

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP

13235 Center Road, Traverse City
MI 49686

www.peninsulatownship.com

Township Board Regular Meeting

April 12, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Township Hall

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** by Manigold at 7:02 p.m.

2. **Pledge**

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Sanger, Bickle, Manigold, Chown, Achorn, Wunsch

Excused Absence: Wahl

Also present: Township Planner Jenn Cram and Township Attorney Greg Meihn

4. **Brief Citizen Comments (for agenda items only):** none

5. **Approve Agenda**

Manigold: would like to move item D to A so the fire fighters can leave afterwards.

Wunsch moved to approve the agenda with a second by Bickle. Motion approved by consensus

6. **Conflict of Interest:** none

7. **Consent Agenda:**

Chown: clarified that item G is a request to approve the signage for Log Cabin Day; the day itself was approved at a prior meeting.

Bickle moved to approve the amended agenda with a second by Wunsch.

Roll call vote: passed unan

Manigold: read announcement from Doug DeYoung about an upcoming shutdown of the power station on Montague Road. This will happen on May 20 after midnight and will last until sometime Saturday morning. Will put this on the website.

8. **Business:**

A. Peninsula Township Fire Department Awards (Gilstorff)

Gilstorff: thanked the township for allowing him to present the 2021 awards. 2021 was an extremely busy year. We had the highest call volume ever along with numerous brand new staff members. Spent many hours training these folks and getting them acclimated.

Awarded the Richard Vandermeij Firefighter Award to the entire department this year.

They are all deserving of it. Awarded a series of additional awards to individual fire fighters.

B. Presentation by Dan Wagner of MDOT on the paving of M37 and plans at the south end

of the township where the city's jurisdiction begins

Wagner: this is National Work Zone Awareness Week. Asked residents to slow down and drive safely. Discussed MDOT's plans for US 31 and also M-37. Doing a resurfacing mill and fill project on M-37. Will start May 9 and finish by end of June. Answered several questions from the audience. It's a two and a half million-dollar investment in M-37. Explained the US 31 project. Is a 23-million-dollar project. Will start by the Elks Club and go easterly for two miles. Discussed the timeline. Will stop work during Cherry Festival to keep the roads open. Will maintain an open lane of traffic during work. MDOT is having global supply chain issues that are showing up in various ways. For example, the ductal iron pipe industry is being impacted. Hoped to do project in 2023 but might have to complete it in 2024 in order to line up the materials. Working closely with the city. Have had several open houses. Involving people to the best of MDOT's ability. Discussed various planned improvements and the East Front Street intersection plans as well as particular challenges with Peninsula Drive near the Blue Goat. Lots of traffic on that road coming on and off the peninsula at high speeds. About 100 crashes at the intersection at the Blue Goat in the last five years. Is no safe nearby way for pedestrians to cross the road and access the water. Noted that the Mutual Station gas station is a historic structure. Said that some people want to see Peninsula Drive be one-way only heading east. The current plan is to "T" up the intersection, keep a center turn pocket and pedestrian crossing, and sign Peninsula Drive for no through traffic with the caveat that this could create unforeseen consequences such as gridlock coming off the peninsula.

Wunsch: noted that this was a problem recently during a road closure. Even during moderate traffic the gridlock was extreme.

Wagner: people were running the red light out of frustration because of the back-ups. Could be an issue and we'll have to deal with it. Noted that Peninsula Drive through that section is a city street. Emphasized that we're all in this together and have to work together and that wayfinding signs are needed. Discussed phone mapping systems that send people to the shortest route and how sometimes that's a problem. I.e., an ambulance got stuck on a seasonal road, for example. Can cause safety issues. Said that plans include putting in robust storm water treatment systems and robust landscaping.

Manigold: we want that road to stay open.

Wagner: studies show it gets about 3,000 trips a day.

Manigold: we would go on record to ask for that road to stay open.

Wagner: because we're doing this in cooperation with the city, we have agreements in place already. We need to have cooperation between our agency and the city. We are signing that road for no through traffic. Folks coming off the peninsula can still go westerly. It's just those going east who will have to use the stoplight. City will have to decide whether or not they enforce that. It's their road. We're trying to do this as safely as we can. Can't jeopardize the project over this one sticky issue. We've had a few tense moments over the past few months.

Citizen questions and dialogue with Wagner occurred.

C. Shroeder B&B public hearing (Cram)

Cram: presented background on Shroeder B&B request. Explained that all standards and conditions have been met and the planning commission has signed off. Two neighbors came forward with concerns but all standards had been met so the planning commission moved ahead.

Beth Shroeder: we live in this property and will maintain the integrity of the property. We don't anticipate any issues, but if there are any, we will address them immediately.

Wunsch moved to approve the findings of fact and conditions as presented for the Shroeder B&B with a second by Bickle.

Roll call vote: **passed unan**

D. PDR ordinance update (item will be tabled to May 10) (Cram)

Cram: explained timeline.

Manigold moved to table the public hearing for the Purchase of Development Rights Ordinance #23, Amendment #3, to the May 10, 2022, regular township board meeting with a second by Chown.

Roll call vote: **passed unan**

E. Enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to discuss the winery lawsuit and updates (Meihn)

Meihn: gave a quick update on the winery lawsuit. Is about to have a third meeting with the magistrate to try to get everyone on the same page. Invited all residents to attend the upcoming hearing in Kalamazoo in federal court on April 22, 2022.

Wunsch moved to enter closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to discuss the winery lawsuit and updates with a second by Sanger.

Roll call vote: **passed unan**

Bickle moved to leave closed session and return to open session pursuant to MCL 15.261 with a second by Wunsch.

Roll call vote: **passed unan**

9. Citizen Comments: none

10. Board Comments:

Achorn: thanked Brad for his service and dedication to the peninsula for the past six years. Is thankful he allowed her to assist him and wishes him the very best in his endeavors.

Bickle: does not have adequate words to thank Marge and express his appreciation to the township.

11. Adjournment

Bickle moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Wunsch. **passed unan**

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.