

Starke County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
May 16, 2012

Attendance: Butch Ritchie, president & citizen member; Donald White, vice president & citizen member; Denise Marks, executive secretary & citizen member; Daniel Bridegroom, commissioner; Judy Benninghoff, councilwoman; Dennis Estok, surveyor; Byron Walters, trustee; Richard Singleton, citizen member; Steven A. Dodge, commission counsel; Bruce W. Williams, administrator/building commissioner; and Pamla J. Starkey, clerk secretary. There were (4) four visitors present.

1. Approval of the minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting: Mrs. Marks made a motion to approve minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (8-0)
2. New Business
 - a) Attorney replacement for 2013: Mr. Williams asked the board to start thinking of who they might want to ask to replace Mr. Dodge. He also stated that Mr. Dodge and himself had thought that Mr. Todd Wallsmith might be a good candidate as he is young with some experience. Mr. Estok made a suggestion of having a tech committee meeting and develop a solicitation letter to send to different attorneys to see if they would have an interest in the position.
 - b) Mr. Williams let the board members know that he sent a letter to the owners of the Old Dude Ranch and they are going to tear down the old buildings and clean up the property.
 - c) Mr. Bridegroom let the board know that we have an updated ordinance that the commissioners would like Mr. Dodge to go through to make sure they have everything in it. After discussion by the board Mr. White made a motion for Mr. Dodge to go through the ordinance with Mrs. Starkey, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (8-0)
 - d) Marcia Yrineo and Edward Runnion II from South Bend, were present to let the board know that they applied for a grant to have a Folk Art School and would like to put it on the property that they own on US 30 near the truck stop and are looking for information on what county ordinances and laws they will need to comply with. She also stated that they are wanting to keep it green. Mr. Williams stated that they will need to come into the planning commission office and he will probably be able to answer all of your questions.
3. Old Business
 - a) Mr. Singleton stated that he would like the tech committee to work on an ordinance to keep office trailers from being remodeled and being used as dwellings. Mr. Williams stated that he would like to see how the current suit is settled in court before doing anything. This suit will be heard in Pulaski County as Judge Hall did not want it here and the date has not been set. Mr. White & Mr. Dodge both agree that they should wait until after the hearing to do anything with the ordinance. After discussion by the board Mr. Singleton made a motion for the Tech Committee to revise the ordinance regarding office trailers being turned into dwellings, seconded by Mrs. Benninghoff. Motion not carried (2-6) Mr. Singleton & Mrs. Benninghoff for and Mr. Walters, Mr. Estok, Mrs. Marks, Mr. Bridegroom. Mr. White, Mr. Ritchie against.
 - b) C & C Salvage: There was a fire on the property last week. Mr. Williams will be going to the property with the health department and IDEM on Monday morning. Mr. Dodge will file the injunction after that meeting.
 - c) Mrs. Benninghoff asked what is going on with the Belork suit. Mr. Dodge stated that it is scheduled for either July 31, 2012 or August 1, 2012 in Pulaski Court.
4. Violations
 - a) Koontz Lake Fire Department: Came in and applied to the BZA
 - b) James Bailey: Business is gone.

- c) TC Investments: Mr. Williams talked to a contractor and he is cleaning up the property.
 - d) Keith Gerrard: Mr. Dodge wrote a letter and Mr. Gerrard called, Mr. Williams gave until 6-1-12 to clean up.
 - e) Christopher & Shannon Rupert: Finally come in and applied for permit & paid fees.
 - f) Court date is set for June 4, 2012 for Kolasa's.
 - g) Arnulfo Moya, 4820 N. 700 E. Hamlet, placed a mobile home without a permit. Two letters were sent with no response. Mrs. Marks will check to see if electric is being used. Mr. Estok made a motion for Mrs. Marks check on the electric usage. After discussion by the board, Mr. Estok made a motion for Mr. Dodge to write a letter with authority to sue. Seconded by Mrs. Benninghoff. Motion carried (8-0)
5. End of the month reports were read.

Mr. Williams let the board know that the DNR has completed our evaluation and forwarded the results to FEMA and the new maps will not be finalized until 2014.

With no further business Mrs. Benninghoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Walters. Motion carried (8-0)

This meeting was recorded and will be on file in the Starke County Planning Commission Office. The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Pamla J. Starkey
clerk/secretary