

GERRISH TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING WORK SESSION
May 6, 2021

Due to Covid 19, this meeting was held in person with a virtual option with Microsoft Teams. Meeting included both video and audio capabilities. Phone number: 269-218-1875 Phone Conference ID: 607 737 595#

Special meeting called to order at 9:00am. Present in person: Supervisor Udy, Clerk Patchin, Treasurer Tulgetske, Trustee Oppy, and Trustee Newton. Also present: in person: Fire/EMS Chief Fisher, Police Lt. Patchin and 9 citizen(s) Virtually present: 3 citizen(s)

Presentation: Mariah Frye virtually presented to the Board on the subject of the Gerrish Township Zoning Ordinance. Mariah Frye shared her many concerns of the current C1 Commercial District allowing for large commercial developments that do not align with the Gerrish Township Master Plan nor the desired character of the township. Mariah Frye has asked the Board to amend the Zoning Ordinance to reduce the size limit of commercial establishments from 10,000 square feet to 6,000 square feet (see Footnotes for Table 3-3 on page 3-8 of the Gerrish Township Zoning Ordinance). She noted that the new size limit would not block building permits for buildings larger than 6,000 square feet; it would simply require applicants to apply for a Special Land Use permit.

Public Comment:

Steve Witt, was concerned with the size reduction but shared his feelings that a Dollar General would offer no value to our community and supported the presentation on the preservation of the Township. Randon Haight was in favor of the presentation for the preservation of the township. Richard Fultz, shared his support of the rural & resort atmosphere. Lissa Meier shared her comments about being stewards of the land by paying attention to developments. Lexi Bondar shared her support of the presentation to keep the nature. Brett Zubeck shared his support of the presentation and sticking to the Master Plan. Kelly Tranquilla was in support of the presentation keeping the characteristics of the beautiful township. Nathan White shared that as an architect working with Detroit buildings, he supports the size of the proposed buildings. Pat Deland shared her disappointment of not hearing all those that spoke and made suggestion for those to come to the front of the room. She also shared her support for the presentation.

Discussed:

- Fire/EMS Monthly update
- Modification of GTFD Tanker 224
- Board appointment to the Gerrish Township Fire/EMS Facility Planning Committee
- Police Monthly update
- Special Use Permit form clarification
- Seal coat for municipal building complex
- Park Ordinance XVII amendment consideration
- EGLE permit authorization for additional docks at Marina
- Marina additional dock purchase
- Compost signage
- New Hire at Gerrish Township Marina
- Proposal for Gerrish Township Park sand and stump removal

-Announcement from the County that the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency has been extended until June 31, 2021. This allows Township Board member to be able to vote remotely for meetings.

-Budget work sessions for the Police, Fire/EMS are scheduled for June 10th at 9:00am and June 15th at 9:00am.

-Archaeological Services Proposal Higgins Lake Waste Water Treatment Facility

-Preliminary Wetland Evaluation and Threatened & Endangered Species Review proposal

-Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority Appointments

Public Comment:

None

Motion by Udy, supported by Newton: CARRIED
that the meeting adjourns.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am

Kathleen Patchin, Clerk

David Udy, Supervisor

Approval