

Village of Onekama Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes—APPROVED
5283 Main Street, Onekama, MI 231-889-3171
October 14, 2025

Members present: Chair Chris Forth, Vice Chair Debby Storms, Tom Foster. Also present: members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Foster, seconded by Storms. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business: none

Old Business: Master Plan final draft

Forth presented the final draft of the Master Plan for review by the PC members and residents present. He explained the public comment portion of the Master Plan review process will be open until Nov 26, and could be extended past that date should they choose to.

Forth gave an overview of the public engagement steps prior to completing this final draft, and members discussed the results of the public's opinions and their priorities for the Village now and going forward. Then followed a brief page by page look at the Master Plan draft, with explanation of topics on each page.

There was a question about how to implement any of the future goals and priorities included in the Master Plan. There needs to be prioritization of a few goals, then elected officials need to get on board and involved. Community buy-in needs to be achieved, and then finding people to join in to do the necessary work is crucial. It was suggested that members of the steering committee should be invited to attend the final in person presentation by CIB/OHM Advisors when that meeting gets scheduled.

Forth asked if there were things included in the Action Plan that ought to be deleted, at the risk of attempting too much. He suggested that following adoption of this Master Plan, a strategy meeting with the Village Council members should be scheduled to discuss Master Plan priorities and their implementation.

There was discussion about how best to get this draft to the public for maximum replies. Several options were mentioned. Forth will contact the Manistee News Advocate to have another article written, and Cyndy Wangbichler about sending out an email blast to the PLA members.

Public Comment:

Mr. Hudson would like to see ordinance language changed for maximum square footage allowed for detached accessory buildings.

There was brief discussion about the pros and cons of establishing a DDA (Downtown Development Authority) for the Village.

Motion to adjourn by Storms, seconded by Foster. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Christopher Forth, Chair

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