

Pulaski County Advisory Plan Commission:

Meeting: Monday January 27, 2014: Commissioners Meeting Room:

Present: Darrin Wagner, Dave Bennett, Chad Rushing, Jim Thompson, Matt Rausch, Rick Stone, Nate Origer (Advisory), David Weber (Advisory);

Absent: Larry Loehmer, Terry Young, Jay Sullivan, David Dare (Advisory), Kevin Tankersley (Advisory)

Approval of Agenda: Upon a motion by Mr. Wagner with a second from Mr. Rushing, Commission members voted 6-0 to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 2013 meeting were not distributed. President Bennett tabled this item until the February 2014 meeting.

Old Business: Update on Training Curriculum: Mr. Origer announced that David Bausman and Nancy Cline, both with the Indiana Land Resources Council will be speaking at next month's joint meeting with the Board of Zoning Appeals. It was suggested that an "Introduction to Planning" (101) session would be helpful as there are two new members.

Update on coordinating ordinance revisions with the towns of Francesville and Winamac:

Mr. Origer stated he had attended the most recent Francesville Town Council meeting and they appear interested but wish to discuss this with their attorney before making a decision. There is no word yet from the Winamac Town Council.

In previous meetings it had been discussed that a sub-committee of APC members might interview interested individuals/companies wishing to work with our APC and possibly the Winamac and Francesville Plan Commissions to review and suggest revisions to our ordinances. The sub-committee would make a recommendation(s) to the full Plan Commission.

New Business:

Annual Re-organization: Election of new officers for 2014:

Mr. Wagner nominated David Bennett for President of the Advisory Plan Commission. Mr. Bennett accepted the nomination.

Mr. Bennett nominated Darrin Wagner to be Vice President for the Advisory Plan Commission. Mr. Wagner accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations and the nominations were closed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stone with a second from Mr. Thompson, Commission members voted to 6-0 to approve the slate of David Bennett, President and Darrin Wagner, Vice President.

Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment: ____ Upon a motion by Mr. Bennett with a second from Mr. Wagner, Commission members voted 6-0 to approve Matt Rausch as an Advisory Plan Commission appointee for of the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three year term ending December 31, 2016 to replace Kathi Thompson.

Other: __ Mr. Rushing stated that because his commission membership is by virtue of his employment as Purdue University extension agent, he is unable to accept the monthly fifty dollar stipend. He asked if these funds could be transferred to another line item within the Building department/Plan Commission. Mr. Weber will look into this.

Wind Energy: A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the development of wind energy in the western portion of the county. A California based company, Orion, has been meeting with local landowners to determine interest and possibly sign landowners to lease agreements. Commission members expressed two concerns:

- 1) There is no fee schedule attached to our Wind Energy Ordinance.
- 2) Research needs to be conducted to determine boundaries from the Jasper Pulaski State Game preserve to protect the Sand Hill cranes, bats and other migratory birds. Mr. Rushing stated that the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has no such jurisdiction. It was suggested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may have jurisdiction.

A table comparing wind energy development fee schedules from five counties was reviewed by Commission members. It was agreed that a committee be formed to review this information, make recommendations for a draft fee schedule and submit this to county attorney Kevin Tankersley for his review. Mr. Rushing, Mr. Origer and Mr. Weber will form this committee.

Building Permit Fee Schedule: A brief discussion was held concerning the hearing fees before the Advisory Plan Commission. Mr. Weber stated that compared to other counties in the region, ours seemed high at five hundred fifty dollars. Several commission members noted that this five hundred fifty dollar fee merely covers the cost of such a hearing (nine APC members receiving fifty dollars each plus one hundred dollars for the county attorney). No changes were suggested and no action was taken.

Public Comment: None

Mr. Origer announced that the Community Development Commission Annual Dinner will be held on Tuesday March 4 at the Winamac Event Center. Commission members were invited to attend.

Adjournment: upon a motion by Mr. Wagner with a second from Mr. Thompson, commission members voted 6-0 to adjourn.

Next meeting: A joint meeting with the Pulaski County Board of Zoning Appeals will be held Monday February 24 @ 6:00 PM in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the County Courthouse.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David Weber, Advisory Plan Commission Secretary