

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2011**

Members Present: Redman, Wiswell, Jasperse, Haywood, Mansfield, Phillips, McManus.

Members Absent: Carpenter, Miner, Medendorp, Warren, Brown, Carr.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Byrnes.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Geiger.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Acting Chairman Mansfield.

Mansfield led the JPA members and the public in attendance in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Redman, second by Wiswell to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2011 meeting of the Joint Planning Alliance, and to receive and place on file the agendas for the August 17, 2011 and September 13, 2011 meetings of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the minutes of the July 20, 2011, August 9, 2011 and August 17, 2011 meetings of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the minutes of the September 6, 2011 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

Wiswell asked that agenda item 8.d. (status report on urban service agreement) be moved up on the agenda to item 8.a. Motion by McManus, second by Wiswell to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting after revision as requested by Wiswell.

Motion carried.

Mansfield asked for comments from the public. No comments from the public were received.

Mansfield provided a report on the status of the preparation of the urban services agreement. Mansfield stated that he and Carr had been working with consultant Jerry Fisher and the City and Township attorneys on the two agreements that were to be developed under the concept outline for the urban services agreement. Mansfield stated that progress on the development of the agreements had been frustratingly slow. Mansfield stated that he hoped that the agreements would be ready for review by the JPA at the October meeting of the JPA, and ready for review by the Township Board and City Council shortly after that. Mansfield stated that he hopes that he, Carr and Fisher could hasten the development of the agreements following Carr's return to the area later this week.

Mansfield asked the representatives from the various jurisdictions to report on any projects or activities in their respective areas.

McManus stated that there were no activities to report in the areas served by Barry County.

Haywood stated that the Rutland Township Planning Commission was considering ordinance amendments related to the use of temporary signage in the Township. Jasperse questioned the progress of the new restaurant located on M-37 / M-43 in Rutland Township. Byrnes reported that she had recently met with the developer for this project, and that several issues had arisen, but that these issues were being addressed so that the project could move forward.

Mansfield stated that the City's Planning Commission was working on a number of zoning amendments in the downtown area. Mansfield stated that this matter was the topic of an agenda item to be addressed later in the meeting.

Mansfield introduced discussion regarding the Michigan Shared Public Services program, and the JPA's role in promoting additional collaborative efforts among the JPA participating jurisdictions, the local school districts and other governmental units and agencies. Mansfield introduced Don Stypula of the Grand Valley Metro Council, and explained that Stypula would lead further discussion on this matter.

McManus excused himself from the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Stypula introduced discussion regarding a number of different areas where the opportunity for additional collaboration may exist. Stypula explained that these opportunities had been brought to light at the July meeting of the JPA or in subsequent discussions with representatives of the various participating units of government.

Opportunities for potential further collaboration were identified in the following areas:

- Group purchasing
- Information technology
- Assessing
- Building Inspection
- Recycling
- Cemetery operation
- Elections
- Economic Development
- Public Works

Stypula led discussion regarding the potential opportunity for further collaboration in each of the areas identified, and chance of successfully initiating or expanding collaborative efforts in each area. Stypula asked those present to suggest further areas for potential collaboration. Mike Snyder suggested that emergency services such as law enforcement or medical first responder services be considered. Geoff Moffat suggested that collaborative efforts related to trails be considered.

Consensus of the group was to explore new or additional opportunities for collaboration in the following areas:

- Group purchasing
- Information technology
- Assessing (possibly)
- Public works
- Public safety (possibly)
- Trails

Stypula stated that he would further investigate collaborative efforts in these areas in use elsewhere in the State and Country. Stypula stated that he would provide additional information related to each of the identified areas for further consideration by the JPA at the October meeting.

Mansfield stated that the City was considering a number of amendments to the zoning regulations, zoning classifications and zoning district boundaries for areas near or within the City's downtown. Mansfield stated that these amendments were recommended in the City's most recent Master Plan (Comprehensive Community Plan). Mansfield stated that the amendments were designed to protect and enhance the character of the downtown, and to provide additional types of commercial opportunities in the downtown area such as mixed commercial-residential use. Mansfield explained that the proposed zoning amendments were described in detail in the information contained in the packet for tonight's JPA meeting. Mansfield stated that this information was being provided to the JPA in compliance with the JPA Joint Future Land Use Plan. Mansfield asked if anyone present had any questions. No questions were forwarded.

Mansfield stated the no reports were to be presented at tonight's JPA meeting from the education or funding subcommittees, since the Chairs of these subcommittees were not in attendance.

Mansfield asked for comments related to the list of work tasks identified by the JPA for completion in 2011 or suggestions for additions to the list. No comments were forwarded.

Mansfield asked for comments from the public. No public comments were forwarded.

Mansfield asked for additional comments from the members of the JPA. No additional comments from the members of the JPA were forwarded.

Motion by Wiswell, second by Redman to adjourn at 7:07 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield  
Secretary