

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
TOWNSHIP BOARD  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
JOINT MEETING  
September 18, 2012**

A joint meeting of the Township Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**TOWNSHIP BOARD:**

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Clerk Deb Everett  
Treasurer Nancy Culp  
Trustee Grace Borgfjord  
Trustee Dave Bushouse  
Trustee Scott Ernestes  
Trustee Lee Larson

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Millard Loy  
Kitty Gelling  
Dick Skalski  
Bob Anderson

**ZBA:**

Neil Sikora  
Mike Smith

Also present were Township Attorney James Porter, Planning Director Greg Milliken, and 1 interested person.

**DISCUSSION – MICROBREWERY**

Planning Director Milliken advised he had been contacted by Tim Owen, who was present, regarding the use of the former Oshtemo Post Office Building as a microbrewery. He noted the current zoning ordinance does not provide for the use in any zoning district. Discussion ensued regarding where the use would best fit. Consensus was the use is appropriate in the Village Commercial District as proposed and the Planning Commission should take this up for study and consider if other districts might be appropriate as well.

**DISCUSSION – NON-CONFORMING USES**

Planning Director Milliken asked the boards to discuss existing, non-conforming businesses, specifically as they relate to Stadium Drive where it is zoned and planned Rural-Residential and whether these properties that have traditionally been commercially used can continue in that capacity. Attorney Porter commented a property must show intent to abandon the non-conforming use, i.e., removing or altering a structure to lose its legal, non-conforming status. Mr. Milliken advised there has been an inquiry of a heating/cooling business proposed for one current non-conforming site. He also suggested perhaps a corridor study should be considered. Consensus was the proposed use of the heating/cooling business would be acceptable and there was comment the corridor study would be worthwhile.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Planning Commissioner Loy commented he has concerns regarding the intersection at Parkview/Stadium and the need for clearer signage indicating the left turn, straight thru and right turn lanes from west bound Parkview. It was noted the Board raised those same concerns when the Kalamazoo County Road Commissioners and Managing Director visited the Board meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Bushouse commented posted meeting dates should be adhered to for the benefit of the public.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

**Attested: LIBBY HEINY-COGSWELL**  
Supervisor