



Park Township

From the Desk of Howard Fink,

Township Manager

2/26/2021

Hi everyone. Attached is this week's management report. As always, please let me know if there is anything I have missed.

Short Term Rental Regulation

As I have indicated, the issue of Short-Term Rentals continues to be a topic of conversation. Many residents have expressed various differing opinions and nuanced perspectives on how best to address Short Term Rentals – whether to permit and if so how to regulate them, or prohibit them entirely. Last night the Planning Commission discussed the topic at length. Mr. Martin explained that given the Michigan Supreme Court's recent decision on Spring Lake's ordinance, which is drafted similar to our Zoning Ordinance, because Short Term Rentals are not a specifically permitted use in any of our Residential Zoning Districts, they are not lawfully permitted uses in those Districts. At this time, utilizing the interpretation of the Michigan Supreme Court's precedent, most of the Short-Term Rentals in Park Township could be considered unlawful. The Planning Commission is beginning the process of deciding whether to recommend to the Board that the Township permit and regulate (and if so, how and to what extent), or prohibit and eliminate, Short Term Rentals in Park Township. In the meantime, the Board will need to determine as a matter of policy, what our position will be with respect to all of the existing Short-Term Rentals in the interim as we go through this process. The Board may consider a moratorium on any enforcement actions until such a time when the P.C. and Board of Trustees determine how to move forward. This will become a major issue. Unfortunately, given the Supreme Court Decision in Spring Lake and its implications, we need to address this issue.

Website

Daniele and I are working on identifying companies for a new website design and overhaul. I have done this in multiple communities and am familiar with the various options and products available. I am focused on a company product that includes

design, back end integration, and a robust content editing system. There are companies that specialize in Government Websites and integrated content management systems. We have had demos with Revize and CivicPlus. We also intend to demo one or two additional companies. I will provide some additional recommendations in the next few weeks regarding this effort. If the Board wishes, we can issue an open RFP; but I would recommend only evaluating companies that have a fully integrated system complete with various functional modules and back end integration. You can identify companies that will custom create a website, but my experience is that the editing and management of those sites get quite cumbersome over time.

Evaluations

This is the time of year when I am working on employee evaluations. I plan on having those completed by the end of next week so that employees have appropriate expectations for the upcoming budget year. Raises are determined by myself within the parameters of the Salary Study that was adopted a few years ago. Any changes outside of the parameter's salary study would be approved by the Board. Please note that many of the part time employees are not included in the salary study. Those increases would be reflected in the salary schedule / resolution which will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Covenant

I spoke with Joshua Crane at EGLE on the Broad Side Dock issue. There is a discrepancy with the application identifying Broad Side Dock frontage and not including the number of boats allowed. Joshua indicated that if and when the application is finalized, he would likely require that the linear foot of Broadside Dock space be altered to zero; essentially indicating that there are no Broad Side Docks. I don't know how the Board wishes to proceed on this issue. From my conversation with Mr. Crane, it seems EGLE will resolve this issue administratively, though I can not be certain of that.

COVID

Sometime next week, the State is supposed to release guidance on what Critical Infrastructure workers are. I filled out a form with the county identifying our workers. The County has indicated they don't have enough vaccines for health care workers and emergency personnel, so we are still in a waiting game. I will keep abreast of it for our office staff.