

**MINUTES  
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2024 --- 7:00 p.m.**

**Big Rapids Township Hall, 14230 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.**

Mr. Oosterhouse called the regular meeting of the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission to order at the township hall on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Zach Cook, Jerry Everett, John Montross, Gordon Oliver, Jeff Oosterhouse and Barbara Peacock. The record shows there is a quorum. Also present: Timothy Kleinheksel, Zoning Administrator and Recording Secretary.

**III. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

Mr. Oosterhouse asked if any of the Commission members had known conflicts of interest with any of the items on the agenda for this meeting. No one indicated that a conflict of interest existed.

**IV. MINUTES:**

The Commission members reviewed the minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting. Mr. Everett made a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 minutes as submitted. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

**V. RENEWAL OF SUP18-003 RIETH-RILEY:**

Rieth-Riley Renewal of SUP18-003 Mining Permit – Chad Waldo of Rieth-Riley Construction and Gary Schenk, attorney for Rieth-Riley, presented an update on the mining operation at 18220 Taft Road, Big Rapids, MI. At this time, and based upon current demand, Rieth-Riley expects to remain on schedule throughout the completion of the project. Stock piling of materials is migrating to the Rieth-Riley parcel directly North of the existing pit to allow further excavation of the lake that is being formed. The berms at the North end are removed to access the adjoining parcel. There have been no complaints or problems from neighbors. Mr. Cook pointed out that the neighbor to the west of the Taft Pit who previously was opposed to this project has taken a 180 turn and is now very supportive of the project. Mr. Waldo stated that the biggest factor in the mining operation is supply and demand. Mr. Everett asked who are the major users of the materials being mined. Mr. Waldo stated the State and the County are the major users, and pointed out that if the proposed battery component plant moved forward, a lot of material would be needed there. After discussion by Commission members, Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the renewal of SUP18-003 through December 2026 as

submitted. Mr. Cook supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes via roll call vote.

**VI. SITE PLAN REVIEW – BR ANTIQUE FARM & POWER CLUB:**

The Commission members reviewed a site plan submitted by the Big Rapids Antique Farm & Power Club. They will be starting a museum on the grounds on New Millpond road - parcel 5405-013-026-000. The building will be a pre-fabricated 10'x20' supplied by a company in Barrington. This museum will keep the history of the Fitch Tractor factory that was in Big Rapids on Maple Street. The former factory building is being demolished by the City and the club wants to keep the history of the Fitch Tractor alive. The site plan review was for information only – no action by the Planning Commission was necessary.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Oosterhouse adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.