

August 6, 2018
Planning Commission Meeting

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

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

Guests: Rob Kehoe, Pat Oak, Approx 25 residents

Minutes from the June 4, 2018 meeting was read, motion by Ray Birchmeier, second by Scott Wendling to accept the minutes as read, motion carried.

We discussed the nuisance ordinance that we want to adopt, Pat Oak said that he has not had any issues this year yet, and both Rob and Pat would like us to look at adopting the Property Maintenance Code, so we tabled it until a future meeting and we have time to look over the Property Maintenance Code. Rob Kehoe will supply us a copy of this. It is a state code that can't be changed or modified, we would have to adopt it or reject it the way that it is written.

We discussed the cell phone tower that is located on the corner of M-57 and East Rd., Rob Kehoe will contact the company, Telecom Tower Group LLC, and see what their plan is to adding antenna's to it.

We reviewed the special use permit that Rich & Dawn Koeplinger submitted for their airstrip to change it from a private airstrip to a public airstrip. Dawn read off a letter of what the benefits would be to change the airstrip to a public airstrip. She also said that if a plane lands on a private airstrip the pilots insurance would not cover them, but if it is changed to a public airstrip the pilots insurance will cover them. She also stated that planes could make emergency landings there, and there has been 2 planes that had to make emergency landings since its existence since 1996. She also informed up that nothing would change from what she has now except they would have to add a wind sock on their barn, and they would be supplied cones, but they were not required to put the cones out. She also informed us that they have approx. 2 planes a month coming in and out if the airstrip now during good weather months and it would probably increase to 4 planes per month, it would be closed during the winter months. After review of the special use permit and hearing her letter and comments the commission voted 4-1 (Scott – no, Jeff – no, Greg – no, Ray – yes, Bill – no) to not issue the special use permit. This was explained to her that there was not going to be a benefit to the township, there was not going to be any drastic changes to the airstrip, if there was a need of an emergency landing the plane will still land there if it is private or public.

Greg Wendling will ask the Township Board if we can get a quote for someone to help us review and update our current ordinance and definitions in our zoning book including the Bylaws. This was suggested by our attorney that we take a look at them before we make many changes.

We discussed the Wind Turbines and Solar Ordinance, if we need to do anything at this time, and with the proposal from the township board we decided not to go any further on these until a wind turbine or solar company approaches the township on this matter.

Rob Kehoe will supply us with some examples of solar ordinances, since we do not have many examples of them, like we have with the wind turbines. So when the time comes that we have to visit this topic again then we will have some information.

Our next meeting for the planning commission will be October 1, 2018.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Ebenhoeh, second by Greg Wendling motion carried. Time 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Greg Wendling