

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City
MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

Township Board Special Meeting

March 11, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

Township Hall

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** by Chown at 3:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge**

3. **Roll Call**

Chown: Maura, would you like to explain why our supervisor is absent?

Sanders: Yes, we've had a blessed event. Isaiah welcomed his first child into the world. Young Mr. Zavi is healthy and mom is healthy and they are home recuperating.

Chown: and resting! It's great to have the sixth generation of Wunsches here on the Old Mission Peninsula.

Present: Achorn, Sanger, Sanders, Chown, Rudolph

Absent: Wunsch, Shanafelt

4. **Citizen Comments:** none

5. **Approve Agenda**

Sanders moved to approve the agenda as presented with a second by Rudolph.

Motion approved by consensus

6. **Conflict of Interest:** none

7. **Consent Agenda:** none

Business:

1. Interview Wes Cowan to fill opening on the zoning board of appeals (Cram)

Chown: Jenn, is there anything you want to say before we invite Wes up to speak?

Cram: Will Ammerman, currently on the ZBA, wants to be an alternate because he has some conflicts and sometimes can't participate in the meetings. It's important to have a full board whenever possible. This vacancy is through August 2024 or we could appoint the applicant to a full three-year term concluding in August of 2027. We can leave it up to the applicant.

Chown: no one wants to come in in August for an interview. If you're willing, Wes, I'd like to appoint you to the full term and my inclination is to do it today.

Cram: Mr. Cowan has expressed his interest. This is a very important board, and I'd be happy to answer any questions about the role as needed.

Chown: thanked Cram and invited Cowan to the podium to introduce himself.

Cowan gave the board additional background on his education and business and discussed his permanent move to Peninsula Township after several decades of visiting.

Cram: I assume you are aware that the board of appeals meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

Cowan: I thought it was the third Thursday.

Cram: no, the third Tuesday. We really don't meet outside of that.

Cowan: I am still consulting with my old business and will have three engagements with the Antiques Roadshow this spring. Other than that, I should be here.

Sanders: you're not a snowbird, then?

Cowan: no.

Chown: any other questions?

Rudolph: welcome to the community, Wes. You moved here about the same time Patti and I did. We all migrate here.

Cowan: our children think this is the place you go for vacation, so we decided to retire her.

Sanger: I don't have any questions, but I enjoyed working with Wes and Rudy on this committee to figure out the optimal form of government going forward. I was impressed before I knew Wes was going to apply for this position. I'm already on board.

Chown: I have a comment from Armen: "I want to comment that I worked with Wes on the governance committee. His insight and perspective were invaluable to its work and progress. I full support his appointment to the ZBA." Anything from you, Marge?

Ahorn: we heard what the members of the ad hoc committee were doing and I think you were asking very insightful questions and trying to get your arms wrapped around the complexity of the township and its needs. I'm pleased with your analytic abilities and common sense. what do you think, Wes?

Chown: since Wes doesn't have a background in zoning or serving on a zoning board of appeals, how will you get him up to speed?

Cram: I will create a binder for him with the zoning ordinance as well as the bylaws for the ZBA. I will schedule an onboarding meeting with him and John Dolton, the chair of the ZBA, and myself. And we have all the ZBA members take the MSU Extension training, which we pay for, and you can do on your own time. It's online. I'm finishing the training myself. It will be an ongoing learning experience, and John and I will be available to answer questions. Staff reports are pretty straightforward. Based on what we all know about Wes, I believe he'll get up to speed pretty quickly.

Cowan: I'm not afraid to ask questions either. I've been through enough building permits in my life and zoning issues that I know how to ask questions, and I know that most of these ordinances are done for good reasons.

Board discussion on Wes's Ph.D. dissertation.

Chown: are there any other questions? May I have a motion to appoint Wes Cowan to the opening to the zoning board of appeals?

Rudolph: so moved.

Chown: and are we appointing you to the full term or only through August?

Cowan: just through August. I want to see if it's a good fit. I suspect it will be.

Cowan: let's start with finishing out the term and see how it goes before I commit to the next three-year term.

Chown: this might be irregular, but would we need to interview him again?

Board discussion.

Chown: yes, because we might have other openings and interested candidates, so an additional

Peninsula Township
Township Board Regular Meeting
Becky Chown, Recording Secretary

interview would be necessary.

Rudolph moved to approve the appointment of Wes Cowan to fill the opening on the zoning board of appeals through August of 2024 with a second by Sanger.

Roll call vote: yes – Achorn, Sanders, Sanger, Rudolph, Chown Passed unan

Chown: thank you, Wes. Come on over to the clerk's office after the meeting and we'll get you sworn in.

8. Citizen Comments: none

9. Board Comments: none

10. Adjournment

Sanders moved to adjourn with a second by Sanger. Motion approved by consensus

Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.