MENOMINEE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

S904 U.S. Highway 41, Stephenson, MI 49887 (906) 753-2209

MINUTES

April 25, 2011

The Menominee County Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm CST by Chair, Lillian Schultz at the Michigan State University Extension office in Stephenson, MI with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Bill Anderson, Wayne Erickson, Jim Pearson, Charlene Peterson, Lillian Schultz, and Warren Suchovsky. Absent: Roger Cole

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Public Comment: (In attendance: Doug Toupalik & Paul Anderson, Ingallston; Bob Desjarlais) – Ingallston reserved the right to participate during the review of their ordinance.

Approval of the Agenda: Chair noted additional material had just been submitted very recently for review and we added those items to the agenda under new business. Motion by Anderson; second by Suchovsky to approve the agenda, as noted. Carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Regular meeting minutes February 28, 2011 approved as submitted. Motion by Suchovsky, support by Pearson. Carried. Minutes will be filed with the county.

Motion was made by Anderson; seconded by Suchovsky to discuss new business items ahead of the old business to allow Ingallston officials to move on to another meeting. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS: 2003 MENOMINEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Shortly after 6 pm the new business items on the agenda had been completed. At this time a discussion on the PLAN in general and Chapters 1 thru 4 ensued. Overall, the PLAN is in need of major statistical data updates (text and charts) as well as newer photos and maps. Peterson suggested some information may have to come from other sources than the census reports since the forms and amount of information requested changed considerably downward to ten (10) questions in 2010. CUPPAD should be able to track down some of the vital data that is needed for the PLAN. Peterson suggested keeping all the data back as far as 1970 in some cases and building on it with updates rather than eliminating the historical information. If new

data is not as recent as 2010 then we will request that the most recent data be used, i.e. 2006 if that is the most current.

Suchovsky had typed up some comments and those were used for discussion topics. The county has unused assets such as a rail system, airport, transportation corridor to funnel traffic thru the county along the Hwy 41 corridor. There is also infrastructure in place and available for potential commercial and industrial opportunities, especially in the City of Menominee. There has been a 5% decrease in census in the last decade (2000 – 2009) which netted a loss of about 1300 residents to the county with the majority (over 900) in the city of Menominee itself. Schultz pointed out that "Communication" is a key element and cellular services in particular are seriously lacking in the northern parts of the county.

The MCPC also expressed the need for MENOMINEE to have its own Chamber of Commerce as Marinette WI may be okay for some social or recreational combined promotional purposes; but for industrial and commercial growth and development in MICHIGAN we need MICHIGAN businesses promoting MICHIGAN.

Three key items that need to be addressed are: transportation systems; road improvements; and the cost of energy.

It was suggested that we need to get the CUPPAD staff in to discuss their role in the update process sooner rather than later so we are informed about what sources they have available and express our parameters for the updated Comprehensive Plan. Schultz will contact Michelle DeWitt to have her join us to determine what CUPPAD services are available to the county and a possible timeline. We will set a meeting as soon as we know what dates she has available. (NO Tuesdays.)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ingallston Township Planning Commission Ordinance: A number of questions and comments were submitted by the MCPC to Doug Toupalik who took precise notes (see attached copy of his notes). In addition to clerical corrections and upgraded language suggested changes; Ingallston was asked to review/consider the meaning of what they were trying to express in a few sections.
   Suchovsky motioned to recommend approval of the Ingallston PC Ordinance as presented. A letter will be sent notifying township of this decision. Second by Anderson. Carried.

2. Nadeau Township Recreation Plan: Five-year recreation plan submitted March 30, 2011 was reviewed. A few minor clerical details need to be corrected. Allowable clerical changes would make document better without any material content change. Motion by Anderson to accept; Erickson supported. Carried.
3. Mellen Township Planning Commission Ordinance: CUPPAD standard language used. Motion to approve by Peterson; support by Pearson. Carried.
4. Harris Township Planning Commission Ordinance: CUPPAD standard language used. Motion to approve by Suchovsky; support by Anderson. Carried.
5. Annual meeting schedule for required 4 annual meetings was requested by County Administrator. Peterson had researched County PC Ordinance and OMA laws. See attached schedule. Any other meetings may be called as needed.
   Motion to accept schedule for posting by county administrative office was made by Suchovsky; second by Anderson. Carried.
6. Next regular meeting date: Monday, July 25, 2011 was confirmed as the date for the next regular meeting unless CUPPAD can meet in May or June. Meetings will be held at the MSU Extension at 5:00 PM.
7. It was agreed by general consensus to come prepared at the July 25 meeting ready to discuss and make recommendations for changes to Chapters 5 thru 8.
8. Menominee County Recreation Plan (5-year): Approved by the county board. Put on file for the MCPC. (Distribute a copy to each MCPC)
9. City of Stephenson Recreation Plan dated March 14, 2011 with a copy of their grant included. Follow up with City Clerk to determine if they need a letter of approval for the grant process. (Follow up: Grant filed, Rec Plan submitted for information/file only.) No action required from the MCPC.
10. Continuation of Grant Application for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program submitted for information/file only to government agencies. No action required.
11. It was agreed by general consensus to send a letter of acknowledgement to each township/agency that submits paperwork for review as a matter of courtesy stating the determination of the MCPC. Carried.

Public Comment: Jim Pearson, County Board Commissioner, District #3, put on his citizen hat and invited/urged all of the Planning Commission members to attend a presentation to be made by *Explorer Solutions* about development and airport expansion as well as a possible industrial park near the airport. As this is part of the county's long-range planning, he urged as many of us as possible to come and hear the presentation. Time and place are yet to be determined. Notification will be made to the MCPC when we have the information.

Motion to adjourn made by Erickson; second by Anderson. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Charlene Peterson

Charlene Peterson, Vice-Chair

Pro tem Secretary

FOLLOW UP NOTE:

Lillian Schultz contacted Michelle DeWitt from CUPPAD on April28, 20ll. Michelle can meet with the MCPC for a discussion on the update of the County's COMPREHENSIVE PLAN on ***WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011 at 5 pm at the Annex*** *in Stephenson, Mi.*