

Approved 3/2/2016

**REGULAR MEETING OF CASCO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
January 6, 2016, 7 PM**

Members Present: Daniel Fleming, David Campbell, Dian Liepe, Greg Knisley, Paul Macyauski and Judy Graff

ABSENT: Lewis Adamson

ALSO PRESENT: Supervisor Overhiser and 3 interested citizens **STAFF**

PRESENT: Janet Chambers, Recording Secretary

1. **Call to order and review of agenda:** Chairman Fleming called the meeting to order at 7:05. The agenda was reviewed with Graff stating that she would have comments to make under agenda item 10 - New Business.
2. **Election of officers:**
A motion to elect Daniel Fleming as Chairman was made by Macyauski and supported by Campbell. All in favor. MSC.
A motion to elect Dian Liepe as Vice Chair was made by Campbell and supported by Macyauski. All in favor. MSC.
A motion to elect Dave Campbell as Secretary was made by Liepe and supported by Graff. All in favor. MSC.
3. **Constitution "Moment":** Chairman Fleming read a quote from *America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*. Attachment #1.
4. **Public comment:** None
5. **Approval of minutes of 12/02/2015:** Minutes of 12/2/15 were reviewed. A clarifying amendment was made to page 1, #2 Constitutional Moment, the last sentence as follows: The 17th amendment, passed in 1913, gave each State 2 senators elected by its people, ~~so that the state's interest would be represented at the federal level~~ instead of being chosen by each State's legislature, thus diminishing State representation in the Federal Government.
6. **Report from Township Board representative Judy Graff:** A report was given by Graff on the December 21, 2015 Casco Board meeting. Among items discussed at the board meeting was the proposal that Casco Township join the Water & Sewer Authority. There will be a joint meeting with the City of South Haven on January 27 at South Haven City Hall at 6 PM to discuss the proposal.

The board also discussed the 5 year review of the Master Plan. The board does not see any significant changes that need to be made.
7. **Report from ZBA representative Paul Macyauski:** A variance was granted at 424 Lakeshore, South Haven, MI 49090. The applicant is constructing a second story addition to an existing garage within 16 feet of the front lot line. Therefore, a 9 foot variance was granted.
8. **Report from Water/Sewer representative Lou Adamson:** In Adamson's absence, Supervisor Allan Overhiser discussed the proposal for Casco Township to join the Water &

Sewer Authority. Joining the Authority would give Casco a seat at the decision making table. He added that attorneys and engineers will be available to answer questions at the January 27th meeting. Casco's attorney will be there to represent Casco's interests. He also stated that 11 new homes have been built in the water/sewer district in Casco so far this fiscal year. 17 new homes is the projected goal to meet financial obligations.

9. **Old Business – Planning Commission Bylaws:** Commissioners reviewed the Planning Commission Bylaws. Commissioners will bring suggestions for changes, in writing, to the March 2, 2016 Planning Commission meeting.
10. **New Business:** Graff read an article from USA today concerning the ratio of renters to home owners. In the last 10 years home ownership has gone from 69% to 64%. Graff stated that the trend to rent increasing, may affect how the Planning Commission thinks in the future.

Graff also commented on an article about the Federal Government suing a township because the township denied an Islamic School in a residential district.
11. **Public comment:** None
12. **Closing comments and adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Liepe, and 2nd by Macyauski. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Next Planning Commission meeting will be Wednesday, March 2, 2016 Minutes
prepared by Janet Chambers, Recording Secretary

Attachment #1: Quote from *America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*.
Attachment #2: Letter from Supervisor Overhiser RE: Master Plan

Attachment #1

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746 – 1825), one of the signers of the Constitution of the United States, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and helped to write the Constitution of the state of South Carolina. He was a Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidate, a lawyer, planter, statesman, soldier, as well as an aide-de-camp to General Washington and a brigadier general. He helped found and served as the first president of the Charleston Bible Society.

In a personal letter to a military friend, Pinckney wrote:

“The great art of government is not to govern too much.”

Quote taken from: **America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations**

Attachment #2

To: Planning Commission

@ 1-6-2016 P.C. Mtg.

From: Allan Overhiser

RE: Five Year Review

The Township Board reviewed the current Master Plan Goals and Objectives and concluded that no change is needed at this time (five year review). The board considered current and past issues that have come up and also tried to look five years down the road. The board felt that the Master Plan, although not perfect, gives adequate direction, guidance, and flexibility to allow changes that may be needed in the Zoning Ordinance given the knowledge of the issues we have today.

In addition, some issues may be better addressed through ordinances other than the zoning ordinance. As issues arise and are considered please feel free to discuss them as our goal should be to find the best practical solution.

Thank you for your diligence and commitment. I appreciate all you do and I feel good knowing that we have a good group in place to conduct business and meet the challenges.

Sincerely,



Allan Overhiser

Note: There will be a special meeting at South Haven City Hall on January 27th at 6pm to hear information regarding the planned Sewer and Water improvements and the proposed regional Water and Sewer Authority