PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
October 24, 2013

Chairman Peat called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Paw Paw Township Planning Commission meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. on October 24, 2013 at the Township Hall.

PRESENT: Randall Peat, Phil Arbanas, Bill Johnson, William Mihelich, Ivan Olsen, Donald Stull

ABSENT: Kip Kerby

ALSO PRESENT: Kasper Smidt (Die Cast Press Manufacturing), Ronald Smidt (Die Cast Press Manufacturing), Arunas Rumsa (Terra Architects), Bert Gale (Zoning Administrator), Troy Feltman (Zoning Administrator)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion by Olsen, supported by Mihelich to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 25, 2013

Motion by Mihelich, supported by Arbanas to approve the April 25, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Die Cast Press Manufacturing Site Plan

Ronald Smidt outlined the project and the circumstances which have led to the proposed expansion. The project will add 13,200 square feet to the existing facility. The space will be primarily used for an assembly area with some space for storage as well. Mr. Smidt also indicated that the project would result in the addition of 10-12 new, skilled labor positions.
Commissioner Stull commented that the Paw Paw Township Board of Trustees is working with the firm on a tax abatement.

Chairman Peat asked the applicant to address the issues that were outlined in the Site Plan Review conducted by Zoning Administrator Gale. Applicant and Planning Commission walked through each of the items with an acceptable answer resulting from this discussion on project completion date, owner of record, and soil types at the site.

A brief discussion was held regarding items still needed by the Township before a building permit can be issued. The applicant indicated that they would supply this information so that they would meet their target of starting the cement work within two weeks. This led to a discussion regarding how the Township Board of Trustees could hold a special meeting to assist with this timeline.

Commissioner Olsen commented that it was really good to hear about some positive growth in the manufacturing industry after the lull experienced over the past several years.

Motion by Arbanas, supported by Olsen to recommend the approval of the Site Plan for Die Cast Press Manufacturing to the Township Board of Trustees with the stipulation that the applicant will provide the information outlined in the Site Plan Review Report. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Chairman Peat commented that the Outdoor Wood-Fired Boiler Ordinance Amendment has been delayed due to the Township selecting new legal counsel and the departure of Bruce Dean from Associated Government Services. The members discussed the changes to the document which were authorized at the meeting on April 25, 2013. Following this discussion the members directed AGS staff to make the changes to the Ordinance document so that the Planning Commission can hold a public hearing on December 5, 2013.

B. Chairman Peat asked that the record reflect that the Planning Commission is very appreciative of the excellent work that Bruce Dean did for Paw Paw Township and specifically the Planning Commission. On behalf of the members, Chairman Peat asked Mr. Gale to wish Mr. Dean well in his new endeavor.

C. Commissioner Olsen asked that the Township Board of Trustees be contacted to find out what training is necessary for the Planning Commission to stay into compliance with the continuing education requirements. Commissioner Stull indicated that he would look into this issue.

D. Chairman Peat discussed the new “Smart 911” program which has been started in Van Buren County. The system allows for residents to enter vital data into a website database which can be used by emergency services personnel when they respond. Van Buren County is the second county in the State of Michigan to bring the system into operation.
ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mihelich, supported by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy L. Feltman, AGS