

**Hamilton Township Planning Commission
Hamilton Township Hall
January 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Sherry DeLoach, Steve Petersen, Justin Klein, William Lawson, and John Young

STAFF PRESENT: Bob May, Zoning Administrator
Robin Young, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Three guests

1. Call to Order/Pledge/Roll Call

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve October 13, 2025, regular meeting minutes by Petersen/2nd by Klein. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Lawson/2nd by Klein. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Limited Public Comment

Hamilton Township Supervisor Conway explained that DeLoach, Petersen and Lawson appointments to the Planning Commission expire this year. He asked them to serve on the Planning Commission for an additional three-year term which would extend through 2028. DeLoach, Petersen and Lawson accepted.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

a. Budget

Young presented the 2026 Planning Commission budget.

b. General Discussion on Data Centers

Young stated that he has asked Conway to contact the attorney to see what type of zoning requirements we could consider before we get a request for a data center in our township. He noted that data centers take an enormous amount of power and water.

DeLoach commented that Dowagiac was looking at a request for a data center.

Following is the list of items briefly discussed:

- Geographical locations for data centers because of the power and water needed.
- How other Planning Commissions around the state are addressing data centers.
- How the two data centers near us in Marshall MI and LaPorte IN are being addressed.
- Actively engage our community.
- Township attorney input.

Young stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting and asked the commissioners to bring back any information they learn before the April meeting.

c. Planning Commission Board Elections

2025 Planning Commission current officers are as follows:

Chair: John Young
Vice Chair: Steve Petersen
Secretary: William Lawson

Young, Petersen, and Lawson agreed to hold the same positions for 2026.

Motion by DeLoach/2nd by Petersen to accept the current officers for 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

May gave the commissioners information on a new cell tower request. He noted that it will either be on the April agenda or a special meeting will need to be scheduled to meet the 45-day response requirement. Once he receives the completed application, he will let Young know what the Planning Commission needs to do.

8. Limited Public Comment

Sharon Hemenway stated that data centers take actual drinking water, not just plain ground water. She had heard one large data center uses as much water in comparison to Hoover Dam.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by DeLoach/2nd by Klein. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted Electronically By: Robin Young, Recording Secretary