

Regular Meeting of Casco Township Planning Commission  
January 9, 2013 7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bruce Barker, John Stroud, Dian Liepe, Daniel Fleming, David Campbell, Paul Macyauski, and Judy Graff

**STAFF PRESENT:** Janet Chambers, Recording Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** Diana Ostermann, Dr. Marty Graber, Bob Baker and Bill Chambers

- 1. Call to order and review of agenda:** The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM. There were no changes to agenda.
- 2. Approval of minutes from 12/5/12:** Motion by Fleming, supported by Stroud to approve minutes of 12/12/12 as modified. All in favor, MSC.

Page 1, #7, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Chairman Barker expressed to ~~Elliason~~ Patrick Hudson the need to emphasize road repair in the Wind Ordinances.

Page 2, #8, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Chairman Barker encouraged people to attend the ~~Annual~~ Special Joint Township Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Things that will be covered at the ~~annual joint~~ meeting will include Ordinances, roads, windmills, parks, water and Sewer, and capital improvements. ~~and election of officers for the PC.~~

**Open meeting on 12/12/12 for Wind Energy Ordinance.**

Motion by Fleming, supported by Stroud to approve minutes of 12/12/12 as modified. All in favor. MSC

Page 2, last paragraph; Page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; and Page 4, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The name ~~Carlborg~~ should be *Paarlberg*.

**3. Public Comment & Correspondence:**

Diana Ostermann, 7364 North Shore Drive, South Haven, has been studying the issue of noise levels regarding to wind energy and had a letter (attachment #1) concerning her findings. Chairman Barker requested that she bring her letter to the January 16<sup>th</sup> open meeting, where the public will be asked for input on the Wind Energy Ordinances. Chairman Barker passed out copies of the letter to Commissioners for their review, and it will be added to the correspondence section of the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bill Chambers, 7340 Lake Ridge Road, South Haven asked if Ostermann could give a summary of her information for those who will not attend the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ostermann said that her letter included peer-reviewed studies about safe noise levels show that 10-20% of residences near wind turbines get sick. Her concern involves dBA and

dBC levels. She has been forwarding her information to Patrick Hudson, Township Planner, and was told that Ordinances cannot legally prohibit placement by restrictive ordinances. Ostermann quoted the Michigan Zoning Act which says *“unless a location within the local unit of government does not exist where the use may be appropriately located.”* She concluded that a “safe setback” is part of an “appropriate location”.

Dr. Marty Graber, 31 Lincoln, South Haven, said that he will not be available to attend the meeting next week and wanted to comment. He stated that he is not for or against wind energy. He stated that histoplasmosis was originally thought to be caused by mules because it was located in Ohio Valley where there were a lot of mules. Later histoplasmosis was thought to be caused by pine trees because the area also had many pine trees. He stated that just because symptoms exist, and another thing exists in the same area, it does not mean that thing is the cause. A study needs to be done in an area where wind energy exists, then a second study in a neighboring area without wind energy to compare the two.

Ostermann said that the type of noises that wind turbines put out is causing symptoms. There would need to be 1 ¼ mile distance between residence and wind turbines to minimize the symptoms. Sound and vibration perimeters should be 1 ¼ mile, and 40 dCB during the day and 35 dCB at night. She added that her information was from peer-reviewed studies that were done.

Chairman Barker asked if this information has been passed on to Hudson. Ostermann said she had not passed on everything because Hudson was not receptive to it. Chairman Barker requested that she send everything to both himself and Hudson.

Bob Baker, 54 Lincoln, South Haven, asked what brought up the subject of WECS in Casco. Graff told him that the ordinances are being upgraded to current technology and because there is interest in the area. Baker sent an email (attachment #2) to Graff which will be included in the correspondence for the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**4. Report from the Township Board of representative:** Graff gave the Township Board report.

The Board welcomed Cheri Brenner, Township Clerk, and Josiah Jessup, Trustee.

The senior program is now being moved to the Township Hall.

Township Board decided that, while they do support the Blue Star Trail, Casco Township will not be part of the Blue Star Trail group requesting a CEMIC Grant and will not be supplying resources.

**5. Report from the ZBA representative:** Macyauski said there have been no meetings and nothing is scheduled.

6. **Report from Water/Sewer representative:** In absence of a Water/Sewer Representative, Chairman Barker said that Supervisor Overhiser could update at the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and Rich Dutkowski was asked to attend the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting also.
7. **Election of officers for Planning Commission:** All were in favor of reelecting Bruce Barker as Chairman, Dan Fleming as Vice Chair, and Dian Liepe as Secretary.
8. **New Business- 433 Drain Ordinance Schedule – Open/Public hearing.**  
Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM will be a public hearing on the 433 Drain Ordinances. Immediately following the 433 hearing will be an open meeting for public input on WECS Ordinances.
9. **Old Business: Site Condominiums, Zoning Ordinances Review – Setting Priorities & PC Schedule:**  
Chairman Barker said that the PC will continue the work of updating the Ordinances. Chapter 17 & Chapter 15, Section 4.08, and Section 4.07 will have to be done. The priority list was made in October. Requests have changed the priority list. Some of the larger items will be first. Ellingsen has been asked to find inconsistencies with the Ordinances and Master Plan. Graff said that Casco needs to accommodate people caring for their elderly parents in a separate dwelling (Granny Pods) on their property. Chairman Barker said that Lots of Record need to be looked at. He asked that people come and voice their opinion.

Chairman Barker emphasized the importance of the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked that people attend and express their views.

**10. Public Comment:** none

A motion to adjourn was made by Stroud, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fleming. All in favor. MSC. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Public Hearing on 433 Drain Agreement will be January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM, followed by an open meeting on WECS.

Next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM will be a Special Joint meeting.

Minutes by Janet Chambers, Recording Secretary

Attachment #1: Ostermann's letter regarding WECS noise levels

Attachment #2: Baker's email regarding WECS