

Bill To:
 Lake Township (Roscommon County)
 1380 Michelson Road
 Houghton Lake MI 48629

Time Entries	Rate	Hours	Sub
12/2/24 Tele Conf with client regarding zoning enforcement and Planning Commission matters	\$250.00	.60	\$150.00
12/04/2024 Tel Conf supervisor regarding litigation update and zoning and other policy issues	\$250.00	.80	\$200.00
12/9/24 Telephone conference with client regarding ZBA matters	\$250.00	.40	\$100.00
12/17/2024 Correspondence with client regarding ZBA best practices	\$250.00	2.10	\$525.00
			\$775.00

Under Michigan Township Law, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the Planning Commission are independent statutory bodies, not departments subject to the control of the township supervisor.

The Planning Commission is created and governed by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3811 et seq.), while the Zoning Board of Appeals operates under the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (MCL 125.3601 et seq.). The Legislature deliberately structured these bodies to function independently of the township board and supervisor, exercising advisory and quasi-judicial authority free from political pressure.

Yet within his second month in office—and continuing to the present—Supervisor John Hibbard began publicly attacking both the ZBA and the Planning Commission without first contacting the chairpersons of either body to seek clarification, raise concerns, or request information. Instead of basic communication, confrontation became the default. The result has been predictable: significant and unnecessary attorney fees paid by taxpayers over the past year, driven not by complexity of law but by a fundamental misunderstanding of how these boards are intended to function.

Michigan law does not grant a township supervisor unilateral authority to interfere with, intimidate, or publicly undermine the ZBA or Planning Commission. The supervisor’s role is primarily administrative and procedural, not supervisory over independent commissions. Any legitimate oversight must occur through proper channels, respectful engagement, and strict adherence to statutory limits.