

Bengal Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes March 26, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Brandy Solomon

Pledge of Allegiance led by Brandy Solomon

Members Present: Sam Nielsen, Lori Pung, Brandy Solomon, Nick Tipper, and Brenda Zlotek

Public Present: Eric Ensey from McKenna, Nick McDonald, Bengal Township Supervisor, and Forrest Thurston (arrived at 7:42 PM) Bengal Township Zoning Inspector and Enforcement Officer.

Additions to Agenda- Nick Tipper motioned to add discussion of Drone Ordinance under New Business, seconded by Sam Nielsen, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes- Motion by Nick Tipper to approve minutes from February 26, 2025, as presented, seconded by Lori Pung, motion carried.

Motion by Brenda Zlotek to close the regular Bengal Township Planning Commission meeting at 7:13PM and open the public hearing for Accessory Building Amendment, seconded by Lori Pung, motion carried.

No public comment.

Motion by Brenda Zlotek to close the public hearing on Accessory Building Amendment and re-open the regular Bengal Township Planning Commission meeting at 7:14PM, motioned seconded by Sam Nielsen, motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda items- none.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda items- none

Reports

Township Inspector /Enforcement Officer update- Forrest Thurston reported there is no new business to report. Additionally, he shared with the Planning Commission his continued frustration with not being contacted by builders and or property owners for inspections. The Planning Commission will add a meeting with Nick McDonald, Twp Supervisor, Sharon Bassette, Twp Clerk, and Forrest Thurston, Twp Inspector, to develop an organizational chart of responsibility.

Zoning Board of Appeals Update- Nick McDonald reported that Linda Roof will join the ZBA.

Township Board Liaison update- Nick Tipper reported that our new County Commissioner Zach Rudat attended the Bengal Township Meeting. Mr. Rudat reported the County is working on allowing the rodeo back at the Fairgrounds. He also reported

that the County is planning to no longer financially participate in Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). Furthermore, he informed the Township Board that Clinton County Transit is planning to implement a program for short low-cost trips in the community. "Micro Transit" for clients that may need to do several stops in the St. Johns and Dewitt Community. This "micro transit" would utilize the small vans. Additionally, Mr. Tipper reported that the Township is taking bids for cleaning services for the Township Hall. The May election site for Bengal Township will be Bingham Township Hall. Culvert replacement on Essex Center and Walker Road is in moving forward. The Bengal Township budget for 2025 was approved and the township website is being updated.

Unfinished Business

PA-233 Appeal Update and overlay district update- No update. Supervisor Nick McDonald informed the Planning Commission that the township has not had any reports from Foster Swift. He will contact them for an update again.

New Business

- a. **Accessory Building Amendment** – Lori Pung pointed out to Eric Ensey, McKenna representative, some inconsistencies in the Zoning Ordinance, Eric said he will get those corrected. The Planning Commission discussed the new language for Section 4.12 A-4 Accessory Buildings, Structures and Uses. The Planning Commission recommended some changes to the language provided by McKenna. Mr. Ensey will make those changes as discussed for setbacks from Side and Rear Lot lines. (4.12 A-4).

Motion from Brenda Zlotek to recommend the Township Board adopt Section 4.12 "Accessory Buildings, Structures, Uses" as amended with the changes as discussed, motion seconded by Lori Pung, motion carried.

- b. **Drones-** The Planning Commission discussed the need for the current ordinance to be reviewed and revised. Nick Tipper presented an ordinance from another local communities' ordinance that could be relevant for Bengal Township. Eric Ensey agreed and will go back and look at changes the Planning Commission discussed in the Fall of 2023. Brandy Solomon will add Drones to the next meeting agenda and McKenna will have language for the Planning Commission to review.

Planning Commission Comments- the Planning Commission thanked Eric Ensey for attending and providing guidance.

Motion of Excused Absence- no absences

Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM by Brandy Solomon

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Zlotek, Bengal Township Planning Commission
Secretary

Pending approval

Approved _4_/30_/2025.