

MINUTES of JULY 23, 2013 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Garofalo

Roll Call: Members present: Harry Smith, Fred Lewis, Ron Remington, Tony Garofalo & Paul Shamblin.. Carol Browne and Paul Shamblin were excused absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Harry Smith made a motion & Fred Lewis supported that motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2013, Planning Commission meeting. The motion was approved.

Approval of the Agenda: Fred Lewis made a motion & Ron Remington supported that motion to approve the Agenda of the August 27, 2013, Planning Commission Meeting. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

A. Review Cemetery Ordinance

A lengthy discussion took place concerning a number of options available to change some portions of the Ordinance. The discussions included the Fee Structure, the number of Cremation Urns in any given plot and adding additional fees for a variety of options. It was decided a meeting with Brandee Ellis, the township Clerk and Sexton should take place before the Planning Commission makes any changes to the current ordinance. Chair Garofalo & Clerk Ellis will meet and Garofalo will report back to the Commission.

B. Fracking (Natural Gas & Oil)

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the process of Natural Gas & Oil drilling in the Township. Bill Browne, Harry Smith, Fred Lewis & Tony Garofalo attended a meeting on this subject in Ottawa County. At this meeting we were told that the State had virtually 100% control of this process. The Township may be able to recover damage to the road(s) due to the heavy trucks traveling in State, County & Township roads during the drilling process. One of the major points made at the meeting was explained by Garofalo. The DNR and Oil Industry experts expressed the safety factor with this statement. The material used in the fracking process is 95.5% water and only 0.05% chemicals. There is no evidence at this point that this process is dangerous to humans. The discussion was ended by a wait and see time period.

New Business:

A. A discussion to place regarding the Citizen's Advisory Board that would continue the Board's work reviewing the Ordinances in Valley Township. The following suggestions were placed on the table. The board would have seven members. Members of the Planning Commission may be able to be members of the Board. A plan was offered by Garofalo to have the meetings on the same dates as the Planning Commission meetings commencing in the late afternoon. This would eliminate scheduling another meeting day. This idea would be mentioned at the Township Board meeting in August.

Zoning Administrator Report:

~~Paul said the new micro wave tower on M-40 is progressing without any problems. He also mentioned new home startups are increasing as well as remodeling permits. Problem in the Township are rather mild and are being corrected.~~

None

Open Discussion of Non-Agenda Items:

There wasn't anyone that attended the meeting that wished to speak.

Adjournment:

Harry Smith made a motion & supported by Fred Lewis to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted

Tony Garofalo, Chair