

Dec 12th Keene Township Board Minutes Addendum
1/9/24

Note:

This Addendum is provided to clarify some items from the Dec 12th minutes.

Vacant seat on Planning Commission. Three people expressed interest in the vacancy: Ray Krieger (current term expires 12/31/23), Tom Sprague and Robert Nelson. Ray and Tom were present and were asked by Bob to discuss their interest and life experiences relevant to the vacancy. Both spoke:

Ray has been on the PC for 20 years and farms. Ray wants to keep the township ag. Ray stated he is for freedom, honesty, fair elections, fair taxation.

Tom stated he grew up on a farm, has lived in Keene Township for over 20 years, has family here. He has spent his career in education, specifically math and computer science. He has taught full time at Western Michigan University, Alma College and Cornerstone University and part-time at several other colleges. He is also a part-time pastor. He believes in freedom and honesty. He is 67 years old and is retired, spending most of his time taking care of his parents.

A number of community members and one board member spoke in favor of Ray being re-appointed since he would be the only board member farming full time and his family has a thousand acres in the township as opposed to several commission members who only farm part-time or are only employed in farming.

Corey made a motion to re-appoint Ray, which was seconded by Brett. Three board members (Corey, Brett, and Tami) were in favor of Ray being re-appointed to the PC. However, Bob, in his role as supervisor, nominated Tom. Roll call vote for Tom: Bob yes, Taylor yes, Tami no, Corey no and Brett no. Bob chose not to nominate anyone else and announced the position will remain vacant. Applications for the vacant position may be submitted.

After the meeting both Corey and Bob did some additional research on procedure.

The supervisor is the only one who can nominate candidates for the planning Commission. The candidate is then voted on by the entire board to create the appointment.

If no candidate is appointed to replace a planning commission member whose term is ending, that person may continue to serve voluntarily until a new candidate is appointed.