

**VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY MARCH 22, 2011**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice Chair Smith.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Vice Chair Harry Smith, Carol Browne, Brandee Ellis, Fred Lewis

Paul Shamblin, Zoning Administrator

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Minutes:** The February 22, 2011 Planning Commission minutes were approved as read.

**Approval of Agenda:** The March 22, 2011 Planning Commission agenda was approved.

**Old Business:**

**Outdoor Burning Ordinance**

Vice Chair Harry Smith reported that the state of Michigan has rescinded their April 1, 2011 deadline for eliminating the burning of refuse. Discussion continued as to how this affected our ordinance.

It was unclear from previous discussion if the ordinance we are working on now is a new ordinance or a revision of the previous Ordinance 214. A question from the audience resulted in clarification. The ordinance that is being developed now will be a new ordinance. Ordinance 214 will be repealed when the new one is approved and published.

Discussion resulted in the following revisions:

Section 4 Definitions. 4.1 clarification of campfire definition by adding in parentheses "3 feet in diameter by 2 feet high.

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Section 6. Open Burning of Refuse. 6.1 Motion to remove Open burning of household refuse is prohibited approved by roll call vote (3 in favor; 1 opposed);6.2.6 Motion to remove Newspaper being prohibited approved by roll call vote (4 in favor);6.2.7. Motion to remove Corrugated cardboard, container board, office paper being prohibited approved by roll call vote (4 in favor).

Section 7. Burning trees, logs, brush, stumps, leaves, and grass clippings. 7.2.4. Duplicate line removed at the end of the section.

Section 13: Burning Permits. 13.2 "one-time" removed. Clarification needed on the availability of multiple day fire permits.

Sections 13 – 16 to be renumbered 12 – 15 to rectify a typographical error.

The final draft of the Outdoor Burning Ordinance will be brought to the Commission for approval at the April meeting.

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**New Business**

Clerk Ellis distributed materials for background reading on Medical Marijuana. Commission members are asked to read these materials along with those handed out earlier and be ready to begin discussion on a Medical Marijuana Ordinance at the April meeting.

**Zoning Administrator Report**

Zoning administrator Paul Shamblin informed the Commission that he advised the Township to repeal the Camping ordinance. He stated that other townships around us did not allow camping on private land and that in Valley Township there was an abundance of public land available for camping. He stated that the ordinance was difficult to enforce. Chair Smith asked that this item be put on the April agenda.

**Open Discussion on Non-Agenda items**

Secretary Browne informed the Commission that the Annual Report would be presented at the April meeting for review and approval.

A resident who lives on 38<sup>th</sup> street is concerned because drainage on the unpaved road is traveling across the road instead of through the ditches causing a hazardous situation. Chair Smith informed the resident that the Planning Commission does not have jurisdiction over road issues but also informed her that because the millage did not pass, there was no money to pave township roads. He suggested that she contact the Road Commission with her concerns.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Browne, Secretary