

**SHERMAN TOWNSHIP ZONING/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

**April 9, 2018**

Chairman Ford called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Alan Ford, Kathy Sahli, Lance Thornton, Roger Krontz, Bill Pueschel, Frank Kalasky

Members Absent: Vince Mifsud

Visitors: Jamey Rouch, Ben Rouch, Bill Basham, Jerry Wallace, Lynda Wallace, Steve Wolf, Chris Hamilton, Lee Adams

**New Business:**

Chairman Ford introduced Lee Adams of the Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC). SMPC has been hired by the Sherman Township Board to assist the Planning Commission in updating the Township Master Land Use Plan. Mr. Adams distributed copies of the SMPC 10-02-17 proposal for the land use plan update and an agenda for the meeting. He started with a background of SMPC. They are part of the W.E. Upjohn institute and are located in Kalamazoo. SMPC recently completed work for Fabius and Lockport Townships and assists the St. Joseph County Planning Commission.

The Land Use Plan is in need of an update since the current version was developed in 2000 with no formal update since that date.

It was agreed that public input was essential for the plan. Discussion was held on how this was to be completed. It was agreed that a public survey would be most productive and that a written survey mailed to each property owner (including a self-addressed stamped return envelope) would likely solicit the most responses. Mr. Adams is to prepare a proposed survey for review at the next meeting. If approved, the survey distribution would probably take place prior to the summer tax bill mailing and would require a special mailing

SMPC will be responsible for sending out all mailings associated with the plan update.

The PC would like to have SMPC prepare a draft of each chapter for approval.

The PC would like to schedule plan updates at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting if the agenda permits. This would involve approximately ½ hour per meeting and Mr. Adams would be present at each meeting.

The PC would like to have the revised plan more specific than the current edition.

General concepts would be:

Preservation of prime farmland.

Commercial activity restricted to major thoroughfares.

Residential development in other areas.

Topography, infrastructure, and proximity to urban areas will dictate land use.

The May PC meeting does not have anything on the agenda at this time so we could meet with Mr. Adams at that time.

Adjourn: Motion by Thornton, support by Pueschel, to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0 at 8:00 PM.

Next scheduled meeting Tuesday April 10, 2018, 7:00 PM at the Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank J. Kalasky, P.E.

Secretary