

The Oceana County Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Greiner on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 1:00 pm, in the Oceana County Board of Commissioners Room, 100 S. State Street, Hart, Michigan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Chair Gina Loera, Secretary John Stivers, Mr. Garry McKeen, Mr. Al Blohm, Mr. John Foss, Mr. Scott Rumsey, and Mr. Phil Morse.

Absent: Chairperson Vince Greiner and Mr. Paul Cutter

Also present: Mary Marshall of the "City Committee" from the Village of Pentwater; Mr. Stephen Carlson of West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Council (WMSRDC) who is working on the update of the Oceana County Master Plan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Morse and seconded by Mr. Foss to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2023, as presented. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mr. McKeen and seconded by Mr. Blohm to approve the September 7, 2023, agenda with the addition of correspondence from DNR concerning open position on the White River Zoning Review Board. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Marshall, who has served for a year as a volunteer appointment by the Village of Pentwater Board to the "City Committee," reported to OCPC members on the viability of the village to become a city. Michigan law precludes many options, such as Charter Township status, primarily because of inadequate voting residents. She indicated the decision, if put to a vote in the future, rests with the citizens of the Village. Members acknowledge the OCPC has no authority on this issue, but appreciated the open discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

- Master Plan Update:

- Mr. Morse indicated he had placed the county master plan on the agenda of the Michigan Association of Townships Oceana Chapter meeting scheduled for September 27th, 2023, at 6pm, being held at Golden Township Hall.
- Mr. Carlson confirmed that he had sent emails to all the other planning commissions within the county, but reported that he had received no response.
- The objective of the emails and MTA meetings is to obtain the future land use plans and maps from each planning commission as part of developing the county plan.
- Mr. Carlson handed out the proposed completion schedule for the county master plan.
 1. Draft version of the plan will be sent to planning commissioners in mid-September for review followed by discussion at its October 5th meeting.
 2. With approval of the draft at that meeting, the document goes to the County Board so they can act starting the 63-day public review period.
 3. The required public review meeting was tentatively scheduled to occur at the Oceana County Planning Commission meeting on January 4th, 2024.
- Vice chair Loera and Mr. Carlson worked out that the high-level themes of the Oceana County Housing Needs Assessment were being incorporated in the county master plan, and that the final assessment document would be referenced in the Plan. A public presentation of the housing needs assessment is scheduled for September 27th, 9-11am at the West MI Research Station.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Kesiree O'Brien, Natural Rivers Administrator, Michigan DNR, sent a letter dated August 16th, 2023, indicating that the White River Zoning Review Board has an opening formerly held by County Commissioner Martha Meyette. After discussion and interest in the position was expressed, Mr. McKeen moved, Mr. Blohm seconded a motion to take no action until the October 5th, 2023, OCPC meeting. Mr. Stivers agreed to reply to Ms. O'Brien.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

- Mr. McKeen reported Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Oceana County Road Commission had received bids on the improvements at Stony Creek County Park and Marshville Dam Road. Unfortunately, they were all over budget. Options are currently under review with hope the work can be started in the spring of 2024, with completion by that fall.
- Mr. McKeen reported on renovations under way at Cedar Point County Park.
- The County Parks and Recreation master plan survey is available on the County's website and a link provided in the Oceana County Conservation District newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. McKeen with Mr. Blohm's second moved for adjournment of the meeting at 2:19 pm.

The next meeting will be October 5, 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