

**Liberty Township Special Meeting  
Public Hearing Minutes  
November 10, 2025  
Liberty Township Hall  
7478 N 41 Rd, PO Box 334  
Manton MI 49663**

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Supervisor Swanson. Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) **Roll Call:** Present: Supervisor Bradley Swanson, Clerk Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Treasurer Tanja McCane-Clark, Trustee Brian Neihardt. Trustee James Heady (arrived a few minutes late) Absent: None
- 3) **Guest:** Liberty Township Attorney, Cinthia Wotila of McCurdy, Wotila and Porteous
- 4) **Open Public Hearing on Liberty Township's intention to withdraw from the Wexford Joint Planning Commission (WJPC).**
  - a) Supervisor Swanson opened the Public Hearing and introduced Attorney, Cinthia Wotila
    - i) Wotila explained steps to withdraw from the Wexford Joint Planning Commission in brief.
    - b) Swanson noted that the certified letters of notice to the members of the Wexford Joint Planning Commission were sent out and Clerk Kimbel-Sparks confirmed that all entities that are currently members of the organization signed the notice letter.
  - c) **Public Comments**
    - i) Ron DeHaan, Liberty Township resident, stated that there is no benefit to Liberty to justify the money spent on the WJPC. Does not like the "cookie cutter" plan for all areas covered by the WJPC because we are not all the same.
    - ii) Connie DeHaan, Liberty Township resident, stated that she also is against the idea of a "cookie cutter or one-size-fits-all" plan because Liberty has very few issues compared to townships like Clam Lake. Believe we spent too much money with no results. Mentioned the lack of professionalism during the WJPC board meetings which appeared to be ran by Bob Hall, Zoning Administrator.
    - iii) Jody Sparks, Liberty Township resident, stated that the township can handle their own zoning that is more suitable to Liberty's needs.
    - iv) Micheal Mix, Colfax Township Supervisor inquired whether Ms. Wotila had seen the WJPC contract and mentioned the contract was more about control versus zoning. There is currently no zoning in Colfax Township, and they have not experienced anything of major concern due to not joining the WJPC.
    - v) Shelly Bigelow, Greenwood Township Supervisor, former member of the WJPC, spoke about the lack of quorum therefore lack of board meetings with the WJPC, lack of supervision and no enforcement of existing zoning regulations.
    - vi) Brad Swanson, Liberty Township Supervisor, discussed the focus at the WJPC Annual Meeting was on inflation and a cost increase, lack of transparency on permits and fees collected. Very concerned with their stance on not following township law and creating their own ordinance to circumvent the laws ruling township government. Believe we need to be fiscally responsible to our township. Concerned for open liability for ordinances.
    - vii) William Bogart, Liberty Township resident, discussed the history behind zoning origins were to keep people from building on other's property. Zoning has only increased since and he is totally against it.
    - viii) Clerk Kimbel-Sparks informed the public that permits for Liberty residents were being denied until the township paid the annual payment.
    - ix) Supervisor Swanson said the township of Slagle has reached out about our experience and is watching the process closely.

- x) Supervisor Swanson mentioned residents have interest in assisting in creating Liberty's individual zoning.

5) **Adjourn** Motion made by Neihardt seconded by Heady to adjourn at 7:10pm. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by *Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Clerk*