

December 4, 2017
Planning Commission Meeting

7:00 p.m. Jeff Ebenhoeh calls the meeting to order.

Commission members in attendance: Greg Wendling, Bill Turnwald, Ray Birchmeier, Jeff Ebenhoeh

Absent: Scott Wendling

Guest: Merick Mathews, Clair Weisenberger, Lacy Birchmeier, Doug Beebe, Pat Oak, Wes Peterman and his wife (Lindsey).

Minutes from the June 5, 2017 meeting was read, motion by Greg Wendling, second by Ray Birchmeier to accept the minutes as read, motion carried.

We had a discussion on wind turbine farms, many of the guests were concerned about them coming into Maple Grove Township, and we don't have any ordinances for this. Jeff Ebenhoeh explained how in the past we would handle these issues that we have little or no control in, due to if we would fight the issues, we would have a large court cost that our township could not afford. We also explained that we do not have the expertise in this subject and would have to hire a consultant to help with the ordinance. As we done some investigation, other counties are developing a wind turbine ordinance and it has taken over a year to develop and still not approved. With some help with the guest and their input they would like to see a simple ordinance in place and not go to the extent of developing a long drawn out ordinance. We will start to gather information on what other townships and counties have to start developing this simple ordinance for us.

The 5 topics that were discussed with the guests to have in our ordinance is:

1) Noise 2) Shadow Flicker 3) Set Back 4) Height 5) Radar sensor flashing lights

If any Wind Turbine Company would want to install wind turbines in our township they would have to come to us and apply for a special use permit and in that permit we can state some provisions for them if we don't have it in our ordinance.

We also talked briefly on a solar farm ordinance, if we need one or not. This topic was tabled for a later meeting, due to the same reasons as the wind turbine ordinance, we do not have the expertise in solar farms.

Pat Oak presented us with a couple of nuisance ordinances from our neighboring townships. He would like to see if we can develop one for our township. He has a couple of instances that it could come in handy if we have one. These will be reviewed by the planning commission member and we will start to develop one at future meetings.

We set our 2018 meeting dates, they are as follow: Feb 5th, April 2nd, June 4th, Aug. 6th, Oct. 1st, Dec. 3rd.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Wendling, second by Bill Turnwald, motion carried. Time 7:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Greg Wendling