project within the township, prompting a suggestion to seek legal clarification. Wolff will take that concern back to the Board.
3. The fee schedule was updated.

**Report from Zoning Administrator:** Vandersloot gave a verbal report, stating the month of January was very slow with no zoning permits issued, though she is anticipating a few land divisions (family splits) soon.

## **Public Comment – Topics Not on the Agenda.**

Wolff asked Vandersloot if she has received any more communication about a cell tower inquiry from a couple of years ago. Negative.

Wolff informed the group that ITC is doing maintenance on the large transmission lines and that they have been replacing some poles.

## **New Business:**

### 1. Election of Officers for 2026

- Since the entire Planning Commission was not present at the January meeting, the election was postponed. Solomon previously expressed an interest in holding the position as Secretary for the three-year term. She also previously stated she was ok with the current Chair and Vice Chairpersons keeping their positions.
- Secretary — Wolff nominated Solomon. Stahlin seconded. All approved. Motion carried.
- Vice Chair – Stahlin nominated Wilber. Wolff seconded. Briggs approved. Wilber abstained. Motion carried.
- Chair – Stahlin nominated Brigg. Wilber seconded. Wolff approved. Briggs abstained. Motion carried.

### 2. Private Road Application

- Reviewed steps needed prior to holding a public hearing, and which order they should take place in.
  - i. Prior to Planning Commission voting to approve or deny, the application must be reviewed by the Ionia County Road Department, the Ionia County Drain Commission, the township engineer, and the township attorney. All 4 parties will then respond with requirements and/or recommendations.
  - ii. Wilber voiced desire to have those responses prior to scheduling a public hearing. Although not required, that would allow the public hearing notification to be as complete as possible to allow the public ample time to review, and allow the PC to vote on the application during the course of the meeting, if desired. Rest of PC in attendance concurred.
  - iii. Wilber motioned to authorize Vandersloot to send application to the township attorney and township engineer for review. Seconded by Wolff. All approved. Motion carried.

Wilber requested to amend the meeting agenda to put the Master Plan survey above the Data Center ordinance. Stahlin seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

3. Master Plan Survey revisions (continued from previous meetings):

- Question 21 from the last survey will now be #20.
- Question 21: Do you support the township funding open space preservation? (include 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' options)
- Question 22. Leave as is.
- Question 23: add a note about question 25 having room for comments, and underline "are you".
- Add options for "high speed internet", "large scale renewable energy", "direct farm sales", and "fire/EMS services."
- Question 24: remove "expanding bike /walking trails." Underline "township priorities" in the question.

Briggs asked Vandersloot to make the discussed changes to the survey document and obtain quotes for printing and mailing. Stahlin made a motion to send the revised copy to the Board for review. Wolff seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Wilber motioned to table working on the Data Center ordinance until next meeting. Stahlin seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comment - Any Topic:**

No comments received.

**Adjournment:** Stahlin motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Briggs. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Minutes documented by Cori Wilber.