

**MARTIN TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(Ordinance No. 101)**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board for Martin Township held at the Township offices on July 13th, 2011, beginning at 6:30 p.m., the following ordinance was offered for adoption by Township Board Member Sipple, and was seconded by Township Board Member Brenner:

AN ORDINANCE TO CONFIRM THE ESTABLISHMENT UNDER THE MICHIGAN PLANNING ENABLING ACT, PUBLIC ACT 33 OF 2008, MCL 125.3801, *et seq.*, OF THE MARTIN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION; PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THAT PLANNING COMMISSION; PROVIDE FOR THE POWERS, DUTIES AND LIMITATIONS OF THAT PLANNING COMMISSION; AND REPEAL ANY ORDINANCE OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES OR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT WITH THIS ORDINANCE.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MARTIN (the "Township") ORDAINS:

Section 1: Scope, Purpose and Intent

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted the Township Board under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, to establish a Planning Commission with the powers, duties and limitations provided by those statutes and subject to the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and any future amendments to this Ordinance.

The purpose of this Ordinance is: (a) to conform the Martin Township Planning Commission with the requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, which Planning Commission was formerly established as the Martin Township Zoning Commission under the Township Planning Act, Public Act 168 of 1959, and/or the Municipal Planning Act, Public Act 285 of 1931; (b) to establish the appointments, terms, and membership of the Planning Commission; (c) to identify the officers and the minimum number of meetings per year of the Planning Commission; and (d) to prescribe the authority, powers and duties of the Planning Commission.

Section 2: Establishment

The Township Board hereby confirms the establishment under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, of the Martin Township Planning Commission, identified formerly as the Martin Township Zoning Commission and established under the Township Planning Act, Public Act 168 of 1959, and/or the Municipal Planning Act, Public Act 285 of 1931. The Martin Township Planning Commission shall have 7 members. Members of the Martin Township Zoning Commission immediately prior to the effective date of this Ordinance (except for any Township Board member who shall be limited to his or her term on the Township Board) will continue to serve for the remainder of their existing terms so long as they continue to meet all of the eligibility requirements for Planning Commission membership set forth within the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008.

Section 3: Appointments and Terms

The Township Supervisor, with the approval of the Township Board by a majority vote of the members elected and serving, shall appoint all Planning Commission members.

The Planning Commission members shall serve for terms of three years each.

A Planning Commission member shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Planning Commission members shall be qualified electors of the Township, except that one Planning Commission member may be an individual who is not a qualified elector of the Township. The membership of the Planning Commission shall be representative of important segments of the community, such as the economic, governmental, educational, and social development of the Township, in accordance with the major interests as they exist in the Township, such as agriculture, natural resources, recreation, education, public health, government, transportation, industry, and commerce. The membership shall also be representative of the entire geography of the Township to the extent practicable.

One member of the Township Board shall be appointed to the Planning Commission as an ex officio member. No other elected officer or employee of the Township is eligible to be a member of the Planning Commission.

Section 4: Removal

The Township Board may remove a member of the Planning Commission for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office upon written charges and after a public hearing.

Section 5: Conflict of Interest

Before casting a vote on a matter on which a Planning Commission member may reasonably be considered to have a conflict of interest, the member shall disclose the potential conflict of interest to the Planning Commission. Failure of a member to disclose a known potential conflict of interest as required by this Ordinance constitutes malfeasance in office.

Where a member of the Planning Commission has a conflict of interest, he/she shall abstain from participating in deliberations and voting.

For the purposes of this section, conflict of interest is defined as any of the following:

- (a) An immediate family member is involved in any request for which the Planning Commission is asked to make a decision. "Immediate family member" is defined as an individual's father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, and spouse and a relative of any degree residing in the same household as that individual. All relationships shall include those arising from adoption.
- (b) The Planning Commission member has a direct financial interest in the property involved in the request or has a direct financial interest in the applicant's company, agency or association.
- (c) There is a reasonable appearance of a conflict of interest, as determined by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Planning Commission.

Section 6: Compensation

Planning Commission members may be compensated for their services as provided by Township Board resolution. The Planning Commission may adopt bylaws relative to compensation and expenses of its members for travel when engaged in the performance of activities authorized by the Township Board, including, but not limited to, attendance at conferences, workshops, educational and training programs and meetings.

Section 7: Officers and Committees

The Planning Commission shall elect a chairperson and a secretary from its members, and may create and fill other offices as it considers advisable. The term of each office shall be one year, with opportunity for reelection as specified in the Planning Commission bylaws.

The Planning Commission may also appoint advisory committees whose members are not members of the Planning Commission.

Section 8: Bylaws, Meetings and Records

The Planning Commission shall adopt bylaws for the transaction of business.

The Planning Commission shall hold at least four regular meetings each year, and shall by resolution determine the time and place of the meetings.

Unless otherwise provided in the Planning Commission's bylaws, a special meeting of the Planning Commission may be called by the chairperson or by two other members, upon written request to the secretary. Unless the bylaws otherwise provide, the secretary shall send written notice of a special meeting to Planning Commission members at least 48 hours before the meeting.

The business that the Planning Commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

The Planning Commission shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings, and determinations. A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a Planning Commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, Public Act 442 of 1976.

Section 9: Annual Report

The Planning Commission shall make an annual written report to the Township Board concerning its operations and the status of the planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the Township Board related to planning and development.

Section 10: Authority to Make Master Plan

Under the authority of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, and other applicable planning statutes, the Planning Commission shall make a master plan as a guide for development within the Township's planning jurisdiction.

Final authority to approve a master plan or any amendments thereto shall rest with the Planning Commission unless the Township Board passes a resolution asserting the right to approve or reject the master plan.

Unless rescinded by the Township, any plan adopted or amended under the Township Planning Act, Public Act 168 of 1959, or the Municipal Planning Act, Public Act 285 of 1931, need not be readopted under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008.

Section 11: Zoning Powers

The Township Board hereby confirms the transfer of all powers, duties, and responsibilities provided for zoning boards or zoning commissions by the former Township Zoning Act, Public Act 184 of 1943, the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, or other applicable zoning statutes to the Martin Township Planning Commission formerly established under the Township Planning Act, Public Act 168 of 1959, and/or the Municipal Planning Act, Public Act 285 of 1931.

Any existing zoning ordinance shall remain in full force and effect except as otherwise amended or repealed by the Township Board.

Section 12: Subdivision and Land Division Recommendations

The Planning Commission may recommend to the Township Board provisions of an ordinance or rules governing the subdivision of land. Before recommending such an ordinance or rule, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance or rule. The Planning Commission shall give notice of the time and place of the public hearing not less than 15 days before the hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

The Planning Commission shall review and make recommendation on a proposed plat before action thereon by the Township Board under the Land Division Act, Public Act 288 of 1967. Before making its recommendation, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed plat. A plat submitted to the Planning Commission shall contain the name and address of the proprietor or other person to whom notice of a hearing shall be sent. Not less than 15 days before the date of the hearing, notice of the date, time and place of the hearing shall be sent to that person at that address by mail and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township. Similar notice shall be mailed to the owners of land immediately adjoining the proposed platted land.

Section 13: Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 14: Repeal

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed. The resolution or ordinance establishing the Martin Township Zoning Commission under the Township Planning Act, Public Act 168 of 1959, and/or Municipal Planning Act, Public Act 285 of 1931, is hereby repealed.

Section 15: Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication.

The vote in favor of the above ordinance was as follows:

YEAS: Terry Sturgis, Jim Brenner, Jack Sipple,
and Sue Tiemeyer

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN/ABSENT: Carrie Coburn

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Martin Township Board at the time, date, and place mentioned above, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 21st, 2011

By Carrie Coburn
Carrie Coburn
Martin Township Clerk

Published Date: July 25th, 2011

Effective Date: July 26th, 2011