

WALES TOWNSHIP
ORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ZOOM MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2021

Opening

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call taken: Members present: D. Jewell; Chair G. Perry; J. Minor; K. Watkins; L. Thomson;
N. Downey.

Absent: D. Basnaw, excused.

Approval of Agenda. **Motion** by Minor, second by Watkins, to approve the Agenda with corrections. Because of COVID restriction changes, the venue for the meeting was forced to be changed to virtual at the last minute, without enough time to inform all parties involved with the Lixey Storage LLC Public Hearing. Therefore the Public Hearing has been canceled, and rescheduling it will have to be added to New Business. Roll call vote taken: Minor, aye; Watkins, aye; Thomson, aye; Downey, aye; Jewell, aye; Perry, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2020 regular meeting. **Motion** by Perry, second by Downey, to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2020 regular Planning Commission meeting. Roll call vote taken: Perry, aye; Downey, aye; Thomson, aye; Minor, aye; Jewell, aye; Watkins, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the December 07, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. **Motion** by Jewell, second by Watkins, to approve the Minutes of the December 07, 2020 Special meeting to accept application for rezoning request. Roll call vote taken: Jewell, aye; Watkins, aye; Perry, aye; Minor, aye; Thomson, aye, Downey, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

Questions from the public. None.

Correspondence.

Two pipeline safety pamphlets – T. C. Energy and DCP Midstream.

Guest Presentation. None.

Reports

- a. Zoning Administrator – Not in Attendance.
- b. Planning Consultant - not in attendance.
- c. Township Board Representative. Thomson reported on the tree-trimming done at the Township Hall and both cemeteries; also, that a veteran's group has sprayed a fungicide on veterans' stones to kill the mossy growth on them. The rules for Poverty Exemptions for the Board of Review were adopted, and Perry and Watkins were re-appointed for three year terms.
- d. Township Board of Appeals representative; Minor reported there have been no meetings.
- e. Committees; no reports.
- f. Other -none.

Public participation; no public.

Old Business – none.

New Business

- a. Review By-Laws. **Motion** by Minor, second by Thomson, to approve them as they stand. Roll call vote taken: Minor, aye; Thomson, aye; Downey, aye; Jewell, aye; Watkins, aye; Perry, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

- b. Election of Officers for the year. **Motion** by Thomson, second by Jewell, to approve the existing officers for another one-year term. Members were asked if there were any other nominations. Watkins said that he thought we might entertain the idea of having rotating terms, with everyone eligible taking turns as Officers. There being no support, the roll was called. Thomson, aye; Jewell, aye; Perry, aye; Minor, aye; Watkins, aye; Downey, aye. All ayes motion carried. The Officers of the Commission remain as: Chairperson, Perry; Vice-Chair, Basnaw; Secretary, Watkins. The question was asked, how do we know Basnaw wishes to remain in that seat. The Recording Secretary replied that she asked him that question when she learned that he might not attend the meeting, due to health problems. He said he would like to retain the seat, and would put it in writing if needed.

- c. Set Planning Commission Meeting Date Calendar. There was general discussion on if there was any problem with keeping the Calendar the way it has been; the third Monday of the months required. Watkins asked that it remain if January meeting can still be on the next day, a Tuesday, because the third Monday in January is a Holiday; Martin Luther King Day. With agreement, **motion** made by Jewell, second by Minor, to set the Wales Township Calendar for 2021-Jan. 2022, for the mandated dates of Monday, April 19, 2021; Monday, July 19, 2021; Monday, October 18, 2021; and Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Roll call vote taken: Jewell, aye; Minor, aye; Perry, aye; Watkins, aye; Thomson, aye; Downey, aye. All ayes, motion carried.

- d. Reschedule date for Public Hearing on Lixey Storage LLC Site Plan Amendment. Supervisor Masters said that she visited Mrs. Lixey to inform them of the forced delay of their scheduled meeting due to COVID restrictions. Mrs. Lixey assured her that any new date set by the commission will be suitable for them, also. Minor asked if there is any hope for in-person meetings. Masters replied that the MTA is suggested that townships prepare for virtual Board of Review meetings in March, so the prospect of in-person meetings any sooner is unlikely. Watkins asked if we are being legal. Masters replied that the State is granting quite a bit of leniency connected to COVID. Minor said we need to know about changes in advance. Masters explained that we knew about the change to the January 19 meeting on the morning of January 18. Minor asked if there was any new information from the petitioner or his attorney. Masters said the attorney sent photos of the site, and letters from residents of the area concerning the petition. They will be forwarded to the Planning Commission members promptly. After discussion, **motion** by Minor, second by Jewell, to set Monday, March 15, 2021, as the date for the Lixey request. Thomson asked if it will be virtual. Masters replied "yes". Watkins asked how many times we can reschedule? No one was sure. Motion was called: roll call vote was taken: Minor, aye; Jewell, aye; Perry, aye; Watkins, aye; Thomson, aye; Downey, aye. All ayes; motion carried. Minor asked if we have anything new from Lixey. Masters explained what is new. Most of the contact has been between the two attorneys.

There was discussion on the upcoming rezoning hearing. Minor said we have to review the request in view of the Master Plan. We can't just spot zone. Watkins inquired as to who to go to for questions. Masters suggested the Zoning Administrator.

Minor said we should add a statement to the Master Plan, encouraging high-speed internet service to the area.

Adjournment. **Motion** by Minor, second by Thomson, to adjourn. Roll call vote taken: Minor, aye; Thomson, aye; Downey, aye; Perry, aye; Jewell, aye; Watkins, aye. All ayes; meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m. Next regular meeting April 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Duncan, Recording Secretary