

**MICHIGAMME TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
May 17, 2023 Minutes**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 10 a.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCES**

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Present: William Gierut - Chair, Irene DeRoche - Secretary, Kathleen Frisk - Liaison, Timothy Werner - Member. One vacancy member.

Absent: Mike Simula, Zoning Administrator.

Guests: Rose McBride, John McBride, Beth Koenig, William Seppenen, Raymond Butler.

**IV: APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion made by Kathleen Frisk, second by Timothy Werner, motion passed.

**V: PUBLIC COMMENT:** Raymond Butler - He refused to give us his address. He asked why the Agenda was on the Township board and not posted on-line. William Gierut said that he cannot answer any questions, this is public comment. Butler said "that when I subpoena you and put you on the stand you will answer that question."

**VI: BOARD COMMENT:** William Gierut, chair for the Planning Commission brought up that the Michigamme Township has two sets of Ordinances with the Planning Commission. The Zoning Ordinance which are overseen by the Planning Commission is solely for land use. And the Township Ordinances that are civil infractions in which these ordinances are not about land use. William mentioned that he has taken an oath to the Township Board and an oath to the Constitution of the United States, and he serves the citizens of this Township and to be unbiased on this Commission. William said that past Planning Commission members have taken it upon themselves by overstepping their authority by feeling the need to enforce the Township Ordinances. William said he received a packet in December when he was appointed by the Township Board to the Planning Commission. He read the 2021 and 2022 minutes from the previous Planning Commission. The whole year was about Blight Ordinances. This Planning Commission voted unanimously on each ordinances that the civil infractions of these ordinances are not about land use. We're here today to review the Marijuana Ordinance and Furnace Ordinance and which Township Ordinances will go to the Michigamme Township Board and will no longer be the responsibility of the Planning Commission. For the record, we are going to hand the Township Ordinances to the Board at a future meeting. The civil infractions will never again be the responsibility of the Planning Commission, now or in the future. We are

here today with the Marijuana Ordinance being one of the last Ordinance's to review, discuss and vote on, to whether it pertains as land use for Zoning Ordinance or if it goes to the Township as one of their Ordinances. William Gierut mentioned that a threat was made to a Board member that is not on the Planning Commission about going against "us" on the Marijuana Ordinance. William Gierut questioned who is "us" in that statement in the memo. Raymond Butler, a guest at the workshop stated it was correct (what William had just said). It was mentioned that no permits have been issued for a Marijuana establishment. William stated that this is a workshop meeting to find out if the Marijuana Ordinance falls under Planning Commission for land use or goes to the Township. Since the Ordinance has infractions it needs to be separate from the Township civil infractions and land use.

## **VII. BUSINESS:**

1. Marijuana Establishment - Kathleen Frisk made a motion to meet with the Michigamme Township board about Marijuana Ordinances, (Ordinance No. 2022-214-1: Adult Use Marijuana Establishments Licensing Ordinance), second by Timothy Werner, motion passed. We will meet on a future date with the Township board. The original Prohibition of Marijuana Establishments (Ordinance No. 2019-211-1: Prohibition of Marijuana Establishment), a motion was made that the ordinance belongs to the Township board by Irene DeRoche, 2nd by Kathleen Frisk, motion passed.
2. Outdoor Furnaces - The Ordinance without a Number: Outdoor Furnace Ordinance has setbacks of 25 feet listed, that is land use for Planning Commission, but also has Ordinance has civil infractions and fines listed. Kathleen Frisk made a motion to split the land use part of Ordinance with the Planning Commission and the civil infractions and fines go to the Township Board. 2nd by Irene DeRoche, motion passed.
3. By-Laws - Motion made by William Gierut to table By-Laws, Kathleen Frisk second, motion passed.
4. Master Plan - Work on getting better maps. Kathleen will work on maps. Motion made by Kathleen Frisk to table Master plan, Irene DeRoche second, Motion passed.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**IX. BOARD COMMENT:** Timothy Werner mentioned that our working sessions that we attend need to be completed. The By-Laws to establish how we operate and Zoning Ordinance need to get completed and go to the Township Board. William Gierut mentions that he hopes everyone understands why the Marijuana Ordinance was on the agenda

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Kathleen to adjourn the meeting, second by William Gierut, motion passed. Workshop ended at 10:25 a.m.

Irene DeRoche - Secretary