

County of Antrim - Planning Commission

Bill Bailey

Jim Gurr, President

Barbara Bradford

Jason Helwig

Dawn LaVanway

Gary Lockwood

Bruce Priemer

Rick Teague

Ron Tschudy

Minutes – December 3, 2019
Board of Commissioners Room, 2nd Floor
Antrim County Building, Bellaire, Michigan

Members Present: Jim Gurr, Bill Bailey, Barb Bradford, Dawn LaVanway, Rick Teague, Jason Helwig, Gary Lockwood, Ron Tschudy, Bruce Priemer

Members Absent: None.

Staff and Others: Pete Garwood, Stan Moore, Margie Boyd

1. Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Jim Gurr

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

None.

4. Public Comment

5. Approval of Agenda

**Motion by Gary Lockwood, seconded by Jason Helwig to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion Carries**

6. Approval of Minutes

Minute Changes

Motion by Rick Teague, seconded by Ron Tschudy to approve the minutes from November 5, 2019 as presented.

Motion Carries - unanimous

7. Elk Rapids Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Bruce Priemer entered the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Amendment 2019-01 – Agricultural Uses: Farm/Farm Market Sales

Pete Garwood, County Administrator, noted prior to this proposed amendment, there had been no previous definition of farms and farm markets in the Elk Rapids Zoning Ordinance.

Jim Gurr noted the definition included in Part 1-b seemed redundant. Mr. Gurr stated he did not find the language to be incompatible with the County's Master Plan.

Amendment 2019-02 – Agricultural Uses: Solar Energy Farms

Mr. Priemer questioned the reason behind the height restriction of 16' for solar panels. Barb Bradford expressed concern the amendment made the ordinance too restrictive to those who wish

to build solar energy farms. Dawn LaVanway commended the township for a forward thinking amendment to the ordinance. Bill Bailey noted the verbiage submitted by Elk Rapids Township is not incompatible with the County's Master Plan.

Motion by Jason Helwig, second by Bill Bailey, that the Antrim County Planning Commission finds no inconsistency between the proposed language changes to the Elk Rapids Township Zoning Ordinance amendment and the Antrim County Master Plan and recommends Elk Rapids Township approve proposed Amendment 2019-01, Amendment 2019-02, Amendment 2019-03, and Amendment 2019-04.

Motion carries - unanimous

8. Various Matters/Public Comment

Mr. Bailey said he believes solar and wind energy usage is beginning to gain momentum.

Ms. Bradford asked whether the Planning Commissioners had received copies of the rules used to guide the way in which meetings are run.

Mr. Tschudy said the Secretary General of the United Nations indicated the US regulations on climate change are "utterly inadequate." He said he was glad to see townships moving forward with solar energy usage.

Mr. Garwood noted the Rules & Procedures used to guide the Planning Commission can be found on the County website.

Mr. Bailey said he believes zoning ordinance take away private property rights.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00