

Charter Township of Filer
PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2024
Filer Township Hall, 2505 Filer City Road, Manistee, MI 49660

Present: Jennifer Williams, Shirley Ball, Kathy Gutowski, Donald Kuk, Roger Dittmer, Karen Kolk

Absent: Glenn Mandeville

Also present: Larry Thompson, Zoning Administrator and Timothy Figura, Township Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Williams with the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Kuk, seconded by Kolk to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All in favor. M/C

Motion by Kuk, seconded by Gutowski to approve the February 20, 2024 Public Hearing minutes as presented. All in favor. M/C

Motion by Kuk, seconded by Kolk to approve the February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. All in favor. M/C

Motion by Kuk, seconded by Gutowski to approve the presented Chapter 31 changes and send to the Township Board for their consideration of approval Roll Call Vote: Williams-yes, Ball-yes, Kolk-yes, Gutowski-yes, Kuk-yes, Dittmer-yes. 6 Yeas, 0 Nays. M/C

Bill Kennis, Manistee County grant writer, did not attend the meeting for his presentation.

TES Filer City Station Presentation:

Joe Tondou and other representatives of TES Filer City Station, outlined the planned changes to the operation of the Filer City location. New equipment, the discontinuance of coal usage, which will result in elimination of ash, sulphur and lime. Wood chips is the only fuel source being considered at this time. Half will arrive at the plant by boat and half by truck. It was noted that a federal grant was secured and another is being looked at. The State of Michigan may possibly have grants to be acquired, also.

The necessary engineering study is not complete at this time. This is necessary to have to be able to apply for the EGLE permit. Some equipment may take three years to get.

By product disposal was discussed. This will be piped to wells in the middle of Manistee County. A firm in Gaylord is being looked at to handle this process.

It was noted that the current power agreement for TES expires at the end of next year.

Public Comment: Concerns on the proposed TES plant were raised. Quality of building materials, including size and pressure of gas lines, increased truck traffic, new plant entrance site, length of project to completion, and storage of construction materials site were among topics raised. Also noted were concerns regarding increased odor and an adequate buffer zone. Assurance that all necessary permits have been issued by other government agencies. Will this project result in a change to the township water infrastructure? Where and how wood chips would be stored and what accommodations will be made to ensure that wood chips do not blow into Manistee Lake or surrounding residential neighborhood? Joe Tondou was asked if this project is located in the Michigan Renaissance Zone and he did not think it was.

Reports:

Zoning Administrator: Presented monthly zoning report. Larry Thompson will be resigning his position on March 22, 2024. A replacement will be sought by the Township Board.

Supervisors Report: No report

Zoning Board of Appeals: No report

Board of Trustees: Regular meeting minutes from March 5, 2024 were reviewed.

Downtown Development Authority: Regular meeting minutes from March 5, 2024 were reviewed.

Communications: None

Any Other Business: None

Motion by Kuk, seconded by Gutowski to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. M/C

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Dittmer, Secretary
Charter Township of Filer Planning Commission