

**St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Meeting to be held at  
Conference Room A, County Administration Building  
200 Grand River Avenue, Port Huron, Michigan**

Wednesday

September 21, 2011

4:00 p.m.

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**Minutes**

**Call meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance**

**1. Roll Call**

**Present:** Andrews (Late), DeBoyer (Late), Heidemann, Lockwood, Murphy, Sass, Sheehy, Tansky, Schumacher

**Excused:** Secory

**Absent:** Cooper

**Citizens:** None

**Staff:** Struck, Donaldson, Diedrich, Wallace, Guyette

**2. Changes in Order/Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

**Motion** by Sass, supported by Schumacher to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Hearing: 2012-2016 St. Clair County Capital Improvement Program opened at 4:05 p.m.** No citizens present for citizen input.

Diedrich

An overview of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) program was given. A copy of the draft CIP was passed around. Staff will continue to look at the scoring system of the CIP. To prevent political interest there is standard criteria used for the scoring. The submitting departments are responsible for addressing the criteria in their proposals (Murphy). This CIP will go to the BOC for approval. The CIP is updated every year. The County's CIP program began in May 2001. The CIP enables the County to clearly and confidently articulate what investments will be made, when they will be made, and how they will be funded. Additionally the CIP process allows the County to demonstrate why any given project is, or is not, of higher priority than other projects. This document gives the general public more of an idea of the needs of the County (Heidemann).

**Motion** by Sheehy, supported by Sass to close the public hearing at 4:25 p.m.

**Murphy opened the regular meeting at 4:26 p.m.**

**4. Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission – None**

**5. Comments/News from the Planning Commissioners and Staff**

Struck

Introduced and welcomed Lindsay Wallace as the new Planner III/Transportation Planner.

Commissioner Heidemann

- Attended a Michigan Association of Counties meeting and it was mentioned that the personal business tax is going to be eliminated. It will be about a 3 million dollar hit to our budget.
- The light station in Fort Gratiot is on the front cover of The Great Light to Lake Trails.

Commissioner Schumacher

The state is talking about taking away the personal property tax and there are massive implications for local units of government.

Commissioner Tansky

RESA had an all day seminar on K-12 education and they did a spectacular job. There were 650 participants. The seminar lets teachers see what is going on at other schools.

Wallace

BWATC is having an open house Friday September 30 from 3:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Commissioner Andrews

In today's paper there was mention of a virtual high school (alternative school) for students looking to achieve a high school diploma.

Commissioner Sass

Passed around a packet of updates regarding Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner DeBoyer

Clay Township has two new Planning Commission members.

Commissioner Sheehy

Gratiot is open from the Marysville Power Plant to Ravenswood. Marysville is having problems along the board walk and having some shifting there, the city is in line to receive a 1.2 million dollar grant and they are in the process of coming up with a concept for a raised walkway.

Commissioner Lockwood

In August the EDA invited potential investors on a tour of the St Clair River. The City of St Clair was one of the stops on the tour.

6. **Approval of Minutes** – August 17, 2011

**Motion** by Heidemann, supported by Sass to approve the Minutes for July 13, 2011 with suggested change by Murphy to replace the word Technical with Practical on page 2. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Acceptance of Communications**

**Motion** by Andrews, supported by Sass to receive and file communications. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Financial Reports** - Ending August 31, 2011

**Motion** by Lockwood and supported by Sheehy to acknowledge receipt of the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Consent Agenda

### A. China Township Text Amendment – Access Management Ordinance

*Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission concur with the China Township Planning Commission and recommend to the China Township Board **APPROVAL** of the proposed zoning text amendment, for the following reasons:*

- 1. The proposed amendment is consistent with the goals and objectives of the China Township Master Plan.*
- 2. The proposed amendment is supported by the goals and objectives of the St. Clair County Master Plan and the St. Clair County Long-Range Transportation Plan.*
- 3. The proposed amendment promotes safe and reasonable access between public roadways and adjacent land uses, while at the same time maintaining the capacity of the roadway.*

**Motion** by Sheehy and supported by Sass. Motion carried unanimously.

## 10. Work Program Reports

### Struck

- We have posted for the Secretary position.
- The GIS Department that was discussed has now come to fruition. The Planning Department will house the GIS Department in our office.
- The Public Hearing for the Marine City Master Plan was held on September 12. The plan should go through the final adoption process next month.
- The Parks and Recreation Plan and BOC will hold a meeting to go over the plan and try to get a sense of priorities from both sides. Parks and Recreation is going to contract with RESA to have a county wide survey that will go in the mail October 1 and will be online as well. There are going to be a few Parks and Recreation Commission meetings at different locations. The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be November 10, in Marine City. We plan to have a community visioning session for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The ultimate goal is to have it submitted to the DNR by March 1.
- A map was presented summarizing the roads that were rated in the Asset Management Study. Half of the roads assessed had a score of six or above.

### Donaldson

SEMCOG has recently been awarded a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant through HUD and Planning staff has been asked to participate in the process. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Workplan consists of eight distinct, yet interrelated projects integrating planning for housing, economic development, and infrastructure (both natural and built) in support of our region's shared outcomes for creating success. The projects staff has been asked to be involved in include:

- Project 2: Redeveloping community assets in commercial and industrial areas,
- Project 3: Developing a regional housing needs and neighborhood resilience strategy, and
- Project 4: Developing a green infrastructure vision.

David will be coordinating with SEMCOG staff on project 3 and Donaldson will be coordinating SEMCOG staff on projects 2 and 4.

Donaldson went on to report on the Land Bank Authority's recent meetings and how they will be reviewing the 114 tax-foreclosed properties that are being offered at the public land auction this year. Specifically, Donaldson highlighted that the Land Bank Authority asked to have 4 parcels withdrawn from the public auction in September. Two of the properties have single-family homes on them and two are vacant commercial parcels. Because only a third of the properties sold at the public auction in September, the Land Bank may still exercise the county's first right of refusal and acquire more properties prior to the "no-minimum-bid" auction later in October.

**Motion** to acknowledge receipt of the work program reports by Lockwood and supported by Sass. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **11. Chairperson's Report**

Chairman Murphy gave an overview of the items in his report in the supplemental packet.

**Motion** by Sass, supported by Heidemann to accept the Chairperson's report. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **12. Old Business - None**

#### **13. New Business**

##### **A. 2012-2016 St. Clair County Capital Improvement Program**

**Motion** by Schumacher to recommend the draft CIP to be presented to the BOC, supported by Andrews. Motion carried by roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Andrews, DeBoyer, Lockwood, Murphy, Sass, Schumacher, Sheehy, Tansky **Nays:** None  
**Absent/Excused:** Cooper, Heidemann, Secory

##### **B. Port Huron Township Planning Assistance**

Struck gave an overview of the agreement.

**Motion** to approve the office to go forward with this by Tansky and supported by Andrews. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **14. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Sass, supported by DeBoyer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.