

Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** - *Chair Carolan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.*
2. **Roll Call**
 - Members Present:** *Namrata Carolan, Chair; Denese Belson, Vice-Chair; Michael Clark; Peter Merritt; Jack McLain; Steve Lanius*
 - Members Absent:** *Troy Reehl, Secretary; Samuel Fry*
 - Public Present:** *James Edward Thomas; Patrick Carolan; Julie Beeker*
3. **Public Comment** – *Peter Merritt addressed the commission from the podium regarding his concerns of the 10.2 million in State income tax leaving communities and how is the State being held accountable for their budget. Also concerns regarding mandated immigration into small communities; mandated continuing education for law enforcement; and the lack of grant dollars for small counties.*
4. **Correspondences**
 - a. **Farmland Development Rights Agreement Application 73163 (Graber)-Rejection**
– *It was the consensus that the applicants can utilize the appeal process.*
5. **Approval of Minutes** – *Motion by Merritt to approve the July17, 2024 minutes. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously.*
6. **Approval of Agenda**– *Motion by Clark to approve the agenda. Second by Merritt. Approved unanimously.*
7. **Public Hearings** – *No public hearings scheduled.*
8. **Unfinished Business** – *No unfinished business listed.*
9. **New Business**
 - a. **Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program Applications**
 - i. **Ransom Township - Hamilton (Section 30 T8S R2W 52.98 acres m/l)**
Program Type: Farmland Development Rights Agreement – *Motion by Belson to recommend approval of the application. Second by Lanius. Approved unanimously.*
 - ii. **Ransom Township - Demmitt (Section 30 T8S R2W 54.09 acres m/l)**
Program Type: Farmland Development Rights Agreement – *Motion by Lanius to recommend approval of the application. Second by Clark. Approved unanimously.*

11. Any Other Business/On-going Business

- a. 2025 Budget Meeting Update – *Belson noted that the budget request was presented to the Budget Committee of the Hillsdale county Board of Commissioners.*

- b. Continued discussion on update of Master Plan – *discussion regarding the need to proceed with the Master Plan project and a motion was made by McLain to contact Region 2 Planning Commission to inform them that the Planning Commission wants to proceed with the Master Plan project with a down payment of \$6000. Second by Merritt. Roll call vote:*
 - Yes- Namrata Carolan*
 - Yes - Denese Belson*
 - Yes - Michael Clark*
 - Yes - Peter Merritt*
 - Yes - Jack McLain*
 - No - Steve Lanius*

- c. Review of members terms expiring at the end of 2024
 - Townships (Vacant)
 - Education (Reehl) – *Members were encouraged to announce upcoming board vacancies at their local meetings.*

12. Public Comment - *James Edward Thomas discussed various items of concern to him. He also encouraged the board to further promote form-based zoning. Thomas reminded the board that in order to encourage citizens to participate in community that members should be welcoming and treat others with respect and to keep egos in check.*

13. Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn by McLain. Second by Lanius. Approved unanimously to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.*

, Secretary

Recorded by: Julie Beeker, from the Equalization Office, County of Hillsdale