

Starke County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2010

Attendance: Butch Ritchie, president & citizen member; Judy Benninghoff, executive secretary and councilwoman; Daniel Bridegroom, commissioner; Dennis Estok, surveyor; Byron Walters, trustee; Don White, citizen member; Steven A. Dodge, commission counsel; Bruce W. Williams, administrator/inspector; and Pamla J. Starkey, clerk secretary. There was (1) one visitor present.

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 17, 2010 regular meeting and (2) two public hearings:
Mr. Bridegroom made a motion to approve the minutes as presented seconded by Mrs. Benninghoff. Motion carried (6-0)
2. Public Hearing to consider order declaring dwelling unfit for human habitation order for improvement or removal: Property owner being Dale Wallskog, located at 11612 E. South Ave. Walkerton, IN. 46574. Property description: 12-34-1 Anderson Koontz Lake Lot 13.: Mr. Wallskog was not present for the hearing and has not responded to the letter.
Mr. Estok made a motion to open the public comment, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (6-0) There was not any public comment made. Mrs. Benninghoff made a motion to close the public comment portion of the hearing seconded by Mr. Bridegroom. Motion carried (6-0).
After discussion by the board Mr. Bridegroom made a motion to accept Mr. Williams findings, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (6-0)
3. New Business
 - a) Tech Committee Report
 - 1) Mr. Ritchie stated that they would like to look into the state ordinance regarding cafo's. Mrs. Bartoli stated that St. Joe county has a good cafo ordinance and the board should look at that one as well.
 - 2) Mr. Ritchie stated that the tech committee would like to start working on an ordinance for the Wind Mill Farm as Mr. Williams has received phone calls regarding placing them in our county.
 - 3) Mr. Ritchie stated that we should adopt the state building code as you can save money on meetings and other things. Mr. Dodge stated that we did not adopt the state building codes last time as the commissioners at that time did not want to create two separate offices. Mr. Williams let the board know that we do not need the two offices as La Porte County did adopt the state building codes and they only have the one office. After more discussion Mr. Bridegroom made a motion to re look at adopting the state building codes, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried. (6-0)
The next tech committee meeting will be held on Thursday April 1, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 - b) Monthly reports: Mr. Ritchie read the reports to the board.
4. Old Business
 - a) Manufactured Housing Ordinance: Mr. Dodge explained the changes and additions that he made to the draft ordinance. After a long discussion Mr. Bridegroom made a motion to table the manufactured housing ordinance and find the stated manufactured housing ordinance and send it back to the tech committee, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (6-0).
 - b) Tattoo Parlors: A tattoo parlor was opened on US 30. There is nothing in our ordinance regarding tattoo parlors. Board decided that as long as they get their proper permits and show proof of their certification and are zoned for a business there is nothing we can do to prevent them from being there.
 - c) Communication Tower: Commissioners Bridegroom & Norem would like the planning

commission to bring the ordinance back up to have towers reserve two spaces on the tower for the county to use. Mr. Ritchie read the draft ordinance that was made in 2008. After further discussion Mrs. Benninghoff made a motion to hold public hearing for an amendment to the Communication Tower Ordinance next meeting, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried (6-0)
d) Dog Kennel Ordinance: It was suggested that we have an animal ordinance not just a dog kennel ordinance. After a long discussion Mr. Ritchie suggested that we continue to look at other counties animal ordinance, such as Porter County. Mr. Bridegroom made a motion to send the ordinance back to the Tech Committee, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (6-0)

Mrs. Benninghoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (6-0) Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

This meeting was taped and will be on file in the Starke County Planning Commission Office. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

Pamla J. Starkey
Recording Secretary