

The Oceana County Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Greiner on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 1:00 pm, in the Oceana County Board of Commissioners Room, 100 S. State Street, Hart, Michigan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Greiner led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Vince Greiner, Vice Chair Gina Loera, Secretary John Stivers, Mr. John Foss, Mr. Garry McKeen, Mr. Paul Cutter, Mr. Scotty Rumsey, and Mr. Phil Morse.

Absent: Mr. Al Blohm

Also present: Ms. Brittany Bostrom, Accounts Payable Clerk, Oceana County; David Jaunese, Ranger USFS Baldwin; Mark Timmer, OCRC Managing Director.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Loera and seconded by Mr. McKeen to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023, as presented with Oceana County Planning Commission meeting. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mr. Rumsey and seconded by Mr. Foss to approve the June 1, 2023, agenda as presented. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

NEW BUSINESS

- US Forest Service Assessment of Otto, Grant and Greenwood Townships in Oceana County.

Ranger David Jaunese led the commission in the discussion:

- The commission was informed that the USFS is conducting an environmental assessment that includes three townships within the county.
- The objectives are to improve use of the public land by improving camping. There are currently 150 designated campsites within the forest in the three townships, but in their assessment 90 are in good condition. Plans are to increase the number of “designated disperse campsites” which are away from developed recreational facilities or designated campgrounds. These sites may be used for up to 16 days,

with a limit within the forest of 16 days out of 30 days, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- Extended stays by the homeless in the forest was discussed. Grant Township has the largest number, some staying all winter. Mattress and tire disposal are also issues. USFS has a good working relationship with local authorities and support agencies and organizations.
- In response to Mr. McKeen's question of how the OCPC can help, Jaunese asked that when their assessment is complete, the commission reviews it. It is expected to be prepared within six months.

- Oceana County Road Commission "Turn Back Roads"

Mark Timmer OCRC Managing Director led the commission in the discussion:

- Managing Director Mark Timmer, upon learning the OCPC has identified both Oceana Drive and the exits off US31 as opportunities in our update of the Master Plan, agreed to speak to use on the changing status of these sections of roadway, plus other topics of interest to the commissioners.
- "Turn Back Roads" are portions or roadways where the county road commission assumes more if not total responsibility from MDOT for maintenance and future improvements. They may have been the former designated state highway that became a "business route" and finally "unsigned trunk line." Detailed negotiations between state and county road commissions cover budgets, and scheduled transfer of responsibilities. Here is the status of the three within Oceana County:
 - Exits from US31 to Pentwater. Negotiations are complete and OCRC has take responsibility for these former US31 Business routes.
 - Oceana Drive from Shelby village limits to North Branch Pentwater River Bridge. Transfer is currently under negotiation.
 - Polk Road from Oceana Drive West to 64th Avenue. Early negotiations. Mr. Timmer explained how the transfer will improve roadway design to accommodate the long-term increasing commercial development of the roadway, while using available funding on near-turn maintenance. When it comes to major improvements, there are several funding opportunities that can be tapped which might not be pursue if left in MDOT control.
- Other issues brought up by commissioners:
 - Brining of unsurfaced roads. Mr. Timmer explained their best practices for dust control including products and procedures.
 - Mr. Morse asked about township funding of road maintenance, in particular for the poorer ones. Mr. Timmer indicated that 14 of the 16 townships have partnership agreements with OCRC, 13 obtaining funding from a road millage and Newfield Township from Marijuana taxes, and that the OCRC does all it can to work with each to identify priorities and optimize money spent.

OLD BUSINESS

- Master Plan Update:
 - Mr. Carlson was not in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE

- No Correspondence.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

- Mr. McKeen, who had attended the May 2023 Oceana chapter Michigan Township Association meeting held at Elbridge Township, reported their topics included the junk and inoperable vehicle ordinance passed by Shelby Township.
- Mr. Cutter reported that the recently received bids for improvements at the City of Hart BioPure Treatment Facility were over budget. Project scope is being scaled back for a second round of bidding.
- Ms. Loera reviewed progress and scope revisions to the Housing Needs Assessment study commissioned by Dogwood Community Development.
- Mr. McKeen reported that the Oceana Parks and Recreation Commission are unable to apply for the third round of Michigan Spark Grants for Black Lake Park improvements because Oceana County is too small to be in the 39 entities being considered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

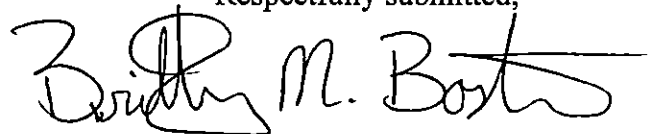
There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Greiner adjourned the meeting at 2:36 pm.

The next meeting will be July 6, 2023, at 1:00 pm in the Oceana County Board of Commissioners Room, 100 S. State Street, Hart, MI 49420.

Respectfully submitted,



Brittany M. Bostrom
On behalf of John Stivers, Secretary
Oceana County Planning Commission