

May 18, 2009

A joint meeting of the Chocolay Township Board and Chocolay Township Planning Commission was held on Monday, May 18, 2009 at the Chocolay Township Office, 5010 U. S. 41 South, Marquette, MI. Planning Commission Chair Denton called the Planning Commission meeting to order and Supervisor Seppanen called the Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

TOWNSHIP BOARD.

PRESENT: Greg Seppanen, Arlene Hill, John Greenberg, John Trudeau, Dr. Ken Tabor, Mark Maki, Susan Carlson.
ABSENT: None.

PLANNING COMMISSION.

PRESENT: Estelle DeVooght, Dr. Ken Tabor, Al Denton, Andy Sikkema, Steve Kinnunen, Andy Smith, Kendall Milton.
ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Thum, Mary Sanders, Brad Johnson, Denny Magadanz, Pat Beck, Gary Heinzelman.

The first item on the agenda was to look at the new fire truck. Both board went out to see the truck and returned at 7:15 pm.

Discussion by both Planning and Township Boards:

- The township has had two large projects this past year, Blondeau has been completed and the site has been cleaned up with two new buildings. The other project is the McDonalds (Gateway Plaza) that is moving along and the plaza will be a nice addition to our township.
- It would be good to have an overview of the comprehensive plan and how the zoning ordinance works with it.
- The Planning Commission and Board looked not allowing any new roads in Chocolay to be private; but instead required that private roads use county road standards when being built. Cul-de-Sacs are only allowed to be temporary in Chocolay Township sub-divisions. All sub divisions must have two outlets.
- Shared driveways are a problem.
- The Planning Commission would like to hear from the Township Board what direction they want the Planning Commission to go in the future.
- The comprehensive plan will be updated again next year.
- The Planning Commission plans for the future and still has to respond to what is currently happening.
- The 2010 census will most likely show an aging population in Chocolay. The Planning Commission should be looking into transportation and housing for the elderly and how to attract the youth.
- The Planning Commission should be looking at highway issues including the proposed tunnel.
- Water should be a concern of this Township, we should be looking at bring water lines from the City of Marquette.

The proposed zoning amendments 34-09-1 through 34-09-16 were looked at by the two boards. The Township web site was discussed, staff is looking for any changes or addition the Board would like to see. Andy Sikkema, Planning Commissioner and representative of MDOT explained the 2009-2010 highway improvements. The intersection at M-28 and U S 41 will be realigned in 2009. Patching and sections will be worked on from the Welcome Center to the intersection in 2009. The pedestrian bridge on M-28 and the tunnel on U S 41 will be 2010 projects. The bike trail from the Welcome Center to Carp river will be relocated away from the highway in 2010. Along with all of these projects landscaping will include planting trees with consideration of clear vision for traffic. Planning Director, Jennifer Thum reported on the Coastal Grant Application with a resolution to be presented to the Board later in the meeting.

Commissioner Denton adjourned the Planning Commission portion of the meeting at 8:40 pm.

- C. Letter from LSCP about Crime Lab
- D. Information on RR overpass over M-28
- E. Magnum Farm article
- F. Map of proposed Marquette Skate Park
- G. Chocolay Township Volunteer Fire Rescue Department Monthly Report

Supervisor Seppanen adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Arlene E. Hill, CMC
Clerk

Mary L. Sanders, CMC
Deputy Clerk