

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

MAY 13, 2026 MEETING MINUTES 7 PM

1. Meeting called to order: Pledge
2. Roll Call:
 - ✓ Present: Doug Berens, Wayne Berens, Al Smalligan, Don Clark, Jim VanBoven, Mark Kukal, Cyle Barrett
3. Approval of Agenda: 1st by Cyle Barrett and 2nd by Mark Kukal
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 1st by Al Smalligan and 2nd by Wayne Berens
5. Public Comments (3 minutes):
 - i. Stan Stroven brought a concern to the board's attention regarding a storage building that is over the property line on Mayo Drive. Stan did show the board pictures of the building in question. The building has been this way for some time, (8 to 9 years). His concern is going forward how this issue would be handled. At the time this building was added to the property a survey was not required/requested.
 - a. Could this cause an issue in the future.
 - ii. Chad Kukal (zoning administrator), stated that he does suggest to the property owner prior to issuing a permit to have the property surveyed.
6. Communications:
 - ✓ Chairman's comments: None
7. Existing Business:
 - i. Data Centers – Don to reach out the Ryan to discuss his thoughts on if/when the board should discuss an ordinance regarding Data Centers.
 - ii. Discussed reaching out to Cliff (township attorney), regarding his thoughts on Data Centers.
8. New Business: <https://michigantownships.org> (see attachment)
 - i. Don to look into do a training session at the town hall.
 1. Also inviting other townships to join
9. Review:
 - i. Don to reach out to Ryan regarding Data Centers
10. Public Comment:
 - ✓ Ken questioned if we have the authority to require a survey. This is a question that will be discussed with Ryan.
 - i. The main area of concern is around the lakes.
11. Visitors in the audience: Ken Smalligan and Stan Stroven
12. Adjournment: 7:32pm

Respectfully submitted by: Christina Berens



May 12, 2026

Chair BeGole and Members of the House Government Operations Committee:

As local leaders, we stand united in opposition to zoning preemption legislation that has been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives and is currently before the Government Operations Committee. House Bills 5529 through 5532, and 5581 through 5585, if enacted, would strip locally elected officials of their decision-making authority, dismiss years of community planning work, and amount to a clear override from Lansing on local voices and voter-backed decisions.

State policies should uphold resident priorities, provide flexibility that considers the diversity of Michigan's communities, and support zoning decisions consistent with infrastructure needs, robust economic growth, and public safety.

Local governance rewards participation and encourages problem-solving. It creates spaces for communities to wrestle with complex issues, adapt to changing conditions, and take ownership of the solutions they implement. Durable outcomes emerge when people have a voice, a stake, and a responsibility in shaping decisions that affect their communities and their families.

The state legislature must not preempt local decision-making. Citizens and their elected local leaders engaging in vigorous debate on matters that impact them every day is a transparent and participatory process. State preemption lacks that same accountability.

We encourage you to oppose this zoning preemption legislation that creates sweeping mandates, oversimplifies the problem, and ignores the importance of local decision-making.

Sincerely,

Local leaders and residents from across Michigan