

Charter Township of Huron
Planning Commission
January 11, 2010

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Huron Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson Weisman at 6:30 p.m. Chairperson Weisman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mendrysa, Musallam, Sturgill, Whited and Weisman – Present
Stanczak arrived at 7:42 p.m.
Belair -Excused

Also Present: Laura Kreps,AICP Carlisle/Wortman Assoc. Inc.; Michael Pate, Sentry Security Systems, LLC and Cathy Laurain, Recording Secretary

1. **Motion by Mendrysa** **Supported by Musallam**
To approve the agenda of the January 11, 2010 meeting as presented.
Motion Carried.
2. **Motion by Mendrysa** **Supported by Whited**
To approve the minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting as presented.
Motion Carried.
3. Public Participation:
Opened and closed Public Participation at 6:31pm.
4. Correspondence:
4a) To Paul Vella (Iron Mike's)-Enos
The letter was read aloud and discussion followed.
5. Public Hearing:
5a) ZTA 2009-001 Amending Article 5 of the Zoning Ordinance #30, Section 5.6 Fences, Walls and Screens by adding the following text:

5.6(E) the use of barbed wire, spikes, nails, or other sharp pointed instrument of any kind on top or on the sides of any fence, ~~electric current, or charge in said fence~~ is prohibited except in conjunction with agricultural operations.

(e) The construction and use of electric fences shall be allowed in the Township only as provided in this section, subject to the following standards.
 - (1) IEC Standard 60335-2-76: Unless otherwise specified herein, electric fences shall be constructed or installed in conformance with the specifications set forth in International Electro technical Commission (IEC) Standard No. 60335-2-76.
 - (2) Electrification:
 - i. The energizer for electric fences must be driven by a commercial storage battery not to exceed 12 volts DC. The storage battery is charged primarily by a solar panel. However the solar panel may be augmented by a commercial trickle charger.

- ii. The electric charge produced by the fence upon contact shall not exceed energizer characteristics set forth in paragraph 22.108 and depicted in Figure 102 of IEC Standard No. 60335-2-76.
- (3) Perimeter Fence or Wall:
 - i. No electric fence shall be installed or used unless it is completely surrounded by a non-electrical fence or wall that is not less than six feet.
- (4) Location:
 - i. Electric fences shall be permitted on any non-residential outdoor storage areas.
- (5) Height:
 - i. Electric fences shall have a height of 10 feet.
- (6) Warning Signs:
 - i. Electric fences shall be clearly identified with warning signs that read: “Warning-Electric Fence” at intervals of not less than sixty feet.
- (7) Electric fences shall be governed and regulated under burglar alarm regulations and permitted as such.
- (8) It shall be unlawful for any person to install, maintain or operate an electric fence in violation of this section.

Michael Pate, Sentry Security Systems, LLC stated he was representing CSX and TDSI. They secure many large lots that hold high value targets items. The electrified fence was up at TDSI for many years until three years ago when they were cited and then de-electrified. The Electric Guard Dog is a fence that is ten feet tall, has twenty strands of wire and is electrified. Every sixty feet there is a sign stating electric fence and is always behind a perimeter fence. He explained to the Commission all the aspects and advantages of electric fencing. Pate was asked about crimes on the site and he replied that they had instances four to five years ago, where thieves would place plywood over the tiger teeth which allowed them to drive the stolen cars out but have not had any instances since installation of the electric fence even though it was de-electrified.

Laura Kreps addressed the Commission and went over the review from John Enos. It advised the Commission there is the potential danger associated with electrified fencing conflicting with the intent of zoning to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents. Also, the allowance of the amendment would not grant special privileges but in essence allow any commercial, industrial or other non-residential outdoor storage area to install electrified fencing, which seems a little dangerous. They did not find the applicant met Ordinance requirements for the granting of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance therefore, recommended denial of the proposed amendment.

The Commission discussed police incidents in the past three years, guards on duty, the visual appearance of double fences, opening it up to all commercial, the ability to have the tones but no electric shock and denial from the Planning Commission allows them the opportunity to go to the Township Board.

Chairperson Weisman opened the Public Participation at 7p.m. seeing none closed it at 7 p.m.

Motion by Mendrysa

Supported by Musallam

To deny the request for the electric fencing Zoning Text Amendment per the recommendation of Planning Consultant, John Enos.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Mendrysa, Musallam, Stanczak, Sturgill, Whited, Weisman

Nays: None

Motion Carried

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business:

7a. Appointment of representative to the ZBA Board

Motion by Mendrysa

Supported by Musallam

To recommend Pete Weisman continue to be the representative on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion Carried.

7b. Master Citizen Planner, Capstone Project-Cathy Laurain

Laurain asked to be tabled due to a special Township Board Workshop scheduled for 7 p.m.

8. Members to be Heard:

None

9. **Motion by Mendrysa**

Supported by Musallam

To adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Motion Carried.

Prepared by,
Cathy Laurain, Recording Secretary