MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE IRA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES JANUARY 4, 2023

The Ira Township Board of Trustees met in the board room of the Ira Township Hall on January 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: James Endres Jr., Thomas Eder, Thomas Lauer and Jean Corbat; Stella Ruhlman arrived at 7:10 p.m. Board members absent: None

MINUTES:

T. Eder moved to approve the minutes of the 12/5/2022 regular and 12/5/22 special meetings, supported by T. Lauer. All voting yes. Opposing: None **MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE :

- EDA Economic Growth Luncheon and Semi-Annual Meeting;
- St. Clair County Library System;

Acknowledged and filed

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Hearing for Adjacent Property Owner Gilbert Kohn RE Rezoning of 74-23-004-2007-000 pursuant to Section 125.3401(4) of the Michigan Enabling Act 110 of 2006

Motion by J. Endres Jr., supported by T. Eder, to open the hearing at 7:05 p.m. All voted yes.

Attorney Marianne J. Grano, appearing on behalf of the adjacent property owner, Gilbert Kohn, stated her concerns regarding the rezoning request to rezone the property from Agriculture Estates Conservation (AEC) to Light Industrial (I-1). These concerns included the change in the character of the area, increased noise, damage to the road, environmental concerns and reduction in the value of her client's properties. There is also concern for the uses allowed in an I-1 zoning some of which could be incompatible with the neighboring AEC uses. Ms. Grano advised that she has looked at the Master Plan and suggested that a public hearing be held to review the existing plan which would give residents the opportunity to voice their concerns about the Master Plan. She also referred to page 9-36 of the Master Plan that states in part that depending on the type of uses proposed, the relationship of industrial districts to less intensive use areas such as residential neighborhoods must be carefully planned and conflicts avoided whenever possible. She felt that the rezoning request is not in the best interest of the public safety and welfare of the Township.

Supervisor Endres invited other members of the public to comment on the rezoning request. No other members of the public wished to be heard and no additional comments were received.

Motion by J. Endres Jr., supported by T. Lauer, to close the hearing at 7:12 p.m. All voted yes.

T. Lauer offered a recap of the history of the rezoning request as follows:

- (1) At the Planning Commission meeting held on September 12, 2022, a public hearing was held regarding the rezoning request and proper notice was given to all relevant parties;
- (2) Discussion was held and input given from the Planner and comments were made by residents and other public attending the meeting regarding the rezoning request;
- (3) On September 12, 2022, the Planning Commission tabled this matter to assess the information gathered at the meeting regarding the rezoning request;
- (4) The rezoning request came back to the Planning Commission at its October 10, 2022 meeting where the Commission recommended approval of the rezoning request;
- (5) After the October 10, 2022 Planning Commission meeting, a referral was made to the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission who reviewed all of the supporting documents and on November 17, 2022 recommended approval of the rezoning request;
- (6) This matter would have been on the agenda for the Board of Trustees December 2022 meeting but a request for hearing from an adjacent property owner was received;
- (7) The rezoning request was moved to the January 2023 Board of Trustees meeting and the hearing requested by the adjacent property owner was also scheduled;
- (8) The Planning Commission felt as the Master Plan recommended the I-1 use for this parcel that is why the applicant purchased the property.

Ordinance #131 - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Rezone Parcel 74-23-004-2007-000

J. Endres Jr. moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to rezone the parcel for the following reasons:

- The requested rezoning is compatible with the Master Plan.
- The requested rezoning is compatible with development plans for the area.
- The requested rezoning is consistent with the zoning of property to the north and west.
- The requested rezoning is consistent with the current land use of parcels to the north and west.
- The applicant has demonstrated a need for the additional 60 acres to be zoned industrial.
- The requested rezoning will not adversely impact municipal utilities.

and to accept the recommendation of the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning to rezone the parcel for the following reasons:

- The proposed rezoning is consistent with the future land use plan in the Township Master Plan;
- The proposed rezoning is consistent with the stated intent and objectives for future industrial development in the Township Master Plan, particularly within the identified quarter-mile area to the south off Marine City Highway and County Line Road to Meldrum Road; and
- The proposed rezoning is consistent with the St. Clair County Master Plan's Vision Based Policy

and adopt Ordinance #131 to rezone Parcel Identification Number 74-23-004-2007-000 from AEC - Agriculture Estates Conservation to I-1 Light Industrial, supported by S. Ruhlman. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: J. Endres Jr., T. Lauer, T. Eder, S. Ruhlman and J. Corbat Nays: None MOTION CARRIED

- Clay Police Monthly Additional Charges T. Lauer moved to approve the additional monthly charge of \$2,128.00 from the Clay Township Police Department, for additional services rendered during the month of December 2022, supported by S. Ruhlman. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED
- 2023 Standard Mileage Rate S. Ruhlman moved to adopt the IRS 2023 Standard Mileage Rates, as outlined in Notice 2023-03, of 65.5 cents per mile, effective January 4, 2023, supported by T. Lauer. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED
- Request to Waive Utility Charges (9286 Dixie) S. Ruhlman moved to table this matter until additional information is provided, supported by J. Endres Jr. Opposing: None All voting yes. MOTION CARRIED
- County Line Properties Site Plan (PC #22-437) S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the site plan, as presented, for Parcel #74-23-130-0008-000 (Vacant Radiance Drive), supported by T. Eder. MOTION CARRIED All voting yes. Opposing: None

Fire Department 2023 Officers S. Ruhlman moved to accept the recommendation of the Fire Chief and appoint the following as Fire Department officers for 2023: Ken Littlejohn as Assistant Chief, Mike Matyniak as Captain, Chad Kelly as Lieutenant, Mike Sommers as Sergeant, Dan Stringer as Sergeant 2, Shelby Paul as Secretary and Steve Vissotski as Liaison, supported by T. Eder. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED

Water Department Hire T. Lauer moved to accept the recommendation of the DPS Superintendent and hire Zack Randall for the water plant operator position, supported by S. Ruhlman. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED All voting yes.

Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals J. Endres Jr., supported by T. Eder, moved to appoint Mary Van Haaren to the Zoning Board of Appeals to complete the term of Stanley Sommers ending June 30, 2023. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED All voting yes.

Letter of Agreement

S. Ruhlman moved to approve the Letter of Agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324 to amend the Collective Bargaining Agreement to reflect an increase in the Building Clerk's salary to \$20.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2023, and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Letter of Agreement on behalf of the Township, supported by T. Eder. MOTION CARRIED

All voting yes. Opposing: None

Reschedule July 2023 Meeting Date T. Lauer moved to reschedule the Board of Trustees meeting date from July 3, 2023 to July 5, 2023, supported by S. Ruhlman. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED **REPORTS**: Police Run Report- December 2022 Building Department Permits - December 2022 Code Enforcement - December 2022 DPS Superintendent - December 2022 - During cold weather experienced watermain and service breaks including a new break at Long Island Court and Water Works Drive which will require boring an 8" line under the canal; - Update on installation of heating/air systems at Water Plant; Parks & Rec Director's Reports - December 2022 - Working on 2023 line-up of events; Fire Chief's Report - 64 runs in December; 873 total runs for 2022 well over counts for last two years; - Update on Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) denial; - Update on status of new truck and anticipated delivery; Supervisor: - Out of town for July meeting; - Update on Clearas Letter of Intent; - Recognition plaques; Clerk: - Update on St. Clair County Clerk Association meeting attended on December 8, 2022; Township coordinating June meeting; Treasurer: - Bank Balances as of December 31, 2022; - Water / Sewer Adjustments - December 2022; Trustee Eder: - Thank you to Clay Township officer; - Happy New Year and looking forward to working with Township Boards and staff in 2023; Trustee Ruhlman: - Update on broadband and working with Dave LaDuke; - Link now on website regarding broadband through the state; **DISBURSEMENTS:** S. Ruhlman moved to pay the following disbursements totaling \$233,752.45 and supported by T. Lauer. All voting yes. Opposing: None MOTION CARRIED Reg Fund 101 General Government \$134,374.87 Fund 206 Fire Fund \$18,139.16 Fund 592 Water / Sewer Fund \$77,024.41 ACH Fund 101 General Government \$2,483.72 Fund 206 Fire Fund \$1,208.12 Fund 592 Water / Sewer Fund \$522.17 \$233,752.45 Total for All Funds PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss J. Endres Jr. moved, with the support of T. Eder, to close the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Corbat, Clerk