

MINUTES

PRAIRIE RONDE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

April 21, 2026

A session of the Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Lynn C. McDaniel at 7:02 p.m. Members present: John M. Chapin, Larry Meyer, Dennis L. Hice, and Frederick J. Taylor III. Also present: Township Supervisor Michael Tomlinson.

It was moved by Commissioner Chapin with support from Commissioner Hice to approve the proposed Agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor with support from Commissioner Chapin to approve the minutes of the Prairie Ronde Township Planning Commission meeting on January 20, 2025. Motion carried.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: None.

Unfinished Business: During the January meeting, the Planning Commission requested Supervisor Tomlinson contact the Township attorney and inquire if there was a sample ordinance dealing with data centers that could be reviewed. The Township attorney advised that he did "not have any proposed/sample ordinances on this subject matter, because no client has yet requested I prepare any such ordinance." ... "The Master Plan does not support any significant expansion of either the industrial planning classification or the corresponding I-Industrial zoning classification." ... "Unless either of the existing areas zoned I-Industrial have an available area amenable to the potential proposed siting of a large data center thereon, such a proposal seems unlikely. Moreover, in my opinion a large data center type of land use is not within the scope of any of the designated "permitted uses" in the I-Industrial District." ... "Accordingly, any siting proposal for such a land use would be subject to the special land use application process, ... which may be difficult for an applicant to meet."

Supervisor Tomlinson provided the Commission information from the Michigan Township Association and the University of Michigan Center for Empowering Communities discussing data centers for the member's review. This will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the July meeting.

Commissioner Hice then advised the members of conversations he has had with potential investors. Commissioner Hice has been contacted numerous times by different groups interested in the portion of his land that has high power transmission lines crossing it. The Commission requests that Commissioner Hice keep them informed with any information that might be helpful.

New Business: The Township attorney also provided Supervisor Tomlinson a memorandum discussing a then pending request for zoning approval of a home-based business that did not involve a new building request. The Township does not have a "zoning compliance permit" and in certain circumstances this "leaves a 'gap' in the administrative process." The Township attorney also recommended that a "Zoning Compliance Permit" and "Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment" form be created.

It was moved by Commissioner Chapin with support from Commissioner McDaniel that the Township attorney provide proposed amendments to Section 3.2 of the Zoning Ordinance for consideration by the Planning Commission consistent with the recommendations contained in the memorandum reviewed by the Commission. Motion Carried.

Report from Zoning Appeals Board: None.

Members Time: The Commission thanks Chair McDaniel for the pie.

It was moved by Commissioner Chapin with support from Commissioner Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

PRAIRIE RONDE TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION



Frederick J. Taylor III
Secretary