

**Powell Township**  
**101 Bensinger Street**  
**Big Bay, MI 49808**  
**Planning Commission – Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 15, 2021**  
**Draft**

- 1. Call to Order:**  
Chair, Moran, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3. Roll Call:**  
**Members Present:** Moran (Chair), Williams (Vice Chair), Hall, Hudson (virtually), Korstad (virtually), and Mohrman.  
**Members Absent:** Stanley
- 4. Approval of Agenda:**  
Moran requested that the agenda be modified to include the consideration of frequency of meetings under new business. Motion to accept the December 15, 2021 Agenda, as modified (Hudson/Korstad). All in favor motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Minutes:**  
Motion to accept the October 20, 2021 Minutes (Moran/Korstad). All in favor motion carried.
- 6. Public Hearing and Adoption of the Proposed Master Plan:**  
At 7:05 p.m. Moran called the Public Hearing to consider the proposed Powell Township Master Plan to order. Jason McCarthy noted that since the last public hearing, the proposed Master Plan had been amended to include 2020 census data and spoke briefly about the positive trends reflected therein.

There being no public commentary, the public hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

Motion to recommend that the Powell Township Board adopt the proposed Master Plan (Mohrman/Williams). A roll-call vote was undertaken and the motion passed unanimously as follows: Hall Aye, Moran Aye, Mohrman Aye, Williams Aye, Korstad Aye, and Hudson Aye. Absent: Stanley.

**7. Call to the Public: Time for Citizens to be Heard:**

- a. Dr. Cynthia Lack submitted a letter in opposition to the proposed spaceport project. A copy of that correspondence is attached as Exhibit "A".
- b. Olivia Hetzel submitted a letter in opposition to the proposed spaceport project. A copy of that correspondence is attached as Exhibit "B".
- c. Sue A Kartman and Cynthia A Walters submitted a letter in opposition to the proposed spaceport project. A copy of that correspondence is attached as Exhibit "C".
- d. Mohrman read a letter addressed to Scott Erbisch, Marquette County Administrator, from Christian Perreault, Executive Vice-President of Explorer Solutions, into the record. The letter identifies certain statement taken from a report submitted by Explorer Solutions to Marquette County in connection with the Michigan Launch Initiative RFP. The statements were used in an article published by the Citizens for a Safe and Clean Lake Superior on their website. Perreault contends that the above referenced statements were taken out of context and could, therefore, be misleading to people unfamiliar with space launches and the space industry. A copy of that correspondence is attached as Exhibit "D".
- e. Mohrman circulated a copy of correspondence from Dennis A Ferraro, President of Citizens for a Safe and Clean Lake Superior which references documents recently published on the Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA) website. The correspondence was not specifically addressed to the Planning Commission and, therefore, has not been included in the public record but for this reference.

**8. Updates from the Zoning Administrator:**

Six (6) permits were issued since the last update: (1) Chris Thompson on September 30, 2021 for a residence; (2) Greg and Kelly Bartlett on October 7, 2021 for demolition; (3) Greg and Kelly Bartlett on October 7, 2021 for a residential addition; (4) Bay Cliff on November 4, 2021 for a screen porch; (5) Gerald Solensky on November 10, 2021 for a storage/pavilion and (6) Anthony Passaglia on November 27, 2021 for three storage sheds.

**9. Unfinished Business:**

There was no further unfinished business.

**10. New Business:**

a. Big Bay Stewardship Council:

Mike Springer gave a presentation on behalf of the Big Bay Stewardship Council's Placemaking Committee. The Placemaking Committee's focus is the beautification and enhancement of the Big Bay area.

The Committee is currently working on a project to create and install uniform, recognizable directional signage pointing to areas of interest in the Big Bay area. Springer identified locations on County Road 550 and County Road 510. Other possible locations include Thomas Rock and Anderson Corners. If approved, the proposed signage would be located in the road right of ways.

Motion to recommend that the Powell Township Board favorably consider the conceptual signage project presented by Springer (Moran/Mohrman). All in favor motion carried.

b. Marijuana Establishments:

The Planning Commission was asked whether it had any recommendations concerning the Township's position on Marijuana Establishments. The Township adopted the Powell Township Prohibition of Marijuana Establishments Ordinance on December 18, 2018 which ordinance, among other things, prohibits all marijuana establishments within the boundaries of Powell Township. Discussion followed concerning the advisability of

repealing and/or amending the current prohibition and the need for comprehensive regulatory ordinances in such event.

Motion to recommend that the Township Board repeal the Powell Township Prohibition of Marijuana Establishments Ordinance dated December 18, 2018 (Mohrman/Korstad). Ayes: Mohrman, Korstad, Hall, Hudson, Williams. Nays: Moran. Motion carried.

No recommendation was made concerning the effective date of such repeal.

c. Frequency of meetings:

Board discussion followed concerning the frequency of Planning Commission meetings. Motion to meet at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday, every other month, beginning February 16, 2022 (Moran/Williams). All in favor motion carried.

**11. Board Discussion:**

There was no further board discussion.

**12. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

**13. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Hall