



# DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2018 at Deerfield Township Hall

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by chairman Jim Wynes at 7:03 p.m. Meeting had been rescheduled from its normal March 14 date.

**PRESENT:** Connie Lynch, Chairman Jim Wynes, Dan McGuire, Tom Kromer, Jonas Cook, Roger Lintemuth and Zoning Administrator Melissa Nelson.

**ABSENT:** None

**ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** No additions. Motion to approve by Kromer, seconded by McGuire. Approved 5-0

**APPROVAL OF January 9, 2018 MINUTES:** Motion by Cook to approve as presented, seconded by McGuire. Approved 6-0.

### **Zoning Administrator's Report:**

Recent up-to-date photos of McQuestion property were requested by Township Attorney Michael Hackett and have been provided. Longtime Planning Commission member Virginia Wood has submitted a letter resigning from the board as of March 31. She had been instrumental in early formation of township zoning and had dedicated several years of service to township progress.

**Public comment on agenda items only:** None

**Old Business:** Master Plan revisions and additions are still in the process of being reviewed by the Township Board. The board had asked for additional time to study the final version of the document.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Planning Commission members discussed at length the current situation involving possible wind generation in the township. The group noted that it hoped for more time to study the required regulations to protect residents and residential areas while at the same time working with reasonable requirements of commercial wind

generation. It was discussed that it was possible to request a moratorium on issuing zoning permits for wind generation towers. A motion was made by Kromer and seconded by Lynch that the Planning Commission was in favor of adopting a one-year moratorium involving issuing of permits required for wind generation tower construction. The motion was approved by a 6-0 margin. That motion now will be forwarded to the Township Board. Planning Commission had reviewed ordinances from other townships involving wind generation. The group now plans to review the ordinance in effect for wind generation by Isabella County and from the Michigan Townships Association. A Special Planning Commission meeting tentatively is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 at 10 a.m. at the Township Hall to further study the topic and share research.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Clyde Miles noted that he had been near operating commercial wind turbines and that the noise level was not loud, actually pretty quiet, and that he didn't see any dead birds on the ground around the towers. He added that solar projects were already under way in Montcalm County.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 pm. Motion was made by Kromer and seconded by McGuire.

**NEXT MEETING: Special Meeting Tentatively April 18, 2018 at 10 a.m.  
Next regular meeting, Tuesday, May 8, 2018.**