

PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Barbara Rogers, Blake Mulder, Joe Brehler, Terrance Augustine, Trevor Youngquist, and Scott Hansen

ABSENT: Commissioner Brian Lautzenheiser

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioners Jim Mott, Brian Droscha; Connie Sobie, Claudine Williams, Chris Garrison, Brandy Miller, Deb Penfield, Jarod Bogdanov-Hanna, Travis Keeton, Matt Hannahs, and Rachel Cushieri-Murray

The March 13, 2024 regular meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Rogers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Commissioner Mulder moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the February 14, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. None.

Matt Hannahs, Engineer-Manager for the Eaton County Road Commission, was present to provide the Commissioner's semi-annual update. An overview of past, current, and upcoming projects was given, as well as a brief summary of the draft 2022-2023 Annual Report and 2023 Millage Report.

Construction Code and Planning & Zoning Director, Chris Garrison, presented the department's monthly report. It was noted the online permitting system is up and running and is getting good reviews from contractors.

Brandy Miller, Planning and Zoning Administrator, presented reports on two (2) zoning ordinances amendments. DCA-3-24-1 and DCA-3-24-2 (full text is in the Board packet). Discussion was held. Commissioner Mulder moved to recommend approval of both amendments, DCA-3-24-1 and DCA-3-24-2, to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Augustine seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Miller also gave an update on Marihuana Facilities in reference to the Zoning Ordinance. She stated on March 5, 2024 the Eaton County Board of Appeals rendered an official interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance as to where Marihuana Facilities may operate. Ms. Miller clarified townships under Eaton County's zoning jurisdiction still controlled whether or not they opted in and allowed Facilities in their community. If a Township does wish to allow them, the zoning ordinance, via the Ordinance Interpretation, now identifies where they may operate. Discussion was held.

Resource Recovery Assistant, Debbie Penfield, stated the Solid Waste Ordinance Hearing scheduled for Lebron Trash Hauling has been cancelled. Mr. Labron turned in all of his paperwork and payment on March 12, 2024 and is now compliant.

Resource Recovery Director, Jarod Bogdanov-Hanna, spoke about three (3) upcoming recycling events. An update on the Materials Management Plan (MMP) was given with an overview of what the County's responsibilities would be as the designated County Approval Agency. A timeline of how the MMP would move forward was given. Discussion was held.

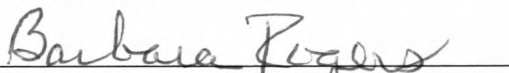
Parks Director, Travis Keeton, presented the department's monthly report. Mr. Keeton noted he is working with John Merrick to update the park maps in an effort to promote our parks. He is also working on hiring a new Naturalist and the upcoming budget.

Bob Robinson, Eaton County Treasurer, reported on upgrades to the PACE program. The PACE program allows districts to be established that permit businesses to make energy-efficient upgrades to their facilities and use a 20-year special assessment on property to pay for upgrades instead of getting a commercial loan. Treasurer Robinson notes the PACE program has been very successful in Eaton County with five (5) businesses using this economic incentive tool. Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the PACE program updates as presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Augustine supported. Motion carried unanimously.

Limited Public Comment. Rachel Cushieri-Murray gave an Eaton Conservation District update. She informed the Committee the State of Michigan is considering moving the MEAP program budget from the Conservation District to MDARD. This would result in the elimination of a full-time staff position in the Eaton County office. Technicians would instead be hired by the State and concentrate their efforts on the eastern side of Michigan. Ms. Murray stated this would be a large reduction in the support our Eaton County agricultural community receives. A list of future events for the Conservation District was provided.

Chairperson Rogers adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 10, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Commissioner Room of the Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813.


Barbara Rogers, Chairperson