



1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820

February 1, 2021 JOINT MEETING: BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The joint meeting of DeWitt Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission was called to order by Supervisor Galardi at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT Supervisor Rick Galardi (DeWitt Twp, MI), Clerk Adam Cramton (DeWitt Twp, MI), Treasurer Sandy Stump (DeWitt Twp, MI), and Trustee David Seeger (DeWitt Twp, MI), Trustee Brian Ross (DeWitt Twp, MI), Trustee David Fedewa (DeWitt Twp, MI), Chair Bruce Keilen (DeWitt Twp, MI), Vice Chair Tim Fair (DeWitt Twp, MI), Secretary Mike Nolen (DeWitt Twp, MI), Commissioner Adam Bertram (DeWitt Twp, MI), Commissioner Dale Dailey (DeWitt Twp, MI), Commissioner Brett Hanlon (DeWitt Twp, MI), and Commissioner Abby Lorenzen (DeWitt Twp, MI).

MEMBERS ABSENT Trustee Steven Smith and Commissioner Erika Hayes.

ALSO PRESENT Community Development Director Brett Wittenberg (DeWitt Twp, MI).
(call-in only)

MEETING FORMAT Clerk Cramton briefly explained the history of gathering orders from the Governor and MDHHS that necessitate virtual meetings, and Public Act 245 that had enabled all public meetings to be conducted by video or phone conference. DeWitt Township has a meeting Policy that has been updated throughout the COVID pandemic to assist any public body of the Township in conducting their meetings. The goal of the Township policy is civility, inclusiveness, and collaborative results.

INTRODUCTIONS, ATTENDANCE ROLL Supervisor Galardi called on the membership of both the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees to introduce themselves in turn, state where they were calling from per PA245, and offer a brief comment about their background and how they came to the service of the residents of the Township.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

The Relationship Between the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees – Rick Galardi, Township Supervisor Supervisor Galardi presented an outline defining the relationship between the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees, as well as the forces that motivate each, using the theme of “Art and Science.” He called upon Clerk Cramton to further discuss what it means to be a representative for the residents, as is the Board, versus being a representative of the residents, as is the Planning Commission. Each Commissioner and Board member was then invited to comment.

Additional Comments – Bruce Keilen, Planning Commission Chair Chair Keilen commented that it is important to remember to remain respectful of each other, particularly when there are contentious issues being considered. He emphasized that the Commissioners’ different backgrounds and different perspectives, as well as information from staff, all contribute to fair recommendation to the Board. Again, Commissioners and Board members were invited to comment.

Commissioner Daley expressed concern for farmland preservation. He feels that the Township is at risk losing valuable farmland to development.

ADJOURNMENT **Seeger moved, Ross seconded, to adjourn at 6:55 PM.**

Motion voted and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Cramton, Clerk

Rick Galardi, Supervisor