

Village of Newberry Planning Commission
Minutes: Public Hearing – to hear comments on the Master Plan
January 22, 2018
302 East McMillan Ave.
6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairperson Vincent, Members: Dan Hardenbrook (arrives at 6:07)

Absent: Vice-Chair – Brown, Members – Alexander, Dishaw.

Also Present: Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Clerk - Schummer, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Don Ratliff, A. J. Downey, Mike Schnorr, Don Jones, Jack Thomas, David Rusch, Derek Waldorf, Jackie Schummer, Bruce Lane, Cliff Fossitt, Buzz Medelis, Kip T. Cameron, Jim Diem.

Call to Order: Chairperson Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson Announcements: Chairperson Vincent acknowledged there was not a quorum present but public comment would be heard as part of the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will open at this time and will be continued, which means the Commission will not close the Public Hearing until the next Planning Commission Meeting on February 26, 2018. The Hearing is to hear public comment regarding the Village of Newberry Community Master Plan. Notice for the Public Hearing was published in the Newberry News, dated December 13, 2017. Vincent asked that those individuals wishing to comment for the record, provide your name and place of residency, village or township, and each would be given 3 minutes to make a comment. The Planning Commission will not deliberate at this meeting on the comments received. Comments will be compiled and summarized by the Village and provided to the Planning Commission as well as made part of the public record at the February 26, 2018 meeting for further action.

Public Comments: The following is a synopsis of comments heard:

Don Jones – People feel like they are being left out, what is the Master Plan going to do for the regular people, not just businessmen and tourists. Suggested classes from Lake State or Northern to be offered in the area.

Don Ratliff – Stated he took an oath to uphold the Constitution of this country and he feels that if anything is done here it should be by vote, by the people, for the people.

Jack Thomas – State he has as been a part of the Rising Tide since the public was invited to meet the very first time and subsequently for about 12 months, attending most meetings, for the past 10 months have not attended for various reasons. He understands the reason for a Master Plan for the Village of Newberry. It is obvious to him that the Governor picked Newberry for Rising Tide because Newberry needed help. The Governor putting staffs of various agencies within a phone call away from the Village is pretty cool – you are able to get ahead of anyone else if you have questions – to make the Village of Newberry and in essence Luce County a better place. Adding education to the area is a great idea – whether or not it fits into the Master Plan – not

sure. He said if the Master Plan opens-up avenues so that we can gain moneys or gain support from either state taxes or federal money because the Village has a Master Plan - would be fantastic.

Buzz Medelis – The idea of education in Newberry would be great. I think it would be up to the colleges whether they would like to come here, but would be great. At the last Village meeting there was a complaint brought up and he disagreed with that complaint and would like to see the Committee keep on doing what they are doing.

Member Hardenbrook arrives at 6:07 p.m.

Kip T. Cameron – State that if you want families to move to this town you better have something for their kids to do. Right now we don't have anything for our kids to do. We do have hockey, but a lot of families can't afford to travel. When the sawmill burned down he told the Board they should offer tax breaks to companies to move to town. Going to have to give something to draw people here.

A.J. Downey – Stated that he is on about 9 different boards throughout the community. He understands the principle of the Master Plan and Rising Tide – it opens us up to a lot of grant money. The 30 or 40 villages across the state that have gone through this have had a lot of doors opened for them.

Also would like to see, and there has been past efforts to try to get, technical studies here for our youth through Lake State or Northern – maybe a welding program – try to combat our 3-4% population loss per year. He stated that we do utilize tax breaks through the EDC to try to get businesses to come to the area, it goes through McMillan and Pentland Townships, he believes.

Chairman Vincent entered written comment into the record from: Ken Orlang, the Woods “Tahquamenon River” Canoe and Kayak Rental, Tina and Charles Pipes, John Bergman, Doreen (no last name), and the Save Our Village Newberry Master Plan Petition - with signatures. (Mike Schnorr – presented a database to be included with the petition).

Jack Thomas asked - if there is a quorum at the next meeting, will there be responses from that quorum to the public? Vincent answered that there would be deliberation.

Vincent continued the Public Hearing until the next meeting on February 26, 2018.

Vincent adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

These minutes are unofficial until voted on at the next meeting.

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Lawrence Vincent, Chairperson