

Watson Township Planning Commission

March 27, 2013

Regular Meeting

1. Call to order-

Chairperson David Carter called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll call and recognition of visitors-

Present: David Carter, Barb Wroblewski, Bruce Bos, Chuck Andrysiak and Michelle Harris

Absent: Bev McKinnon, Troy Baker

No visitors

4. Approval of Minutes- motion made by Chuck Andrysiak to approve the Minutes with corrections. It was seconded by Bruce Bos. All approved.

At this time Dave informed us that the Planning Commission By-Laws dictate the order that our agenda must follow. This investigation was initiated by Bev McKinnon's suggestion that the approval of the agenda be moved to after the roll call.

5. Public comments and communications concerning items not on Agenda- no public present

6. Approval of Agenda- motion made by Chuck Andrysiak; seconded by Barb Wroblewski

7. Old Business-

- a. We reviewed the ordinances and rationale for them that we had been putting together based on Chuck Andrysiak's request. He is the township representative, is new to our board and wanted to be caught up. This also allows the Watson Township Board to be better prepared to answer questions from the public during the township board meetings.

- b. Outdoor wood burning proposed ordinance- Dave shared that our proposed ordinance are in line with the other townships that are similar to ours. The need to develop an outdoor wood burning ordinance stemmed from a neighbor's concern with smoke. In addition to a safety goal, this will eliminate further neighbor concerns.
 - i. Wood burners require a construction permit as well as an electrical permit by State mandate. Therefore, people need to contact PCI to initiate the process of requesting permits. The Planning Commission Board would like to see PCI develop a form or information sheet regarding these procedures. We will be contacting PCI asking them to put out a newspaper piece related to permits required by the State for such items as wood burners, furnaces & hot water heaters so that the general public would be aware of the guidelines.

- c. Medical Marihuana proposed ordinance- The board agreed to undertake this ordinance because it's a controversial topic and there is a void in our ordinances concerning this subject. Also the state guidelines have many opportunities for individual interpretation. We are being proactive to prevent issues and protect citizens and our township from potential conflict.
 - i. The board was reminded that there have been issues in surrounding townships while those townships were/are developing ordinances.
 - ii. It was suggested that in light of the state changes to its law, we should have our township attorney review our proposed medical marihuana ordinance before further actions are taken by the township board.

- d. Wind/Solar proposed ordinance- We started working on this ordinance because of challenges to another township. Although we do recognize that there may not be a high demand for these energy sources in our township, we once again chose to take a proactive approach in developing our own ordinance.

- e. Chuck inquired as to what if any is the expiration date for the township to act on the ordinances that we have developed for their review. There is none.

8. New Business- none

9. On Going Business/Any Other Business-

a. Bruce questioned if there was anything pre-emptive that the board could do that would be helpful to the Menske Company who is seeking to move into our township. Dave said he didn't think so. Comments were made that they would be a welcome addition because they are a well-run company and because they manufacture for agriculture.

b. Chuck spoke about the meetings that the Emergency Management Team for B-93 Birthday Bash is holding. He shared that the team is making plans for traffic routes and camping options. He asked how many more sites were approved to be added at Schnabel Lake Campgrounds so he could report number to the team.

c. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm by Bruce Bos. It was seconded by Chuck Andrysiak. All approved.

Submitted by,

Michelle Harris

Watson Township Secretary