

**VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY September 25, 2012**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chair Garofalo.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Harry Smith, Carol Browne, Fred Lewis, Tony Garofalo and Brandee Ellis  
Zoning Administrator, Paul Shamblin was excused absent

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Minutes:** Harry Smith made a motion to approve the minutes supported by Fred Lewis. The August 28, 2012 Planning Commission minutes were approved as read.

**Approval of Agenda:** Brandee Ellis made a motion supported by Fred Lewis to approve the Agenda of September 25, 2012. Agenda was approved.

**Old Business:**

A. Adult Entertainment Ordinance

Motion was made by Harry Smith, supported by Fred Lewis to hold a public hearing on the Adult Entertainment ordinance on October 23, 2012 during the regular Planning Commission meeting. Motion approved. Clerk Ellis will submit the notice to the Township attorney and the newspaper.

**New Business:**

A. Fracking

Chair Garofalo reported on communication from Representative Genetski with regard to fracking in Valley Township. Genetski indicated that the Township has no authority to govern this practice if it takes place on DNR property. The Department of Environmental Quality holds the state to the same standards it requires for private citizens to drill wells for fracking. A separate ordinance would be redundant with other ordinances already passed by Valley Township. The township will continue to monitor any fracking activities in Valley Township.

A suggestion was made to assist residents with information regarding pros and cons of fracking. An informational article posted on the website would be useful. Clerk Ellis will investigate the possibility of circulating a petition that opposes fracking. Trustee Smith noted that he has not heard anything about fracking from the DNR for several months.

Comment from the audience: Why can't fracking be treated as any other nuisance in the township, the same as blight, leaf burning, etc.

**Zoning Administrator Report**

No report

**Open Discussion on Non-Agenda items**

Indian Shores has agreed to be a pilot program for one-vendor trash pick up. It is an ideal site because there are full time residents, week-end only residents and those who are there infrequently. The

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vendor has promised to accommodate all of those circumstances as well as pick up recycled materials at individual homes. This would eliminate the need for recycling bins at the township and result in a substantial savings for the township.

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission held a meeting to inform townships about grants that are available for economic development. Several ideas were discussed concerning ideas for grant proposals. Further discussion will be needed to get a grant prepared in time for next year. Possible ideas are:

- (1) repaving township roads heavily used by truck traffic
- (2) fund restitution of abandoned railroads into recreational trails
- (3) passage of the road millage might provide us with matching funds to help us procure an economic development grant

**Adjournment**

Harry Smith made a motion to adjourn supported by Brandee Ellis. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Browne, Secretary