

Clerk

From: kcole <kcole@leonitownship.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:07 PM
To: Howard Linnabury; Clerk; Patrick Clemente; Jerry Cox; Matthew Horning; Nora Sharpe-McGee
Subject: Planning commission

Hello board of trustees,

I am composing this email today to inform you all of some unfortunate actions that transpired during yesterday's Planning Commission meeting.

We had two people removed from the meeting, The first was removed by the security because he decided that a participant of a public meeting must give their name to view or be in the zoom meeting, clearly this is not the case we do not make the public announce who they are before they sit down in a meeting.

The second person was first muted during public comment by the secretary during this person's time to speak, then to make matters worse the secretary then kicked out this person that was 35 seconds into their 5 minutes of their time to speak from the meeting. In other words removed a citizen from the public meeting without cause.

Clearly the Board of Trustees cannot allow this type of behavior on the Planning Commission, MTA advised me that both actions taken by the secretary are OMA violations, also I must mention how clearly wrong it is for a Planning Commission member/ secretary to take action in silencing a member of the public, Essentially stripping them of their First Amendment right to free speech.

Obviously the previous meaning on OMA violations was ignored by some, We must take action as a board so that Planning Commission understands this type of behavior is not acceptable.

Mr. Supervisor this Planning Commission is comprised of your nominations, please take action and stop this Behavior.

Thanks,
Kurt M Cole
Planning Commission liaison

Sent from my Galaxy Tab®

Clerk

From: Kimberly Dean <deankimb@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:08 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Complaint on Planning Commission Meeting OMA Violation From July 8, 2020

Good Morning Clerk Kerry Picket,

I am emailing you in regards to a violation of the Michigan Open Meetings Act which occurred during the Planning Commission Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

During public comment, one resident was asking the applicant who was looking to purchase the property up for rezoning specific questions during her recognized time, and the Vice Chair, Ben Carroll, interrupted her and told her during her recognized time he would not let her hijack the meeting. This recognized time was her time to speak, and he violated the OMA by not allowing her to give her public comment without interference.

This OMA violation is of great concern to me. As a resident of Leoni Township, it is our legal right as residents of Leoni Township to be active and engaged members of our local government, and we cannot do so if our legal rights through the OMA are violated by members of township boards conducting the business of our township. In addition, the fact that there was a combined meeting on March 5, 2020 between the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees to discuss issues regarding previous OMA violations, in which all current Planning Commission members were present, is of even greater concern. It is clear the March 5, 2020 joint meeting between these boards did nothing to educate certain members of the Planning Commission of their responsibilities as they relate to the OMA when conducting public meetings.

I hope this issue will be addressed. Thank you for your support and time in handling this concern.

All My Best,

Kimberly Dean
Leoni Township Resident

Clerk

From: Wald, John <johnwald@med.umich.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 7:59 AM
To: clerk@leonitownship.com
Subject: BENN CARROLL's actions at planning commission meeting Wednesday July 15, 2020

Ms. Pickett:

I believe you witnessed Mr. Carroll's grossly improper actions during the planning commission meeting Wednesday July 15, 2020.

Specifically, he violated my 1st amendment rights and the open meetings act by not allowing me to speak my fully allotted time during public comment; in fact, acting as the zoom meeting host, he muted me and then disconnected me from the meeting!

I hope you will bring this to the attention of the board trustees and the proper authorities. He is unfit to be on the planning commission, or any appointed position in the township.

Please keep me apprised of the outcome this matter.

John Wald
30 year resident of Leoni township.

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