

Starke County Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting and Public Hearing  
June 17, 2009

Attendance: Butch Ritchie, president & citizen member; Lee Nagai, vice president & citizen member; Michael Reetz, executive secretary & extension educator; Daniel Bridegroom, commissioner; Judy Benninghoff, council person; Dennis Estok, surveyor; Jack Hudgens & Richard Singleton, citizen members; Steven A. Dodge, commission counsel; Bruce W. Williams, administrator & inspector; and Pamla J. Starkey, recording secretary. There were (7) seven visitors present.

1. Approval of the May 20, 2009 regular meeting and public hearing: Mr. Reetz made a motion to approve minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Bridegroom. Motion carried (8-0)
2. Public Hearing to consider establishment of a revised schedule of fees for the Starke County Planning Commission according to Indiana Code 36-7-4-411: Mr. Williams stated what changes he would like made. He would also like to see all permits good for a year except for new roof, electric upgrade, pool, and decks. Mr. Nagai thinks all permits should be good for a year. Mr. Williams would like above ground pools with pumps permitted as well and that they should all be GFIC protected. Mr. Ritchie suggested that Mr. Williams check into the sizes of pools and what the state requires.

Mr. Singleton made a motion to open the public portion of the hearing, seconded by Mr. Reetz. Motion carried (8-0). Mr. Simoni, 6285 E. 200 S. asked why we need to raise the fees. It was explained to him that we are trying to have our funds stay in our office not in county general and make our office more self sufficient. Mr. Simoni suggested that instead of raising the current fees to start having a county wide inspection on rentals and charging an inspection fee for them. Mr. Dodge explained that the state has told us that the taxes that we get to support our government are going to be reduced drastically and we need to find ways to increase our fees so that our government can operate and provide services that the tax payers expect, if we don't raise these fees the tax payers may be ill served. Mr. Williams stated that the planning commission office is not a constitutional office and all non-constitutional offices may be eliminated and the constitutional offices will be cut. Mr. Hudgens agrees that maybe we should inspect rentals as well. Mr. Dodge asked if Mr. Williams could tell how much revenue the increases would bring. Mr. Williams said it would take a while to figure it out. Mr. Wakeland stated that he was one of the people that worked on the building code ordinance and thinks that we need to keep moving forward, not go back in time. Mrs. Benninghoff stated that the county will probably be forced to eliminate the non-constitutional offices by the year 2011 if what the government is saying is true. Mr. Bridegroom stated that the state government wants the counties to help themselves and be more self sufficient. Mr. Armstead stated that he wants to keep Mr. Williams in the office because he doesn't want the county to go back to the way his neighborhood is, a bunch of shacks. Mr. Simoni stated that he would rather the permit fees go up than to lose the building inspector. Mr. Bridegroom stated that this is not the answer but it is a step towards it.

Mrs. Benninghoff made a motion to close the public comment portion of the hearing seconded by Mr. Singleton. Motion carried. (8-0). Nagai stated that we need to know what we are accomplishing by raising fees. Mr. Hudgens stated that he and his girls at his office will make a spread sheet if the planning commission will get him the copies of all of 2007 & 2008 permits. Mr Nagai stated to the board that we need to figure out what percentage we are wanting, to fund ourselves (the planning commission office). After more discussion by the board Mr. Nagai made a motion to continue the public hearing with the administrator getting Mr. Hudgens copies of all 2007 & 2008 permits, seconded by Mr. Bridegroom. Motion carried (7-1 Mr.

- Singleton nay)
3. Old Business
    - a) Manufactured Housing Ordinance: Waiting for information from Mr. Milo & Mrs. Norem on the changes and or amendments they would like done. Mr. Hudgens made a motion to continue discussion next meeting, seconded by Mr. Nagai. Motion carried (8-0)
    - b) Dog Kennel will be discussed soon maybe within the next couple of months.
    - c) Unsafe Building Ordinance did pass and is now part of the county code. Mr. Lucas did change the wording in section 3 but still has the same meaning.
  4. New Business
    - a) Budget: Everything is left exactly the same as 2009 Budget. Mr. Singleton made a motion to submit the budget as proposed, seconded by Mr. Reetz. Motion carried. (8-0)
    - b) Monthly Report: Mr. Williams passed out his report.
    - c) Vacating White Pine Meadows: Mr. Cramer was present to discuss what needs to be done to possibly vacate the subdivision. Board asked Mr. Cramer to bring back the drainage report with the re plat of the subdivision.
  5. Violations
    - a) Eugene & Diane Jedynek, 7315 E. 100 N. Knox: regarding someone living in a recreational vehicle with a 50 lb LP tank hooked up to it on the property. Mrs. Jedynek and her brother, William Walley were present to explain the situation. The brother is going back and forth from his sister and his daughter to take care of them but the RV stays there and is not moved. After discussion by the board Mr. Nagai made a motion to give Mr. William Walley (90) ninety days to become in compliance, seconded by Mr. Singleton. Motion carried (8-0)
    - b) Carol Overton, 5191 S. Wesley St. North Judson: Ms Overton came to the planning commission board last month to dispute the late filing fee for the roof replacement without a building permit. She was told to go to the Board of Zoning Appeal to appeal the administrator's decision and was given (30) thirty days to apply and has not done so. After discussion by the board Mr. Nagai made a motion for Mr. Dodge to write a letter with authority to sue, seconded by Mrs. Benninghoff. Motion carried (8-0)

Mr. Reetz made an announcement that Purdue Extension is hosting another land use update on the video series focusing on community impact with confined feeding operations from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m est can be viewed at the Pulaski, Marshall and the LaPorte County Extension Offices.

Mr. Bridegroom made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Reetz. Motion carried (8-0)

This meeting was taped and will be on file in the Starke County Planning Commission Office. The next scheduled meeting will be held pm July 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Pamla J. Starkey  
Recording Secretary