

## MINUTES OF THE SPARTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday May 11, 2010, 7 PM  
Sparta Township Hall, Sparta, Michigan

Present: Chairman Terry Hartman; Township Treasurer Rachel Shangle;  
Commissioners Don Doyle, Mark VanderWerff and Dan Wilde

Also Present: Planner Tim Johnson

Absent: Commissioners Linda Anderson and Brent Beuschel

I. Call to Order: Chairman Hartman called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

II. Additions or Corrections to Agenda: None.

III. Minutes of April 13, 2010: Motion by Doyle, second by Wilde, to accept the Minutes as written. Motion carried.

IV. Public Comment: None.

V. Public Hearing for Outdoor Furnaces: Planner Johnson reviewed the revised DRAFT 4-21-10 for May 11, 2010 for an outdoor furnace ordinance.

Public Hearing opened at 7:16 PM.

Doug Pinckney said the Michigan Mechanical Code states the location is at the discretion of the code official. He agrees with Commissioner Wilde that exceptions are needed.

Brent and Rose Montegue listed a number of points including allowing the burning of pallets; clarify 4.91 definition to coincide with the EPA's 2011 regulation regarding underground furnace structures by using the language "above ground and underground"; a couple other cities require a site plan and building permit, which he thinks is a good idea; modifications promoting safety and public health should describe whose safety and whose public health, be specific like "any other neighbor" guidelines or words pertaining to the whole public (Chairman read 9.3D ["adjoining"]) and felt that is inclusive); include not allowed to burn leaves, grass clippings and yard waste; telephone poles and railroad ties are treated woods and are covered; Alpine's smoke stack height is 200 feet and the proposed ordinance is 100 feet from the neighbor's primary residence; C. states "no lower than roof peak" and Central Boiler recommends two feet above adjoining neighbor's residence. The Montegues think the document looks great other than that. Alpine's ordinance allows the furnace in the front yard if 100 feet from the road right-of-way.

Dale Bergman clarified 4.92 is OK because "or its equivalent" is in there. A zoning permit and sketch plan are helpful.

Public Hearing closed at 7:33 PM.

Motion by Wilde, second by VanderWerff, to recommend the proposed ordinance to the Township Board with the following changes: include in 4.91 'above ground and underground' to accommodate the EPA's regulation concerning underground furnace structures; require the necessity of a zoning permit with sketch plan from applicant; the burning of leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste is not allowed; and the furnace is allowed between the house and the road 300 feet back from the property line or closer or at the zoning administrator's discretion. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Business Items: None.

VII. Adjournment: Motion by Doyle to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Motion carried. The next meeting of the Sparta Township Planning Commission will be Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 7 PM if there is business.

Respectfully submitted,  
—Toni Potes