

## **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Morse on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Roll was called. Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Christians, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Morse.

Also present: Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; John Cavanagh, Oceana's Herald-Journal correspondent; Mr. Paul Oomen, Crystal Township resident; Mr. Lee Hyslop, Crystal Township resident; Ms. Cindy Verschueren, Crystal Township Resident; Mr. John Meyers, Crystal Township resident; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident.

Moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2021, Planning & Environmental Services Committee as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Hardy and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed resolution regarding the Crystal Valley Dam repair or removal.

Crystal Township resident, Mr. Paul Oomen, stated that he thought that the dam should stay, as a considerable amount of sediment is kept out of the creek.

Mr. Lee Hyslop, of Crystal Township, questioned if it was a possibility for community volunteers to help maintain the dam. Mr. Warner said that he didn't think this would be feasible, as it would involve reconstructing the top four to five feet of the dam.

Ms. Cindy Verschueren, Crystal Township resident, asked how the dam removal project would impact the Crystal Valley Fire Department, as well as the taxes of the residents.

Crystal Township resident, Mr. John Meyers, expressed concern that removing the dam would cause the creek and pond to dry up. Mr. Warner explained that the same amount of water would be flowing from upstream without the dam, and did not believe that it would impact his pond.

City of Hart resident, Ms. Peggy Wittman, expressed her concerns about the communication between the Board and their constituents.

Discussion ensued regarding the Crystal Valley dam, specifically regarding the property owners concerns.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a proposed re-appointment to Planning Commission. The members being considered are Mr. John Stivers, Mr. Scott Rumsey, and Mr. Phil Morse.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution authorizing a materials management grant application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Steve Bruch will conduct a forum on this subject. This would need to be completed by November of 2022.

Dr. Sobie requested consideration of a resolution to appoint a member to the Oceana County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board. Mr. Huntington resigned, Mr. Larry Byl was recommended to fill this position through September 30, 2022. He may be reappointed for a three-year term at that time. Three of the nine members would need to be appointed at that time.

Mr. Beggs expressed that Mr. Byl is a great choice for the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board as he is familiar with our local government and has real estate expertise.

Dr. Sobie began discussion regarding an extension of the Transfer Station Waste Disposal Agreement with American Classic. Dr. Sobie suggests a two-year extension as the current agreement is going well.

Mr. Morse began discussion regarding the Board of Commissioners Strategic Planning process. The next step of the process is to set goals and action steps. He suggested that this should be a committee including Mr. Morse, Ms. Meyette and one other commissioner as well as Mr. Steve Bruch, Oceana County Economic and Community Projects Coordinator.

### **Public comment**

Mr. Christians and Mr. Walker will be attending the upcoming Crystal Township meeting. Dr. Sobie has consulted with the Oceana County Prosecutor and confirmed that any other Commissioner who would like to attend the Crystal Township meeting would be welcome to attend.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Chairperson of the Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission, reminded everyone that the Marshville Dam project will take place over a three-year period. There are several grants that may be available. Mr. McKeen also encouraged input from the community as things progress.

Mr. Garry McKeen, Mears resident, commented on TrueStream Internet has recently been brought into the county, and he is very impressed with the service.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Morse adjourned the Planning and Environmental Services meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk