

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PORTAGE
Planning Commission Workshop Minutes
Sept. 23, 2015

Members **Present:** Peggy Lee Anderson, Melanie Kueber Watkins, Dave Rulison, John Ligon, Bernie Carr, Constance Sherry & Bruce Petersen

Public Present: Jim Rivard

Called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Discussion Items:

- Began the discussion with what was known about the “Code Enforcer” employed by the City of Houghton. Passed out the rental agreement and city ordinances that are used to enforce rental criteria for the City of Houghton. The P.C. thought it would be nice to obtain the renter inspection sheet/checklist from the City.
- The consensus of the P.C. was that any future Twp. enforcement/Ordinance dealing with landlords and their renters should be largely based on the numbers of bedrooms in the structure, possibly identified by the Assessor on their property card, as well as off street parking availability, safety egress/ingress, etc. The P.C. indicated that a definition of a “bedroom”, possibly what the Assessors are using, needs to be found.
- The future ordinance must also address “short-term rentals” too – not just contractual student type rentals. There could be a “tiered fee system” based on the landlords total number of renters housed in their various structures. IE: a person rents out their basement to married couple VS. 5 students in three houses.
- The Code Enforcer for the City will be invited to speak at the P.C. next meeting about her activities and the problems that she encounters, her positions funding sources, her salary, etc.
- The next meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.
- Peggy called for an adjournment at: 8:20 PM Motion Seconded by Dave

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Petersen
Township Supervisor