

**Hastings Charter Township
Barry County
Rutland Charter Township
Carlton Township
City of Hastings
Joint Planning Alliance**

**Draft Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2011**

Members Present: Miner, Lenz, Carpenter, McManus, Warren, Medendorp, Jasperse, Mansfield, Brown, Carr.

Members Absent: Wiswell, Haywood, Redman.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Stolsonburg.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Byrnes.

The Intergovernmental Services Agreement workshop was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by JPA Chairman Carr.

Carr introduced Gerald Fisher, attorney and consultant hired by the JPA to assist in the development of a concept outline for an intergovernmental agreement for the provision of urban services by a governmental unit to properties located outside of the existing legal boundaries of that unit. Carr explained that the JPA had retained Fisher to aid in the development of such an agreement. Carr stated that Fisher had been working for some time with a "working group" established by the JPA and the governmental units participating on the JPA in the development of the agreement.

Fisher presented the draft report and concept outline for the intergovernmental services agreement, and entertained questions related to the intergovernmental services agreement proposal. Fisher stated that the draft report presented the concepts for an intergovernmental services agreement between the units, but that the actual development and drafting of the agreements necessary to implement the concept had yet to be completed. Fisher explained that the JPA did not wish to expend the time or resources necessary for the development of the actual agreements if the participating units of government did not support the concepts expressed in the draft report presented at this evening's meeting.

Fisher stated that two resolutions had been prepared and distributed for consideration by each of the units of government at subsequent meetings of their respective boards. Fisher stated that one resolution expressed support for the basic concepts related to an intergovernmental agreement for urban services as described at tonight's meeting, while the second resolution (to be considered by Rutland Charter Township and the City of Hastings) expressed support for the development of an actual intergovernmental services agreement between Rutland Township and the City. Fisher stated that the next step in the process was for the boards to consider approval of these resolutions.

Fisher thanked the units of government, the JPA and the JPA working group for their work on the intergovernmental services agreement, and encouraged the parties to consider adopting the resolutions supporting the terms of the urban services agreement as presented at tonight's meeting.

The JPA meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by Chairman Carr.

Carr asked for comment regarding the minutes of the December 20, 2010 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee and the draft minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission. No comment was forwarded.

Motion by Brown, second by Medendorp to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2010 meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, and to receive and place on file the draft minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

Carr asked for additions or changes to the draft agenda for tonight's meeting. No comments were forwarded. Motion by Warren, second by Lenz to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as mailed.

Motion carried.

Carr asked for comment from the public.

Mayor Bob May thanked the JPA and the JPA working group for their work over the years.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the USEPA Brownfield Environmental Assessment Grant program, and asked Jeff Edwards of SME to provide a summary of the work done to date under the program.

Edwards stated that approximately \$71,000 of the \$200,000 available under the grant program for environmental site assessment work within the boundaries of the JPA participating governmental units had been expended to date. Edwards stated that based on the criteria used by the EPA to determine the success and effectiveness of the grant program, the local grant program was very successful. Edwards stated that the \$71,000 expended to date had leveraged \$1.3 million in local investments, created or retained 15 jobs to date, and had involved 341 acres of land within the JPA jurisdictions – most of which was the Hastings City / Barry County Airport. Edwards explained that the Airport property was being assessed as part of an effort to stimulate additional development and job creation at the Airport. Edwards stated that to date the grant program had funded work at 11 sites, and was very successful.

Carr asked when the money available under the grant program had to be expended by. Edwards stated that the funds had to be expended by July of 2012. John Hart questioned if funds in excess of the \$71,000 quoted by Edwards had been committed to forthcoming projects to be funded under the grant program. Edwards stated that approximately \$20,000 in additional funds had been committed to near term future projects. Hart stated that he knew of one other likely project to be funded under the grant program that could require the expenditure of \$30,000 to \$40,000 of grant funds. Edwards stated that if the initial funds available under the grant program were expended, it was likely that additional funds would be available from the USEPA for additional environmental assessment work.

Carr asked for additional comments from the public. No additional comments from the public were forwarded.

Carr asked for additional comments from the members of the JPA.

Medendorp stated that it was nice to have progressed this far with the work of the JPA.

No additional comments were forwarded by the members of the JPA.

Motion by Carr, second by Brown to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield
Secretary