

1 **BENZIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
2 **OCTOBER 8, 2009**  
3 **MINUTES**  
4

5 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Ralston, Karen Roberts, Peg Minster, Don Tanner,  
6 Katherine Ross, George Granlund, Clint Brian, Tim Schwerin. Mary Pitcher arrived at  
7 7:33 p.m.

8 **MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Mike Moorman, John Schluter

9 **STAFF PRESENT:** Dave Neiger, Planning Director/Zoning Administrator and  
10 Chris Flynn, Assistant to the Zoning Administrator/Recording Secretary

11 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Dick Figura, Don Nugent, Shauna Fite, Tom Karras, Dennis  
12 Holcombe, Jim Dulzo and several other citizens.  
13

14 **I. Open the Meeting** Chairperson Ralston opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and  
15 led the Commission and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairperson Ralston  
16 welcomed the new members  
17

18 **II. Approval of the Agenda** The agenda is amended ~~the agenda~~ <sup>(cf)</sup> as follows:

- 19 • Delete Anne Damm and insert Katherine Ross in heading.
- 20 • Add Planning Commission Appointments as item VII and Renumber,
- 21 • Add Appoint Committee Members to item VII Reports,
- 22 • Move Update on consulting firms to Zoning Ordinance Update Committee Report as  
23 item A.1,
- 24 • Add Executive Committee as item G,
- 25 • Add item G.1 Bylaws.
- 26 • Add New Business B, Possible Liaison With a Working Group of the Grand Vision to  
27 keep funding for Planning and Zoning.
- 28 • **Motion** by Tanner seconded by Roberts to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes:  
29 All Present Excused: Moorman, Schluter, Pitcher Nays: None **Motion Carried**  
30

31 **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 32 • Ralston opens nominations for Chair.
- 33 • Tanner nominates Ralston seconded by Roberts for Chair. **Motion** by Tanner  
34 seconded by Roberts to close nominations. Ayes: All Present Excused: Schluter,  
35 Moorman Nays: None **Motion Carried** Ralston elected by consensus.
- 36 • Ralston opens nominations for Vice Chair.
- 37 • Roberts nominates Moorman seconded by Ross. Motion by Ross seconded by  
38 Roberts to close nominations. Ayes: All Present Excused: Moorman, Schluter Nays:  
39 None **Motion Carried** Moorman elected by consensus.
- 40 • Ralston opens nominations for Secretary Roberts nominates Ross seconded by  
41 Tanner. Motion by Tanner seconded by Ralston to close nominations. Ayes: All Present  
42 Nays: None **Motion Carried** Ross elected by consensus.  
43

44 **IV. Public Input** – Items on the Agenda None  
45

46 **V. \*\*Public Hearing Zoning Ordinance Amendment 09-01, Renewable Energy**  
47 **Devices**

- 48 A. Open the public hearing, welcome to applicants and guests 7:09 Chairman Ralston  
49 opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. and welcomed the Commissioners and guests.  
50

1 B. Introduction of Planning Commission and Call for Conflict. Neiger explained what  
2 some of the conflicts could be. Each Commissioner introduced him/her self. No conflict  
3 stated.

4  
5 C. Presentation of Amendment and Staff Analysis Roberts reviews her Power Point  
6 presentation, making the following comments:

- 7 ● It is a stand alone article right now in the ordinance.
- 8 ● We want to be welcoming to wind while protecting public safety and welfare.
- 9 ● Reviewed the process taken in drafting the language.
- 10 ● Reviewed the definitions of small wind and community wind, local ownership.
- 11 ● Neiger comments that he thinks this should be treated as an overlay district.  
12 WECS are allowed in all districts, so the overlay will apply.
- 13 ● Roberts reviews the permitting process for the different levels of systems, no permit,  
14 Use by Right Permit, Minor Special Land Use Permit and Major Special Land Use Permit.
- 15 ● Explains the concept of fall zone.
- 16 ● If there are no ~~manufactures~~ *manufacturer's* <sup>(cf)</sup> specifications for collapsing then the  
17 setback is the height.
- 18 ● Utility Grid systems, the sound setback is 3 times the height of the tower, with an  
19 escape clause that the unit can be closer to the property line if the site plan review shows  
20 55 dba or less.
- 21 ● Explains that the Decommissioning Section applies primarily units to supply to the grid  
22 and described the decommissioning fund (a ~~guaranty~~ *guarantee* <sup>(cf)</sup> that there will be  
23 funds available to decommission in the event that the owner doesn't).
- 24 ● Explains that Dispute Resolution will be on the application, and allows for arbitration or  
25 mediation rather than going immediately to court.

26  
27 Staff Analysis:

28 ● **Neiger** comments that they had looked at making it a new article, or putting in as a  
29 special use but felt it would be easier to make it a stand alone article at this time. It could  
30 be incorporated into the special use article at a later date. He states the legislature has  
31 determined that Benzie County is one of the best wind areas and is looking to see how we  
32 handle wind energy. If the state does not like what we do, the state could take total  
33 control.

34 Mary Pitcher arrives at 7:33 p.m.

35 ● **Neiger** states the master plan supports this type of friendly wind energy. Some of the  
36 commissioners have attended workshops on this. He states he is taking it to the Planners  
37 Regional Advisory Committee (PRAC), part of the Northwestern Michigan Council of  
38 Governments (NWMCOG or COG).

39 ● **Dick Figura**, Counsel for Benzie County, presents his input on the language. He  
40 states this is a well-drafted ordinance and he only has a few comments:

- 41 ▪ Pg 2 – Definition Onsite System Small, the word system should be after conversion.
- 42 ▪ Pg 3 – Sec. III.A, first sentence, insert “and secured” after the word labeled.
- 43 ▪ Pg 3 B-Access Road first sentence insert the word “requirements” after the word  
44 ordinance. Also, be consistent with capitalization in that sentence.
- 45 ▪ Pg 3 - Section I at the bottom of the page, use a stated depth rather than “plow  
46 depth”.
- 47 ▪ Pg 4 - Section K in the third line insert the word “to:” after the word limited
- 48 ▪ Pg 5 Section T, he suggests putting in some kind of standards for the Planning  
49 Commission to use when determining whether to adjust the setback. Standards need to  
50 be there.

- 1     ▪ Pg 6 Permit Application & Site Plan Review he assumes all the references are correct.
- 2     ▪ Pg 7 Section B he asks if there is a word missing? There is some discussion and
- 3 Roberts states she will reword.
- 4     ▪ Pg 7 #2 should be environmental analysis.
- 5     ▪ Pg 8 Para 9 4<sup>th</sup> line – delete the word for.
- 6     ▪ Pg 10 last sentence: “Michigan or local firm”, add language as to why that is
- 7 important, such as knowledge of the local terrain or wind patterns is essential.
- 8     ● There was some discussion on why Michigan/local firms are important:
- 9     ▪ Pitcher will look for language for that,
- 10    ▪ Brian asks what about if there is someone better qualified from somewhere else.
- 11    ▪ Ralston comments it is not a hard requirement, it says if possible.
- 12    ▪ Neiger comments that it should be a qualified licensed professional licensed in
- 13 Michigan.
- 14    ▪ Schwerin asks about using 50% Michigan workers.
- 15 Roberts comments that it is opened ended, it says if possible. She hesitates using
- 16 licensed in Michigan, because what if there no one in Michigan is licensed. She would be
- 17 ok with changing the language but wants it to be Michigan if possible.
- 18     ● Roberts comments that she will have to think about what standards to include on Page
- 19 5 Paragraph T as some sites are more sensitive than others
- 20     ● Dick Figura comments, leave it as is but add something like “consideration of the
- 21 environmental issues in section \_\_\_ and the mitigation measures. He likes this language
- 22 because it does have some flexibility.
- 23     ● Granlund: It does not really address the construction of the WECS.
- 24     ● Roberts responds that would be controlled by the building code.
- 25     ● Granlund is concerned about the actual construction and bringing in large trucks etc
- 26     ● Roberts explains Section 8 on Page 8 part of the site plan review, addresses the traffic
- 27 logistics associated with transportation and construction of the WECS and restoration.
- 28
- 29 D.    Open Public Input Ralston explains public input procedure opens public input at
- 30 7:52 p.m.
- 31        1.    Proponents Statements (Those in favor of the project)
- 32     ● Tom Karras states he has been involved in this process and has presented it either in
- 33 its entirety or by paragraph to other governments in the area and it has been well
- 34 received. He states it creates a balance between the opportunity for someone to take
- 35 advantage of a resource and the public good. He thanks the Planning Commission for
- 36 the opportunity to participate in the process and especially Karen Roberts for such a good
- 37 job.
- 38     ● Don Nugent also thanks Karen Roberts for all her work. He reports that he sent the
- 39 ordinance to one of his consultants who had the following suggestions:
- 40     ▪ Pg 2 Roof Mounted WECS, insert and capitalize the word “Only”, and require a sign
- 41 off.
- 42     ▪ Pg 3 Appearance, Color, and Finish bans any advertisement, suggests allowing the
- 43 municipality or school to have their logo on it.
- 44     ▪ Blade Clearance because of the possibility of ice issues, should be a safe distance
- 45 from walkways and common areas.
- 46     ▪ Pg 5 Signal Interference a microwave study should be required up front so you know
- 47 that you will not interfere with possible interference with aeronautic and/or communication
- 48 signals.
- 49     ● Jim Dulzo thanks Karen Roberts for a great job. He hopes the Planning Commission
- 50 will be able to move quickly on this. He thinks that both in Lansing and Washington there

1 are lots of funds ready to pop for this, Stimulus money and the Climate Protection Act that  
 2 will encourage investment in wind energy. It should bring some jobs to Benzie County.  
 3 ● Shauna Fite shared some thoughts from Bruce Ogilvie (Frankfort Planning  
 4 Commission):  
 5 \* He feels good about this draft,  
 6 \* His concerns were addressed,  
 7 \* He supports this ordinance and commends Karen Roberts and the Planning  
 8 Commission for doing a great job, taking into consideration the concerns of the public and  
 9 the economic development in the county.  
 10 \* He thinks small changes could be worked in after approval tonight of the ordinance.  
 11 ● Dennis Holcombe states he is a wind advocate and supports harmoniously integrating  
 12 wind energy into the community. He states he has several comments.  
 13 \* He doesn't see where it is described how to measure Sound Level – Ambient  
 14 \* A measurement taken over 365 days would give a more accurate measurement.  
 15 \* Paragraph U doesn't specify a setback from a property line.  
 16 \* Section IV B 1 first sentence, he asks what the sounds <sup>(cf)</sup> levels are and recommends  
 17 that 55 dba at the property line be adopted.  
 18 \* There is no physical setback, on T.  
 19 \* This gives total discretion to the Planning Commission and does not allow the out-  
 20 come to be influenced by local property owners. He states the priority should be the  
 21 property owners.  
 22 ● Dick Figura representing the Empire Township Planning Commission makes the  
 23 following comments:  
 24 \* They have reviewed several ordinances (including Benzie County's) and he thinks  
 25 ours is the finest he has seen.  
 26 \* Karen Roberts has done an excellent job.  
 27 \* ~~Cleveland~~ <sup>Centerville</sup><sup>(cf)</sup> Township's goes to the far extreme of almost not allowing wind  
 28 towers anywhere.  
 29 \* Benzie County has struck a good balance, he likes the environmental report, and the  
 30 allowance of discretion by the Planning Commission.  
 31 \* He likes the dispute resolution with an arbitrator rather than a lawsuit. Commends the  
 32 Planning Commission for including that.

33  
 34 2. Opponents Statements (Those objecting to the project) None  
 35

36 3. General Statements and Questions

37 ● Don Nugent makes the following comments:  
 38 \* Page 3 item F ~~breaking~~ <sup>(cf)</sup> *braking* system, suggests eliminating “unless the  
 39 manufacturer certifies that a braking system is not necessary”, stating that a WECS  
 40 should always have a braking system.  
 41 \* On the setback from property lines issue, the ordinance allows the tower owner to  
 42 lease property, which means the property owners have agreed to have the tower crossing  
 43 property lines.  
 44

45 4. Rebuttal

46 a Proponents Tom Karras comments that dispute resolution section  
 47 can be the catch all for some of the things that are not addressed here to night. It will  
 48 allow adoption tonight.

49 b Opponents None  
 50

1           5.     Correspondence   Letter from the NPS (attached) – Neiger summarized  
2 into the record. Neiger comments that a lot of the comments in the letter we avoided in an  
3 effort to be wind friendly.  
4

5     E.     Close Public Input   Chairperson Ralston closed public input at 8:27 p.m.  
6

7     F.     Commission Deliberation

8     ● Pitcher comments that the information in the NPS letter is antiquated. She is surprised  
9 that they have not kept their information up-to-date.

10    ● Granlund asks if the large setbacks (3 miles) are a federal requirement and asks what  
11 happens if a WECS is permitted and the NPS is unhappy. Tanner states guidelines are  
12 not law.

13    ● Pitcher asks if roof mounted WECS are a Building Dept issue. Neiger comments that  
14 they will come with comprehensive building specifications. If there are no factory  
15 specifications, the building department will not permit it until they have them.

16    ● Karen Roberts states she will change “from nearest structure” to “property line” and will  
17 have a minimum distance from the front property line.

18    ● Don Tanner states we should include Mr. Nugent’s comments about the lease, the  
19 setbacks should apply “absent a lease”.

20    ● Karen Roberts does not think there needs to be more language. However, it should  
21 say under no circumstances shall a tower be located closer than its fall zone to a property  
22 line.

23    ● Don Tanner asks if this is just for the big systems. Karen Roberts states the small ones  
24 already have it.

25    ● There is discussion on the braking system issue, IV,F. Pitcher suggests taking out  
26 everything after components.

27    ● Neiger states that the only ones he has seen gear down.

28    ● There is some discussion on logos. Katherine Ross comments if you let the school put  
29 a logo on it, other logos might appear. She suggests leaving the language as is.

30    ● There is some discussion on ice throw (Pg 3 E), comments are:

31    \* Add a safe distance from walkways and common areas (for ice throw).

32    \* On the new systems snow is supposed to sluff off.

33    \* The big ones turn so slowly there would not be much.

34    \* Clint Brian asks if there is any information on the one in Traverse City.

35    \* Karen Roberts comments that she has read that ice throw is not really a problem, but  
36 they do sluff. She is happy with the way it is.

37    ● There is some discussion on plow depth:

38    \* Clint Brian states plow depth varies with what you are planting.

39    \* It is suggested that it be 3 to 4 feet.

40    ● Neiger comments that some of these are 150’ x 150’ and 12 feet deep. Consensus to  
41 add 2 – 3’ deep and delete the words “plow depth”.

42    ● Karen Roberts asks if we are deleting “on a case by case basis” from the last  
43 paragraph in item T.

44    ● Tanner comments that Dick Figura wanted a standard such as “following an  
45 environmental analysis and mitigation efforts” for the discretionary decision.

46    ● There is discussion on specific sound level. Neiger comments that the newer systems  
47 are quiet unless they are broken. The older reconditioned systems can be noisier, and  
48 there might need to be something stricter there.

49    ● Karen Roberts will add “a microwave study for non interference with aeronautics and  
50 communication” as part of the site plan.

- 1 ● Don Tanner adds delete the colon in 8 after the word logistics
- 2 ● Karen Roberts adds to paragraph 10 in Section IV “in order to promote and support
- 3 the Michigan economy”.
- 4 ● There is some discussion on whether or not there would be qualified people in Michigan
- 5 and if someone from somewhere else would be eligible to be a third party qualified
- 6 professional.
- 7 ● Karen Roberts will delete one of the “ands” in B1 on page 7.
- 8 ● Tanner recommends omitting the blank page 9.
- 9 ● Ralston comments we still have Nugent’s comments and the letter. A lot of it is wildlife
- 10 and we address wildlife.
- 11 ● Neiger comments that the Oviatt Rd. cell phone tower was about the limit for site vision
- 12 on M-22.
- 13 ● Tanner comments that if we ever have a public hearing on a wind tower out there the
- 14 park can come and comment then.

15  
16 G. Decision

- 17 **Motion** by Tanner seconded by Pitcher to recommend to the Board of Commissioners
- 18 adoption of the Renewable Energy Devices Article with the following changes:
- 19 ▪Pg 2 in the sentence reading “a small wind energy system under 200 feet” insert the
  - 20 word “system” after the word “conversion”.
  - 21 ▪Pg 2 bottom of page second sentence change the “or” to “and” after the word labeled.
  - 22 ▪Pg 3 B insert the word “requirements” after the word “ordinance” and change the
  - 23 capitalization to be consistent.
  - 24 ▪Section III E add “a safe distance from walkways and common areas”.
  - 25 ▪Section III F delete “unless the manufacturer certifies that a braking system is not
  - 26 necessary”.
  - 27 ▪Section III I set the plow depth at 3’.
  - 28 ▪Section III K insert “to” between the words limited and those
  - 29 ▪Section III T needs a standard. Karen Roberts states we do not need one
  - 30 because we are changing U.
  - 31 ▪Section III U. delete “the nearest occupied structure” and replace with “in no case will a
  - 32 tower be sited closer than the fall zone from the property or lease line”.
  - 33 ▪ Section IV add #11 “A copy of a microwave analysis of possible interference with
  - 34 aeronautic and/or communication signals.”
  - 35 ▪Pg 7 B second sentence: after the words source of sound delete the word “and”
  - 36 and insert a comma, insert a comma after the word placed, insert the word “and”
  - 37 between the comma and the word “the”.
  - 38 ▪Section IV.9, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, delete the word “for” between the words “limit” and “by”.
  - 39 ▪Section IV.10 add, “in order to promote and support the Michigan economy”.
  - 40 ~~▪Section IV add #11: A copy of a microwave analysis of possible interference with~~
  - 41 ~~aeronautic and/or communication signals.~~ <sup>(cf)</sup>
  - 42 ● Ralston asks if this can go before the County Board meeting on Oct 20. Neiger
  - 43 states he is on at 7:30 for Platte Lake and he will do this at that time.
  - 44 ● Ralston directs Neiger to get it to the County Commissioners as soon as possible
  - 45 and to let Dawn Olney (County Clerk) know he might need more time.

46 **Roll Call Vote:**

47 Mary Pitcher: Aye Tim Schwerin: Aye Karen Roberts: Aye Clint Brian: Aye  
 48 Don Tanner: Aye Peg Minster: Aye John Schluter: Excused Katherine Ross:  
 49 Aye George Granlund: Aye Kathy Ralston: Aye Mike Moorman: Excused

50 **Motion Carried**

1  
2 H. Close Public Hearing Chairman Ralston closed the public hearing at 9:07 p.m.

3  
4 **Chairman Ralston recessed the meeting at 9:07 p.m. for a break**

5 **Chairman Ralston reconvened the meeting at 9:14 p.m.**

6  
7 **VI. \*Approval of the Minutes of the August 5 and September 10, 2009 minutes.**

8 August 5, 2009 Motion by Pitcher seconded by Tanner to approve the minutes as

9 presented. Ayes: All Present Excused: Schluter, Moorman Nays: None **Motion**

10 **Carried**

11 September 10, 2009 Motion by Tanner seconded by Ross to approve the minutes as

12 presented. Ayes: All Present Excused: Schluter, Moorman Nays: None **Motion**

13 **Carried**

14  
15 **VII. *Planning Commissioner Appointments Recommendation to the Board of***  
16 *Commissioners that they reappoint the members to their representative segment of the*

17 *County.*

- 18 • Ralston explains the process taken in appointing people to the specific seats on the  
19 new planning commission. No action taken, this is a County Board issue.  
20 • Ralston explains that each commissioner will get a hard copy of Dick Figura's Zoning  
21 Ordinance and the Master Plan, Open Space Natural Resources Protection Plan are all  
22 on-line.

23  
24 **VII. Reports, Appoint Committee Members**

25 A. Zoning Ordinance Update Committee Report – Neiger/Ralston

26 **1. Update on Consulting Firms**

27 • Ralston states the Zoning Ordinance needs to be reorganized and she thinks the  
28 consultant committee (Ralston, Neiger, Tanner, and Roberts) settled on a firm called  
29 Clear Zoning out of Ann Arbor.

- 30 ▪ they can get it in digital format with hyperlinks, and a complete land use table.  
31 ▪ they say they can complete the project in 4 months from the time they get it digitally.  
32 ▪ Neiger says we might get a grant for 100% of it.  
33 ▪ if the consultant comes on board that will be the ZORC's complete focus.  
34 ▪ the ZORC is temporarily disbanded and Flynn is directed to remove ZORC Schedule  
35 from the board and to ask the Clerk's office to unreserve the Commissioner's Room for  
36 ZORC meetings.

37  
38 B. Master Plan Update Committee(MPUC) *Appoint 3 Subcommittees*

39 • Ralston explains that the master plan needs to be updated and it has several white  
40 papers also need to be updated.

41 • Jobs & Economic Development Subcommittee will be a top priority because there is  
42 not an economic development paper in the current master plan.

- 43 ▪ Ralston would like to partner with the BCEDC on this paper.  
44 ▪ Lack of places for industry has been pointed out as a current issue.  
45 ▪ The new Socio-Economic white paper is also online.  
46 ▪ Ralston thinks the EDC needs to be approached and appoints Roberts, Tanner, and  
47 Brian to the committee.

48 ▪ Tanner suggests Ralston and Roberts contact the EDC to get on their agenda and  
49 then attend the meeting.

50

- 1 ● Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
- 2     ▪ Ralston states that the Planning Commission has to do one.
- 3     ▪ Tanner asks if Parks and Rec plan becomes part of the CIP.
- 4     ▪ Neiger states the CIP is about 75% complete, but still needs County Board approval
- 5 of the list.
- 6     ▪ Neiger states the medical centers, County Government Center, the Jail and the EMS
- 7 locations are included in it.
- 8     ▪ Ralston asks if it couldn't just be presented to the Board.
- 9     ▪ Neiger says it is supposed to be done concurrently so no one gets blindsided. It is
- 10 supposed to be done before the budget process starts.

11 ● Facilities and Services Subcommittee

12 ● Intergovernmental Cooperation Subcommittee Ralston explained there was a  
 13 committee devoted to the Summit process. She has heard that Peg Minster is interested  
 14 and good at this. Neiger says the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 papers are the priorities. Add Agriculture to the  
 15 list.

16 ● Forestry and Mineral Extraction

17 ● Residential

18 ● Transportation

19 ● Sensitive Lands and Water Resources

20

21 C. Goals and Objectives-Ralston Ralston is updating the goals and objectives to  
 22 reflect the new direction.

23

24 D. Parks and Recreation Commission- set date for November 12, 2009 Public  
 25 Hearing Motion by Tanner seconded by Roberts to schedule the public hearing for Nov.  
 26 12, 2009 to recommend approval of the plan as a white paper. Ayes: All Present  
 27 Excused: Schluter, Moorman Nays: None **Motion Carried**

28 E. Zoning Board of Appeals – Tanner reports there is on going litigation on the  
 29 Griffen appeal of the ZBA decision.

30

31 F. Executive Committee Is Ralston, Moorman and Roberts

32 1. Bylaws

- 33 ● Ralston reports that Schindler has a document that can be used.
- 34 ● Neiger states he found a word version, but will need to be careful that it agrees with
- 35 the planning commission ordinance.

36

37 **VIII. Unfinished Business** None

38

39 **IX. New Business**

40 A. \* Lake Township Master Plan Postponed until Nov. 12.

41 B. Liaison/Grand Vision.

42 ● Roberts reports she attended a Grand Vision meeting and they are very interested in  
 43 the fate of our planning/zoning and suggested we contact *the Growth & Investments*  
 44 *Working Group within the Grand Vision<sup>cf</sup>*, staffed by the NWMCOG (Matt McCauley) and  
 45 ask for some help writing some grants or finding other funding sources. They meet next  
 46 Monday at the University Center at 10 a.m. She comments that it might take the  
 47 townships off the hook for a while and hopes that someone from the County goes to the  
 48 meeting.

49 ● Neiger says it will be hard to find grants for Zoning but there might be some for  
 50 Planning.

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**X. Director’s Report**

- Neiger asks if the new commissioners are making the citizen planner classes. He stresses carpooling. He states if they cannot make the meetings, he might be able to switch over to online classes.
- Peg Minster states she cannot do the drive.
- There is discussion on whether there can be some refund or credit to the online class. Neiger will look into it.
- Neiger reports there is lots of stimulus and state money available for refurbishing buildings. He and some others are looking into creating an energy office that covers the region but will focus on these counties. He comments that we might be able to get the wing finished.
- Neiger states there may also be some private funds available as well.

**XI. Correspondence** None

**XII. Presentations and Announcements**

- Pitcher reports on the elimination of some State Departments. There will now be a Department of Natural Resources and Environment.
- Ross reports on an informational forum on the schools milages renewal proposals, sponsored by the League of Women Votes and the Chamber.
- Tanner reports on the MTA meeting. There will be a second meeting on Oct. 13 to make their decisions.
- Tanner states he presented the proposed budgets to the MTA that he, Kathy Ralston and Dave Neiger had created. Afterwards, Matt McCauley and Jim Lively said they did not think there was a better way to put it.
- Tanner reports that he went to the Blaine and Joyfield Townships meetings and they have no intention of forwarding any funds to the County for Planning and Zoning. But they will keep talking.
- Neiger reports he attended the Crystal Lake Township meeting to present the Parks and Recreation Plan and Bob Barton made a strong statement that they could not do their own zoning for less than what the County wants.

**XIII. Public Input – Items On or Off the Agenda, within the Planning Commission’s Jurisdiction** None

**XIV. Adjourn** Ralston adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_

Katherine Ross

\_\_\_\_\_

Christi Flynn, Recording Secretary