

ROBINSON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
December 17, 2019

The special joint meeting of the Robinson Township Planning Commission and the Robinson Township Board was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Robinson Township Hall.

Planning Commission

Present	Absent
Shawn Martinie	None
Travis Vugteveen	
Bill Maschewske	
George Schippers	
Lydia Brown	
Rich Sibley	
Steve Young	

Township Board

Present	Absent
Kathy Kuck	None
Bonnie Hayward	
Bernice Berens	
Chris Saddler	
Travis Vugteveen	

Also present were Township Attorney Ron Bultje, Zoning Administrator Brian Werschem, Paul Sachs, Director of the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department, John Wood, and Mark Sloothaak. The attendance sheet is attached.

An invocation was given by Bernice Berens followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Bonnie Hayward and seconded by Bernice Berens to revise the agenda by adding the paving of 104th Ave. from Pierce St. to M-45 as an agenda item at the conclusion of the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Paul Sachs, Director of the Ottawa County Planning and Performance Improvement Department, gave a presentation on groundwater issues in Ottawa County and the strategies to address them. The deep and shallow aquifers were defined and described. A seven year study conducted by Ottawa County has verified that users around the perimeter of the deep aquifer (approximately

150 mile diameter) are experiencing decreasing water levels. The shallow glacial water table regenerates well and is connected and also recharges the deep aquifer in selected locations. The water in the Marshall formation is seven times as salty as the oceans. Robinson Township does not use much water from the deep aquifer with about 160 wells. The glacial (shallow) water system in Robinson Township is good. Residents in the Southeast corner of the Township are the primary users of the deep aquifer. The study conducted predicts another 20 ft. drop in the level of the water in the deep aquifer by 2035. Road brining and winter salt applications are the prime contributors to salt levels in the shallow aquifer.

Mr. Sachs noted that better use could be made of the shallow aquifer by reviewing Ottawa County Health Department rules for shallow wells. Due to the investigations of the groundwater supply to date, Ottawa County is viewed as a leader in how to deal with the deep aquifer problem.

County strategies regarding the water issue include reducing dependency on the bedrock aquifer, identifying and protecting recharge areas for the bedrock aquifer, and creating a county wide land use vision. Portions of Robinson Township were identified as recharge areas that should be preserved to promote the maximum amount of recharge.

Mr. Sachs made specific observations for Robinson Township.

1. The glacial aquifer is good.
2. The Southeast corner of the Township is vulnerable because of the need to tap the bedrock aquifer.
3. There are some areas of recharge of the deep aquifer.
4. There is little water and sewer infrastructure.
5. The quality of the glacial aquifer should be maintained.
6. Creative solutions should be sought for water supply.

It was noted that a County Groundwater Ordinance is being developed for new development which will outline what can be done.

This concluded Mr. Sachs presentation. Copies of the Groundwater Recharge Area map and the map of Deep Aquifer Wells were requested for Robinson Township use. Copies of "Ottawa County Groundwater Sustainability Initiative, Fall 2019" were distributed.

At 7:25 PM., the subject of Township municipal water supply was discussed. The status of PFAS in the glacial aquifer near the Robinson Elementary School was reviewed. It was noted that the school will be installing Ion exchange whole facility filtration system. The Health Department has installed filtration systems in the homes affected. Currently the school is using bottled water.

The existing Robinson Township Master Water Plan was reviewed. The failed bedrock water wells in the subdivision near 96th Ave. and Pierce St. in Allendale Township were also discussed. Steve Young inquired if the Township can be excluded from liability when the wells in a subdivision are approved by the County and the wells fail.

The discussion migrated to agricultural preservation. The current Zoning Ordinance was discussed. Paul Sachs suggested using Transfer of Development Rights as a tool to generate infrastructure monies and direct development. The intent is to preserve all the current agricultural land.

Township Attorney Bultje suggested a new comprehensive Master Plan Study. It was agreed that this would be pursued and the Planning Commission should be the body to interview potential planners familiar with rural preservation.

At 8:30 PM., the added agenda item of the Ottawa County Road Commission estimate for 104th Ave. improvement between Pierce St. and M-45 was discussed.

A motion was made by Travis Vugteveen and seconded by Kathy Kuck to accept the proposal. A roll call vote was taken with all Township Board members voting yes.

A motion was made by Travis Vugteveen and seconded by George Schippers to pay Planning Commission salaries for the month of December 2019 (one meeting, all members present). The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Chris Saddler and seconded by Travis Vugteveen to adjourn the joint meeting of the Robinson Township Board and Planning Commission at 8:35PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Maschewske, Secretary
Robinson Township Planning Commission

Attachment: Attendance sheet for joint Planning Commission and Township Board Meeting



SIGN IN SHEET
Combined Meeting
Board of Trustees &
Planning Commission
December 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm

PRINT NAME

John F. Wood

Mark Sloothack

SIGNATURE

John F. Wood
MS