

**Starke County Plan Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 17, 2021**

- ❖ **Call to Order**-President Crase called the meeting to order
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance**-Led by President Crase
- ❖ President Crase explained to the board that we are having the meeting tonight because we are getting pressure to hire a building commissioner and he feels that we should not do the interviews in a public meeting. He explained that he was trying to get too much done and wasn't thinking, so with that said we will temporarily suspend the meeting after roll call and do the interviews and have discussion, then reconvene the regular meeting.
- ❖ **Roll Call:** Bill Crase, president & surveyor; Todd Jackson, vice president and citizen member; Bryan Cavender, Commissioner; Howard Bailey, councilman; Phil Woolery, extension educator (absent); Mark Allen, trustee; Todd Lawrence, Denise Cultice, and Karl Swihart, citizen members; Martin Bedrock, commission counsel; Robby Blodgett, code enforcement officer (absent); and Pamla J. Starkey, administrator. There were two (2) visitors present.
- ❖ President Crase temporarily suspended the meeting
- ❖ President Crase reconvened the meeting
- ❖ **Approval of the minutes** of the February 8, 2021 meeting: Member Cultice made a motion to approve minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Cavender. Motion carried (8-0)
- ❖ **Building Commissioners Report-None**
- ❖ **Code Enforcement Officer Report-None**
- ❖ **Old Business and Violations-None**
- ❖ **New Business and Violations-**
  - **Building Commissioner position**
    - President Crase asked for nominations for the appointment
    - Commissioner Cavender made a motion to appoint Mr. Vince Jacobs as the building commissioner, seconded by Councilman Bailey. Motion dies (3-4) Nays being Lawrence, Cultice, Allen and Jackson.
    - Vice President Jackson made a motion to appoint Mr. Boz Williams, seconded by Member Cultice. Motion carried (4-3) Nays being Commissioner Cavender, Councilman Bailey and Member Swihart
    - President Crase stated that Wallace Williams is now the new Building Commissioner
    - Attorney Bedrock stated that this is a 9 person board so the majority vote would 5 so we can either postpone or President Crase can be the deciding vote.
    - President Crase explained that we really can't postpone the appointment, but he really didn't want to be the deciding vote as he likes and thinks both of them would be good for the job, but he is going to go with the majority vote and appoint Boz Williams and to let the record reflect that his decision was based on Boz's time previously served here and giving him the opportunity to move on. He stated that he will now name Boz as the new building commissioner and will notify him
- ❖ **Report from Starke County Development Foundation-**
  - Member Cultice said she will attend her first meeting on March 22, 2021
    - President Crase asked the councilmen that were attending the meeting if they had heard if we are going to still have a position on that board
    - Councilman Pearman stated that he thinks they are going to decide at their next meeting.
- ❖ **Public Comment**

- Councilman Pearman stated that he appreciated the board letting him sit in on the interviews and was surprised on their vote with the other guy being a part of the ICC also that Bryan made a good point that now we have to fill another appointment and he thought Vince would have done well
- Councilman Leinbach stated that he agrees with Dave saying that Vince was the man for the job
- President Crase stated that he appreciates them being honest about it and that he thinks Vince is a fantastic guy and he also thinks Boz is a good guy and it was a tough decision and like he said before he didn't take either one of them lightly and wish there were 2 positions so that we could hire them both.
- Councilman Pearman stated that he agrees that they are both good guys but he thinks the job is more of a technical job not just about knowing where roads are

❖ **Other Business from the Board**

- Administrator Starkey let the board know that the Board of Zoning Appeal Board still needs a member from our board to be appointed to their board and that appointment will need to be by the commissioners
  - President Crase asked if it is a political balance appointment
  - Administrator Starkey didn't know but stated that this appointment would be taking Don Binkley's place and at that time he was a democrat
  - President Crase said that he will talk to the Auditor, Rachel tomorrow and they will talk to County Attorney Lucas to see if it needs to be a political appointment or if they can just select somebody then he asked Member Swihart if he would be willing to serve on that board
  - Member Swihart stated that he is on the county park board and doesn't know if he can serve on that board
  - President Crase then asked Trustee Allen if he would be interested
  - Member Cultice and Trustee Allen stated that he is already on that board
  - Attorney Bedrock asked if the Park Board is paid position because if it is you can not be on two paid boards.
  - Member Swihart said that it is not a paid position
  - Councilman Pearman let the board know that he text Rachel and Don Binkley's replacement would have to be a democrat
  - Attorney Bedrock stated that he is concerned that Member Swihart lives in the two mile jurisdiction and needs to check to see if he can serve on this board.
  - President Crase stated that through state statute as of January 1<sup>st</sup> we are to take the two mile jurisdiction back but haven't worked it out with City of Knox yet, and that we are still debating what some of their zoning is and we are working out what will fall back on the county but until that time let Karl serve and we will figure it out.
- President Crase stated that he does have more business to discuss. He went on to say that the motor cross group that we had complaints about last year on 350 W have now moved to S.R. 10, behind Beech Bailey's house we have pictures and evidence that they are charging to use this dirt bike track, they have already damaged the wetlands which has been turned into IDEM, so he asked Attorney Bedrock if we can shut them down if they are charging money and do not have a business permit, they basically have a sign in the driveway and a money jar on a table.
  - Vice President Jackson asked who the owner of the property is.
  - President Crase stated that he believes Hoffer owns the house where the track was built and went on to say they probably do not have liability insurance, no business permit through the state or county, and other concerns are liability to other peoples property he went on to say the property is zoned LI and there are about 25 to 30 young men on dirt bikes out there and

he was receiving calls from the whole neighborhood on Saturday. He also asked if it would need a special needs permit

- Admin. Starkey stated that she believes it would need one
- Councilman Bailey asked if they were charging or taking donations
- President Crase said that he really couldn't get close enough to tell
- Vice president Jackson asked if it is a protected wetland
- President Crase said that it is in the wetland registry and we just can't allow this to keep going on and they will just continue moving all over the county if we don't put a stop to it now. He also stated that IDEM has been called and he is waiting on a call back from Jason Randolph.
- Attorney Bedrock asked what the address is
- President Crase said that he will get Pam the address tomorrow
- President Crase stated that if they continue to operate this weekend he would like to get the sheriffs department out there to put a stop to it. He also stated that we need to look at a noise ordinance
- Admin Starkey stated that we do not have a noise ordinance but believes that the sheriff's office does
- Vice president Jackson said that he thinks they do but the time that it is in effect is like from 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Attorney Bedrock stated that he will get a letter out to them as soon as we find out for sure who owns the property
- President Crase would like the board to make a motion to shut down the race track if we are able
- Councilman Bailey made a motion that the dirt track, because of safety and noise violation and not having proper permits, be shut down due to those reasons
- President Crase asked if we could have the sheriff's department go out there
- Attorney Bedrock is not sure they will do it
- Motion was seconded by Trustee Allen, Motion carried (8-0)
- Vice president Jackson asked President Crase what needs to be done to create an ordinance for something like this.
  - President Crase and member Cultice stated that it would go to the tech committee
  - President Crase asked Administrator Starkey to set up a day and time to get the tech committee together in a week or so and if anyone knows of another community that has something in place or have any ideas to please let them know

❖ **End of the month reports**

❖ **Next Scheduled Meeting- will be Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

❖ **Adjournment-**With no further business, Member Cultice made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Vice President Jackson. Motion carried (8-0)

This meeting was recorded and will be on file in the Starke County Plan Commission Office.

Unless stated otherwise all Plan Commission meetings will be held on the second Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. with the Board of Zoning Appeal meeting on the same night the latter of 6:30 p.m. or the conclusion of the Plan Commission meeting.

Pamla J. Starkey  
Administrator