

SPECIAL PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Special Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Meyette on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Roll was called. Present: Mr. Powers, Ms. Meyette, Mr. Gustafson, Mr. Sebolt, Mr. Byl, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Walker.

Mr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Mr. Paul Inglis, Oceana County Housing Commission; Mr. Allan Martin, Oceana County Housing Commission; Ms. Kittie Tuinstra, Oceana Home Partnership; and Mr. Brian Lenon, Oceana County Transfer Station, were also present.

Public participation was provided via teleconference using Zoom. The online meeting ID was 879 4016 5108.

No public comments on the agenda.

Chairperson Meyette began discussion regarding the dissolution of the Housing Commission and the subsequent repealing the Housing Ordinance.

Mr. Paul Inglis, Oceana County Housing Commission, noted that in past years there had been a couple of studies performed indicating the need for housing. He conveyed that one reason for the dissolution is to enable the Housing Commission to obtain funding. They plan to merge with Oceana's Home Partnership.

Mr. Powers requested that the Chair of the Housing Commission meet annually with the County Board of Commissioners to keep communications open and have annual reports.

Mr. Allan Martin, Oceana County Housing Commission, was present to clarify that the plan is to expand the footprint of the current program. He explained how the Housing Commission has helped with the building of housing structures in both Hart and Shelby. Mr. Walker asked if the activity would remain in place for Oceana County. Mr. Martin explained that if opportunities arose in neighboring counties, they would entertain them but Oceana County would be their focus area.

Mr. Sobie inquired if grant and foundation monies would be more readily available if the Housing Commission dissolved the association with Oceana County. Ms. Kittie Tuinstra, Oceana Home Partnership, explained the priority will remain in Oceana County, but will also assist surrounding counties. Neighboring counties' issues directly affect housing trends and flow in Oceana.

Mr. Byl mentioned that Oceana Home Partnership had used CBDG funding in the past to help homeowners with repairs, he wondered if the Housing Commission became involved, would that still continue or would the focus be on building and/or propagating new affordable rentals. Ms. Tuinstra replied that Oceana Home Partnership has had a County Homeowner Repair Program, which ended in 2015, but the State of Michigan changed how the funding was allocated. Due to changing requirements some counties did not receive funding.

Mr. Powers recommended that action be taken to dissolve the Housing Commission, but table the transfer of CDBG funds to Oceana Home Partnership until further information and/or data is produced. Mr. Sobie suggested that perhaps further conversations could be facilitated with third parties regarding the transfer of discretionary CDBG funds.

Mr. Sobie began discussion and consideration of a resolution accepting a bid for services at the Oceana County Transfer Station. Bids were opened at the last meeting and it was decided that Mr. Sobie and Mr. Lenon would meet and create a summary to present to the board at this time.

Mr. Lenon, mentioned that Mr. Scott Wenberg, American Classic, was the low bid. After a conversation with Mr. Wenberg, it was assured that American Classic would be able to provide the services described in the bid provided.

Mr. Walker requested a statement from each of the service providers who submitted bids. Mr. Wenberg, American Classic, complimented Mr. Lenon on his performance of duties and the facility based upon the site review that he had the opportunity to experience on multiple occasions. Mr. Wenberg mentioned that they are a family owned business with many facets.

Mr. Jack Iwema, MCK Enterprises, indicated that they are also family owned. He questioned what the total annual cost would be for the Transfer Station when there was nothing notated for the disposal fee that is when dealing with recycling. Mr. Wenberg explained that the recycling fee is built in to the total because they have a unique agreement with Padnos regarding recyclables.

Mr. Kerry Rattinger, Republic Services, questioned whether the other two companies are able to respond as efficiently as history has indicated.

The recommendation is that the bid be awarded to American Classic \$155,588 annually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Meyette adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson
Oceana County Clerk

