

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
Joint Meeting of Board of Trustees
Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals

Virtual only (Zoom) Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021

6:00 pm

Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333

MINUTES

FINAL MINUTES
Page 1 of 3
YST Joint Meeting
January 27, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call

Board of Trustees: Present: Mike Cunningham at Township Hall, Rob Heethuis at Lisa Lane, Dave VanHouten at Rock Dr., Deb Mousseau at Heritage Bay, Larry Knowles at Beatrice.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Present: John Frigmanski at Pine Meadows Dr., Dave VanHouten at Rock Dr., Jake Welch at Payne Lake Rd, Ron Heilman at Johnson Dr.

Planning Commission: Present: Shana Bush at Kraft Ave., Rich Beukema at Payne Lake Rd., John Frigmanski at Pine Meadows Dr., Karen Kennedy at Lakeridge Dr., Larry Knowles at Beatrice, Frank Fiala at Lakeridge Dr.

Also Present: Catherine Kaufman, YS Attorney and Eric Thompson, PCI and Zoning Administrator

Staff Present: Sandy Marcukaitis, Alice Jansma, Dennis Buist- Constable.

Visitors: 7 via ZOOM (not including staff present)

ZOOM HOST: John R. Smith at Florida residence

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Van Houten: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes. Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Catherine Kaufman
Eric Thompson
Catherine Getty

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes) NONE.

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

**ADDITIONS/
CHANGES TO
AGENDA**

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGE
MENT OF
VISITORS:**

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Supervisor Heethuis gave a brief overview of the committees and the tasks that are being worked on at this point in time.

FINAL MINUTES

Page 2 of 3
YST Joint Meeting
January 27, 2021

A. Yearly Report – Board of Trustees

**YEARLY REPORT
(Board of Trustees)**

- i. Code Enforcement Officer Report (attached).
- ii. Pickleball update: Two motions were passed at the last board meeting. One was to remove the tape and reset the basketball and tennis courts back to their original use. The second motion was to have the attorney draft and send documents to the Pickleball Group requesting their credentials. The correspondence has been sent and the response is expected before the February board meeting.
- iii. New sexton: The cemetery sexton retired at the end of 2020 and a contract has been signed with a new sexton.
- iv. Short-term rentals: On the list for the Board and the Planning Commission.
- v. Township Hall renovation: Has been an issue in the past and is expected to come up before the board again this year.
- vi. Create policy manuals for Bidding, Hiring, Appointing, Spending, etc.: Currently in process to provide a framework for the operation of the township.

B. Yearly Report – Zoning Board of Appeals

Jake Welch presented the report. He mentioned that one member resigned and Heethuis is working on getting a new member in place. VanHouten complimented the board and Jake's leadership. Eric Thompson said that he is trying to be more firm with applicants providing full information before they are scheduled to come to the board meetings.

**YEARLY REPORT
(Zoning Board of Appeals)**

C. Yearly Report – Planning Commission

Frank Fiala presented the report. Added that "non-conforming structures" was not included on the list of accomplishments but it is ready to go to a public meeting now. Heethuis expressed agreement with the items that were presented in particular the importance of continuing education. Fiala asked for Cunningham's assistance in distributing information regarding educational opportunities and he agreed to help. Fiala reviewed the items on the PC's work plan for 2021 and answered questions from the Board members. Heethuis said the Board will review the list of nine items and give the PC their suggestion for prioritizing them before their February meeting.

**YEARLY REPORT
(Planning Commission)**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Limit 3 minutes

Ron Heilman: Recommended Greg Purcell to fill the opening on the Planning Commission if he is interested. He expressed his belief that short-term rentals should not be allowed in residential areas but only in commercial districts. He would like action taken this year to prevent increasing problems presented by the short-term rentals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Eister: Agreed with Heilman that action should be taken soon regarding the short-term rentals. He has discussed with the fire department that the number of people in a rental property

could qualify it as a motel or other commercial property.

Greg Purcell: Agreed with other comments about the rental properties. He would be willing to serve on the Planning Commission if it was acceptable due to the fact that he would miss several meetings when residing in Florida.

Jake Welch: He asked why the current ordinances regarding behavior can't be used to curb the problems with short-term rentals rather than enacting additional regulations.

BOARD COMMENT:

Cunningham: reminded all members to turn in their timesheets for payroll. New MTA books are available for all board members.

Mousseau: don't want to forget about the Township Hall renovation.

Knowles: good meeting and learned a lot.

Heethuis: proud of the group and the sensitivity that is shown for topics that bring up a lot of different opinions.

ADJOURNMENT:

*Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Approved by all.
Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted:
Betsy Frigmanski
Recording Secretary 1/22/2021


Approved by: by Board of Trustees Feb. 11, 2021

 2/12/2021

Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk Date

 2/25/21

Shana Bush, Vice Chair Planning Commission Date

 3/9/21

Jake Welch, Chair Zoning Board of Appeals Date

Full audio recording of this meeting has been downloaded to the township office computer system on 1/28/2021.

FINAL MINUTES

Page 3 of 3
YST Joint Meeting
January 27, 2021

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT