

Joint Planning Alliance

Barry County
Carlton Township
City of Hastings
Hastings Charter Township
Rutland Charter Township

Draft Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2022

Chairperson Watson called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present:

For Barry County: Jim McManus

For Carlton Township: Brad Carpenter

For Hastings City: Michele Peltier, Dave Tossava

For Hastings Township: Jim Brown, David Olson, Scott Savage

For Rutland Charter Township: Stacey Graham, Larry Haywood, Larry Watson

Members Absent: Jack Miner and Joe Bleam (Carlton Twp), Jennifer Heinzman (Barry County Chamber & EDA), Dave Jackson (Barry County)

Other present: none

Chairperson Watson led the JPA members in the recitation on the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: It was moved by Haywood and seconded by Watson that the agenda be approved as presented. All members present voting yes; motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Graham and seconded by Seconded by Tossava that the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2022 be approved as presented. All members present voting yes; motion carried.

Public Comments: None.

Public Hearings: None.

Old Business: Watson asks for a status report on ongoing projects. *Hastings City* representation discusses City Council working on Ordinance 606 to allow duplexes in Residential Districts and the Lofts project is expected to be completed by fall of 2022. The Downtown Development Authority recently revised their guidelines for sign improvement grants increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and remains 50/50 match, reimbursable amount on architectural fees from \$500 to \$1,000. City continues work with General Capitol to bring workforce housing to the city due to the MSHDA disqualification of the rail coach site and have identified a site behind Friend of the Court, developer is hopefully working with the County. The Bliss Company has been sold to a Michigan based company that manufactures conveyor systems, Bliss is leasing back 6,400 sqft for office space and to manufacture parts. Watson mentions they moved the ammunition portion to Grand Rapids. Watson inquires on the status report regarding Joint Planning Commission, no members present, *Rutland Township* mentions a meeting to discuss a Hastings Fiberglass pole building. Nothing to report on the 92' sewer agreement. Progress on subdivision project is moving slow. *Barry County* is strongly considering creating a land bank to help fund subdivision development and infrastructure, the State has a land bank available to use for administrative costs payed for by the County but strongly considering adopting their own to have available as a tool, there is a project potentially in NE Hastings and would be available to anyone in the county, this is similar to a TIF, using a land bank lowers preconstruction costs and maximizes returns when development begins. This could go before the County as early as this fall. The County is actively working on the Barry County Master plan, most preliminary work has been completed, and has held public engagement at the fair and hopes for more in person engagement. The trail program is almost completed and they will be doing a housing study, drafts should be done in October, will be finished by the end of the year and adopted by January or February next year. There is a consideration for the M-37 Corridor Commission on Yoder's. The County has a brown field authority and they are wrapping up a grant from 2019 of about \$25k-\$30k to spend on petroleum contamination, the next grant cycle begins this October and will apply again for \$300k of the available \$500k, will focus on the main area

around Hastings but available to anyone in the county, many areas around the county have benefited from the grant.

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Member Comment: *Hastings Twp* discusses use of ARPA funds, that some will be on roads. *Carlton Twp* using some on township hall, sewer updates and roads. The *County* brings up ADU's being up for approval from the State. The *City* discusses additional affordable housing for the city of Hastings. *Rutland* discusses the AT&T store going in at Save-a-Lot site and M-DOT doing a study on Heath Rd. The *City* says a new fire department is in planning stages.

Adjournment: Tossava makes the motion to adjourn, seconded by McManus.
Meeting adjourns at 6:13pm