

**CALHOUN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
JULY 25, 2011**

Present: Comrs. Daniel Kesselring, Robert Bolton, Larry Rizor, Rebecca Rocho and Blaine VanSickle. Staff: Planning Consultant Jennifer Bomba, Deputy Clerk Chris McComb and Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey

Excused: Comr. Terance Lunger, Dian Schubel

1. The July 25, 2011 Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.
3. Approval of Agenda

“Moved Rizor, supported by Bolton to approve the July 25, 2011 Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission Agenda with the addition of “Discussion of Eaton County Master Plan” under member comments.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Approval of Minutes

“Moved VanSickle, supported by Rizor to approve the April 25, 2011 Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission minutes.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

6. Communication

- A. Calhoun County Address Report

Planning Consultant Bomba stated they were now receiving an address report from the Road Commission. The last report received showed a lot of new addresses in Leroy Township but Bomba found out those were just database corrections from the previous year.

7. Township Planning and Zoning Coordination

- A. 07-11-01, Newton Township: PA 116 Application for Rodney and Catherine Puff

Staff recommended for approval.

“Moved Rizer, supported by VanSickle to approve the PA 116 Application for Rodney and Catherine Puff for property located in Sections 32 and 33 of Newton Township.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

B. 07-11-02, Albion Township: PA 116 Application for David Brigham

Staff recommended for approval.

“Moved Rizer, supported by Bolton to approve the PA 116 Application for David Brigham for property located in Section 12 of Albion Township.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

8. Department Report

A. Address Appeal Status Report

Corporation Counsel Lindsey reported on the address changes on Capital Avenue. There was a hearing in front of Judge Sindt, who decided there was not sufficient reason for the address coordinator to change the addresses so he ordered the changes to be reversed. basically un-did the process. The County will be sending out letters to the residents specifying what happened and why. Erin Cummings (County Permit Agent Address Coordinator), Bomba and Lindsey met and discussed what to do going forward. Administration is proposing a revised Addressing Planning Ordinance to the Board of Commissioners and it will include changes to the an-appeals board. The Commission discussed the issues surrounding the appeals process and how it will change under the new ordinance.

B. Calhoun County Planning Commission Ordinance

Planning Consultant Bomba stated a new ordinance has been discussed, as it is needed to be compliant with the Michigan Planning ~~and~~-Enabling Act. The new ordinance was worked on with Corporation Counsel Lindsey and it will redefine the Planning Commission. The Legislation for the current Commission was old and The changes will be beneficial to draw a broader group of members. The current ordinance will be rescinded and the new will be put in effect through the Board of Commissioners, with an allowance for a 3 year adjustment period. Bomba invited the Commissioners to take a look at the new ordinance and comment but there isn't a lot of leniency because they are following statute. The number of members can be different, with 7, 9, or 11 (there has been 7 since 1998) and increasing the size this may be a way to pull in more representatives from of different groups.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated the new ordinance proposed 11 10-positions with the County Administrator/Controller as an ex officio member. will represent different inclusions and it will be a 3-year process Once it is passed by the Board of Commissioners, the new representatives will be folded in.

Comr. VanSickle inquired how an 11 member Planning Commission compared to surrounding counties.

Bomba stated that Branch County doesn't have a Planning Commission, 11 are similar to Jackson, Kalamazoo has 7, and Jackson County is doing joint planning. Kalamazoo has a smaller commission but have subcommittees to pull in more stakeholders. There are more groups out there who may want to have more say about what the future holds and the commission has brought people in but has never given them the tools to know what the direction of the board is.

The Commission discussed the makeup of the proposed Commission and what the representation will be. It was decided to change the wording in the ordinance to give a little more flexibility in the selection process, such as in 4A – Conservation Interest, remove wording referring to state or federal.

## 9. Member Comments

Rocho stated she would like a statement of what the major scopes of work for the commission are, like a “what’s coming in 2012”.

Bomba stated she is working on the casino corridor to see if there are ways to do some joint planning. Emmett Township and the Planning Commission will pull MDOT in, start on topics that are not controversial to have broad dialogue. The County does not have jurisdiction but can be the convener and the Tribe is interested in what is being planned.

Bomba stated the Ag Board ~~has been meeting met~~ but struggles with not having funding. ~~but~~ they are focusing on education of ~~can educate on~~ the importance of agriculture. Lack of funding gives initiative to look at farm land on a more regional basis. The Healthy Waters, Rural Pride program is looking to grab great lakes restoration initiative funds to do farmland preservation.

The Commission discussed the Eaton County Master Plan and Bomba stated the plan had been returned to ~~Eaton County them~~ stating the Commission had not met to discuss suggestions due to lack of quorum.

The Commission discussed County watershed protection, parks departments and the idea of regional collaboration. It was noted that the County does not have the authority to do an overlay because the County can't contradict local ordinance.

Rocho is on the Battle Creek ~~Unlimited Development~~ Board and stated a lot of the money being funneled to the downtown development ~~is was~~ grant dollars, not public dollars. The Board appreciated the comments and they were heard.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that Emmett Township had sent over a conditional use permit to be presented at the Board of Commissioners meeting. These types of things could be something the local entities could work with the Planning Commission on.

Bomba stated Pennfield Township would be the first in the county to present an ordinance on medical marijuana in their community.

10. Public Comments

There were none.

11. Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2011.

12. Adjournment

The July 25, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McComb  
Deputy Clerk