

**CITY OF HANCOCK  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF  
MARCH 24, 2014**

The regular Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dan Lorenzetti on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Tony Wilmers, Dave Lucchesi, Bill Baxandall, Glenn Anderson, Dan Lorenzetti, Lisa McKenzie and Deb Mann.

Absent: Bob Wenc

Guests: None

It was moved by Baxandall and seconded by Wilmers to approve the agenda.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Mann and seconded by Lucchesi to approve the February 24, 2014 minutes.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

There were no public comments.

Updates/Information

-Reviewed a map showing the Peninsula Fiber Network Route from the Western U.P. Health Dept. to run a new fiber line to the MTU Alternate Energy Research building on Ethel Ave.

-Heard the OHM Advisors had installed 5 sewer flow meters in 5 of the city's 8 sewer districts to monitor flow data, which were installed in late February. The city will monitor flow until mid July.

-Heard the DEQ held its Lottery for SAW asset management grants for sewer and storm water. 97 municipalities were selected in round one for \$97.2 million. The DEQ is expected to hold other lottery rounds in October of 2014 and October of 2015. No projects were funded in Houghton County in round one.

-Heard that Houghton County has listed for sale the DHS Office Building located at 200 Quincy St. with Century 21. The asking price is \$275,000.

-Reviewed a draft list of city and city supported projects that may be submitted to the Portage Health Foundation for funding.

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-Heard that the City Council accepted the complete streets ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission and has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

-Received an update on the current MSHDA Rental Rehab grant:

- |                           |         |                |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------|
| • Kaleva Building         | 3 units | 95% done       |
| • Blast from the Past     | 4 units | 50% done       |
| • WMPL Building           | 2 units | just started   |
| • Masonic Temple Building | 4 units | Plans complete |

-Noted that Thomas Gemignani has submitted an application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for a transfer of license for Gino's Restaurant, 800 Quincy St.

-Looked over a letter from the WUPHD on conditions Studio Pizza must meet related to hot water tank issues before a liquor license is issued at 426 Quincy St.

-Reviewed a SHPO finding of no adverse effect for the proposed rehab project for the 119 Quincy Street building. The city applied for a \$250,000 MEDC grant, which is pending an environmental review.

-Reviewed Finlandia University's announcement which will start seven new Division III sports over seven years, including stating football in the fall of 2015. When completed, FU expects 217 new students.

-To accomplish FU's sport program's growth, FU is planning to complete the McAfee Field House building, construct a 134' x 260' turf house, and add dorm rooms.

-Received a full set of plans for the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church Addition.

The Commission reviewed the MDOT March 14<sup>th</sup> bid results for the M-26 Ripley reconstruct project. MJO Contracting, Inc. was the apparent low bidder at \$6,682,502 out of 4 bids submitted. The bid was 25.08% higher than MDOT's estimate, so MDOT will either ask the States Administration Board for approval to award the bid, or rebid the project. It was noted that the Houghton County Road Commission will be reconstructing sections of Airport Road this summer.

The Commission noted that MDOT received RFP's on March 3, 2014 for design services by a consulting engineering firm. MDOT has told the city they will announce the winning firm during the first week of April.

The city will be working closely with MDOT to accomplish the city's utility coordination during the 2016 project. The city is planning to replace the water distribution system and add new sewer laterals when MDOT does the Front, Reservation and Quincy St. reconstruct project.

The Commission reviewed MDOT's planned December 2014 thru April 2015 winter \$5.3 million rehab project for the Portage Lake Lift Bridge. MDOT will bid out the material on June 6<sup>th</sup> and will bid out the construction on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. The Commission reviewed the

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200 plus bridge closures that will be required, and noted that most work will occur at night.

During the project, the bridge will be limited to two lanes. The Yooper Loop access to the bridge will be closed and Ripley M-26 traffic will be detoured into the city, without direct access to the bridge. Some work will occur during the summer of 2015, including new gates and the installation of a new stop barrier.

It was noted that MDOT plans to spend over \$16.5million on the three local projects over a 3 year period.

Dan Lorenzetti and Bill Baxandall discussed the need for a second bridge crossing Portage Lake.

Dave Lucchesi expressed concern for flooding that may occur if we have a quick runoff due to the heavy snow pack coverage.

It was moved by McKenzie and seconded by Mann to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

AYES: All

NAYES: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Anderson  
Secretary