

ATHENS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of April 16, 2015

Athens Township Government Center

1. *Pledge of Allegiance:* The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. *Roll Call:* The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Lyle Reynolds. Members present were Dan Woodfill, Marlys Balfany, Lyle Reynolds, Cindy Anderson, Craig Bjorklund and Dave Henderson. Jake carpenter was absent. Also present was Jim Braun, Staff Member. Cindy Reynolds was the only guest on hand.
3. *Approve Agenda:* No additions or changes were made to the agenda.
4. *Minutes of March 19, 2015:* Marlys Balfany noted that under Miscellaneous there was discussion on an upcoming Interim Use Permit for rummage sales and sales of goods that are recovered from the storage buildings at the Blaisvec parcel on 245th Avenue and Highway 65. Dave Henderson noted that the minutes did not reflect the charge that he made about polling the Town Board. Craig Bjorklund questioned the motives of a Town Board Member leaving a letter to all the Planning Commissioners at their seats suggesting that they vote in a certain manner. Craig feels it was illegal and under handed. Staff told the Commission that the information should have gone through his office being that the person could not attend the meeting that evening and Staff would have brought the information the Commission that the information came from her as a citizen of the Township instead as a Board Member.
A motion requiring a note that Staff polled the Board was made by Dave Henderson, seconded by (not audible). (Note: Because the recording only identifies three votes to approve, Staff has requested that a roll call vote be taken at the May 21, 2015 meeting to approve the minutes)
5. *Open Forum:* No one was one hand for the open forum portion of the meeting.
6. *Public Hearings:* None
7. *Old Business:* Discuss Draft Comprehensive Plan: Before discussion on the Comprehensive Plan Draft began Staff wanted to clarify a point that was made to the Town Board Chairman that he influenced the Commission to vote in a manner on the density question that they were not comfortable with.

Chairman Reynolds questioned each of the members if Staff had mentioned how they should vote on density that evening. All said no. Next Chairman Reynolds asked if they were comfortable with the decision they made as far as density and all said they were.

Because Carolyn Braun was unable to attend the meeting, Jim Braun briefly went over some of the items that need to be discussed.

One item is does the Commission feel that the Township should continue pursuing the Town Center Concept. In the current Comprehensive Plan the road plan by Isanti County reflected the Town Center Concept as well as the zoning around the core of the Township. Without the Town Center massive changes will have to be done to the zoning map which may take more time to finish the document with a chance that Isanti County will not embrace the plan.

Other components that are still needed are a Parks & Recreation Plan for the future, an updated road plan by the Township and Isanti County, and some other historical information.

Carolyn requests that the Commissioners review the partial draft and be ready for comments at the next Planning Commission Meeting.

8. *New Business:* None
9. *Miscellaneous:* None
10. *Adjournment:* Being that there was no further business a motion was made by Dave Henderson to adjourn the meeting seconded by Cindy Anderson. Motion carried unanimously at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jim Braun
Recorder Pro-Tem