

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 5, 2012
COMMITTEE ROOM #2
ONEIDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
RHINELANDER, WI 54501

Members present: Chairman Gary Baier
Mark Pelletier
Mike Timmons
Tom Rudolph
Don Sidlowski
Billy Fried
Bob Metropulos
Scott Holewinski
Harland Lee

Department staff present: Karl Jennrich, Planning & Zoning Director
Julie Petraitis, Planning & Zoning Secretary

Other county staff present: Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel

Guests present: Dave Hintz
Dave Schatzley

Others were present but did not sign in.

Call to order.

Chairman Gary Baier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approve the agenda.

Motion by Billy Fried second by Mark Pelletier to approve the 2nd Amended agenda as presented. Harland Lee questioned if there would be a separate vote for item #5 on today's agenda. It was determined by Corporation Counsel that it is. With all members present voting "aye", the motion carried to approve the 2nd Amended Agenda.

Approve meeting minutes of July 18, 2012.

Motion by Bob Metropulos, second by Harland Lee to approve the July 18, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. All members present at the July 18 meeting voted aye. Fried and Pelletier abstained as they were not present at that meeting. The motion carried.

Public Comments

There were none.

Public participation: Suspension of the Rules

Motion by Billy Fried second by Scott Holewinski to allow suspension of the rules for public participation.

Discussion on motion:

Mr. Sidlowski stated that he objects to suspending the rules and asked for a roll call vote which requires a two-thirds majority. Corporation Counsel agreed that it takes a two-thirds vote to pass.

Mr. Rudolph pointed out that there are already public comments under items #4 and #9.

Mr. Holewinski reiterated that if it requires a two-thirds vote and it is voted down the public is not allowed to participate during discussion.

Mr. Baier asked why the two-thirds vote is required.

Mr. Desmond stated that it is in Larmar's. He stated he made an error at the last meeting by stating it was a majority vote. In reviewing the rules it has to be a unanimous consent or two-thirds vote.

Mr. Fried stated that he respects the efforts by Mr. Sidlowski in this process. His issue is about being transparent to the people of the County. He stated that the Committee is working on a Plan that the people of the Towns feel very strongly about. He feels it is important to have the input of the individual Towns as far as their concerns in order to move forward with this process. He would like to see the motion pass so the process can be as transparent as possible and allow the Town's input. Not all the Towns have direct representation at the Committee table.

Mr. Metropulos stated that the Plan is a bottom-up situation. He feels that by allowing the Towns to do their own plans without the Committee's interference, is bottom-up. Why can't the Committee develop a plan without interference from the Towns? He feels this Plan was completed, and done well, prior to him being on the Committee.

Mr. Metropulos informed the Committee about the amount of money that has been spent having these meetings.

Mr. Baier stated that there are corrections that need to be made in the Draft Plan that was submitted by North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Rudolph stated that the Committee had approved the Plan a couple of times and recommended it be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors. Now the Committee is going backward instead of forward. The bottom line is that the County Plan is for the County and the Town Plans are for the Towns. Each Town has their own problems, their own issues, their own characteristics. They have different populations. They have

different demographics. They have different resources and assets and all of that needs to be dealt with at the Town level and their Town Plans, which it is. In order to incorporate all of that information into one Plan just does not work. The Town Plans are part of the County Plan. But each Town has its own issues to deal with within its Plan. The County Plan provides for that. The Committee is trying to incorporate twenty different documents into one document to try to please everybody and that's impossible. The County's responsibility, and that's why the Committee was elected, is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Oneida County. The Committee is covering those responsibilities in this County Plan. Let's move on. It's time the Plan put this to bed. This is wasting the County's money and the time of a lot of people that could be put into more productive work.

Mr. Holewinski stated that when the resolution was passed it said that individual Town Plans should be the foundation for the County Plan. He never dreamed the Committee would move forward without looking at one Plan. When the Committee began in 2009, eight of the Town Plans were already adopted but the Committee never viewed one of those. The last ones came in December. There were Plans throughout the whole cycle which was never once looked at as a Plan that came up from the bottom. The Committee didn't, from these eight Plans, say this many Towns want this and this many Towns want that. The Committee just decided they knew what was best for everyone and were going to come up with a County Plan. But it was adopted on the County Board floor that the Town Plans would be the foundation. How can the Committee ignore all the Plans that were set in front of them? He feels the only way this can be resolved is to put language in the Goals and Objectives, which is what is going to guide the future decision makers on these plans, referring to the Town Plans. He feels that is the only way the plan will pass on the County Board floor to be a bottom-up plan.

On roll call vote: Pelletier, aye; Timmons, aye; Rudolph, nay; Sidlowski, nay; Fried, aye; Metropulos, nay; Holewinski, aye; Lee, nay; Baier, aye. Motion failed.

Review comments from the Towns.

Mr. Holewinski asked Mr. Jennrich if he could make a motion that underneath all the Goals and Objectives, under the County Plan, that the County not write anything and just state "refer to the Town Plans for individual Goals and Objectives", that the County is in favor of. Then the Committee doesn't have to write any goals or objectives. It moves it right down to the Town Plans and everybody knows what is in them.

Mr. Desmond asked what happens if the goals and objectives are inconsistent with one another from Town to Town.

Discussion on motion:

Mr. Baier stated he was handed something that he thinks makes a lot of sense. He had copies of a letter from Davis/Kuelthau, Attorneys at Law. He asked the Committee to take some time (now) to read the letter.

A short discussion was held on the letter received. Mr. Baier stated that seven Town's paid to get this opinion and said if the Committee likes, it could be a future agenda item. This will be an item on the next agenda.

Motion by Holewinski, second by Fried that the Committee adopts and inserts language under Goals and Objectives that the County honors all the Town Plans and those are the Goals and Objectives of the County in their Comprehensive Plan. Some other items may need to be added as the Committee goes through the Town comments. This will refer to the Town Plans for Goals and Objectives because that is where the future decision makers will come some day. They can go to each individual Town to see what the Towns wishes were without having to interpret what the Committee meant.

Discussion was held on the difference between Mr. Holewinski's motion and the motion that was made and passed at the last meeting and under which Element of the Plan it should be placed.

Mr. Holewinski repeated his motion that under Goals and Objectives there be a phrase referring to the Towns Goals and Objectives in each section of the County Plan. If there is something to be added it will be added in as well.

Mr. Sidlowski asked Mr. Holewinski if his motion is to strike all the Goals that are in the draft County Plan. Mr. Holewinski replied that the goals are in each Town Plan so in the County Plan he'd like to have language that refers to each Town Plan for the Goals and Objectives.

Mr. Holewinski believes if the Town Plans were laid out prior to adopting the County Plan the Town Goals would have been input and would have made up the County Plan. He feels the Committee is picking what they think is important. The County Plan was supposed to use the Towns Plans as the foundation. He doesn't feel that has been done. Mr. Holewinski is concerned about how the people in the future will interpret the Plan.

Mr. Rudolph stated that each Town has their own Plan and they can implement that Plan and if there are questions or differences between their Plan and the County Plan they can be resolved issue by issue if there is something that needs to be disputed or settled. The point is that every Town is different. Each Town needs their own Plan. The County Plan is not superseding anything as far as Town Plans are concerned. Issues come up and the Town can change their Plan. That can be done on a case by case basis. Each of the Plans is required. A stack of Town Plans does not constitute a County Plan. Each Town does not address the issues that are County wide issues.

Mr. Fried stated that the issue he perceives is that many people don't have the confidence that what the Committee says will happen in the future is what will really happen. He feels Mr. Holewinski's motion will give the public the confidence they are looking for.

Mr. Metropulos stated that what Mr. Holewinski wants eliminates all the County's Goals.

Mr. Fried said they have to come up with something that will make the public comfortable.

Mr. Holewinski asked how the Committee can stretch Mr. Metropulos' addition, from the last meeting, to let the future decision makers know where to look for the right Plan and to make the Committee's intentions of the Plan clear to them.

Mr. Baier said that it should be the Goal of the Committee to accept the Town's Plans as presented and let the Towns manage their Plans as they feel needed.

Mr. Sidlowski felt a way to address Mr. Holewinski's concern is to advance the language from 9.7 to 9.1. It can be the first thing that is read in the Implementation Element.

Mr. Holewinski said it should read that this is the intent of the County Board so the future decision makers know what was meant.

Mr. Sidlowski suggested that either the Committee or Corporation Counsel could add language to Section 9.7 to convey that intent.

With a majority vote of "nay" the motion failed.

The Committee continued to review the comments from the Town of Little Rice, Element 2; the comments from the Town of Sugar Camp, Element 2; the comments from the Forestry Department, Element 2 and the comments from the Town of Little Rice, Element 4.

Review revised draft of the Oneida County Comprehensive Plan.

This will be on the next agenda.

Approve future meeting dates.

October 11, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comments.

Mr. Dvorak thanked the Committee for going through the suggestions line by line. He believes the Committee should look at every Element even if no suggested changes were submitted. Everything in the Plan means something. He stated the Committee is using some expert use of words and putting them together the right way. He wants to encourage the Committee to continue doing that. He said he's still concerned that they won't let the public participate. Although he understands the concerns of the Committee there were people at the meeting that left because they wanted to participate and weren't allowed to. This is too big a Plan to not allow public comments. There are other people in the County, other than Town/City Representatives, that have an interest in this Plan. Those people are excluded from commenting. He would encourage the Committee to pay a lot of attention to Chapter 9 and consider what Mr. Holewinski suggested or he feels there are going to be a lot of Towns that will take stands of their own. They'll try to take the upper hand. He feels the Committee should encourage inclusion rather than exclusion.

Mrs. Tischendorf stated that she was encouraged what happened at this meeting over what happened at the last meeting. Going through the draft line by line was good. She felt the draft was a cookie cutter plan before they Committee started adding their own thoughts.

Man from the audience – stated that watching nine people decide the wealth, health and prosperity of his family made him sick. The Committee doesn't know anything about his family, land, business nothing. Karl Marx would be proud.

Mr. Schoeneck stated that he seconded that comment. He said he listened to a lot of language tonight where that had no thought put into it. He felt there was a lot of subject matter that fits into these categories that weren't even talked about. There are some positive things happening. He feels the Committee is just throwing the Towns time and thoughts to the side.

Adjourn.

7:15 p.m. A motion was made by Tom Rudolph, second by Mike Timmons to adjourn the meeting. With all members present voting "aye", the motion carried.

Chairman Gary Baier

Karl Jennrich
Planning & Zoning Director