

**Salem Township Planning Commission
Minutes, March 3, 2011**

Called to order – 7:03 pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Blakeslee, Pitsch, Berens, Boyles . Absent – Oosterink, Myers

Due to absence of chair and vice chair, secretary requested a volunteer to chair meeting. Therefore, Boyles ran meeting.

Approval of agenda for 3/3/11 – moved by Blakeslee , seconded by Pitsch. Motion carried.

Approval of February 3, 2011 Minutes – Moved by Blakeslee. Seconded by Berens. Motion carried.

Inquiry of Conflict of Interest – none noted.

Township Board update – given by Boyles. 2010 Budget information given to PC members for background. The Township Board has postponed the Black Creek Drain cleaning to await clarification of costs. A resolution was passed by the Township Board to allow the sale of spirits and mixed drinks. It now goes to the Liquor Commission. New fire department officers were confirmed. For the Board/Road Commission, forwarded by Oosterink from citizen on condition of 143rd – lack of plowing as well as sand and salt. Complaint from Pitsch on lack of winter care given 144th from 32nd to 36th.

Planning Issue – Downtown Burnips – Motion to table in order to review packet received at meeting. Moved by Berens, second by Blakeslee. Motion carried.

Budget (Continuation) – A brief discussion of the meaning of some of the line items terms, for clarification.

Wind energy issue – No one was able to attend the session at Hopkins last Saturday due to late notification. Members agreed that it seemed there was no enough wind in Salem for large scale operation so maybe just residential possibilities need to be addressed,

Medical marijuana Issue – it was agreed that PC needs to do something but what is not clear. Informational handout taken home for study.

Other/Roundtable – No public comments . From PC members – Concern about lack of library traffic signs (Pitsch). Boyles will check with Library Board. Al Shields has resigned from the PC. Three interested citizens came to the meeting to observe and to give input for comment on joining the PC:

Torance Boerma – Has lived in Township 14 years, currently in SW corner. Works in retail. Likes Salem Township for schools and township character. Has no

personal agenda for serving on planning commission but wants to participate in township affairs. Likes that township is low-key but gets the job done.

Lynette Wagner – works in management, materials and purchasing. Has lived entire life in township (father on ZBA formerly PC as well), currently at the north end. She also serves on Board of Review. Her goal is to get more structure within the Planning Commission, regulating in recognition of people who are moving in for the existing township atmosphere. She sees medical marijuana as biggest current challenge.

John Conklin has construction background and works in tool and die. Lives on east side of township. Member of Dorr Township Planning Commission (has checked with lawyer who says it is okay to serve on both). Has taken Citizen Planning training and attended workshop on Floodplain Management. He sees medical marijuana as biggest challenge.

None of the 3 have a time conflict with the PC Thursday meeting times.

Adjournment at 7:51 pm, moved by Berens, seconded by Blakeslee. Motion carried.

Adjournment – Moved by Berens, seconded by Blakeslee to adjourn at 8:04 pm.
Motion carried.

2/4/11

kpitsch