

Colfax Township, Weldon Township and Village of Thompsonville  
Community Joint Planning Commission  
14731 Thompson Avenue, Thompsonville, MI 49683  
Minutes – January 22, 2018 Special Meeting

Peggy Minster opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call: Commissioners Peggy Minster, Shelley Greene, Irene Dunham Thayer, Sally Bobek, Chris Bobek, alternate Rob Aldrich, Debra Franke and Gene Houghton. Absent: Don Suchocki and Eugene Allen (excused).

Guests: Carrie Aldrich, Ron Hitesman, Ron Evitts, Craig Meredith, Sue Meredith, Fran Griffin.

Agenda Additions/Corrections: Motion/second by Sally/Irene to accept the agenda as presented; motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Zoning Administrator

Peg stated that at the last regular meeting it was agreed to place zoning administrator Craig Meredith on medical leave until he gets a full release to work from his physician. She said everyone has a copy of the letter sent to him. At the last meeting it was agreed to hire an interim zoning administrator and that has been done. Mark Draeger has accepted the position on a month to month basis as discussed. Shelley met with him and gave documents he would need.

Peg said because we have an interim zoning administrator she contacted Craig for two reasons. One was a FOIA request from an attorney, which was not a formal request and was out of courtesy to Craig because he was ill. We did have to answer that as soon as Craig was well enough. Craig put together hard copies and Peg drove to Frankfort to pick them up. Before she left she called him to ask for the computer because it was needed for the interim zoning administrator. Peg got the hard copies for the FOIA request but Craig declined to transfer the computer. She called Mr. Kuhn who said it's the planning commission's computer and needs to be transferred and to contact a deputy if necessary. Peg chose not to do that. She contacted Craig the following Thursday, January 18 to inform him of what Mr. Kuhn said and left times when she would be available to pick it up. Peg heard from Craig Friday morning but she was working out of town. Don Suchocki picked it up Saturday but Craig declined to give the password. The office keys were also needed but not available.

Sally asked Peg if Craig has a return to work note. She did not know and asked Craig who said yes and turned it in. He said he told Don the cord was in his truck and would be available when Sue got home. He also said his password is for him and he can make his own password to get into the computer. Sally said the stipulation at the meeting was Mark Draeger would be interim until Craig got a return to work, and since Craig provided it isn't this other stuff moot. Peg the return to work can be accepted or the leave can be continued and opened it for discussion. Sally restated he decision on returning to work. Chris commented on the password, keys and code to hall. Peg clarified she didn't ask for the security code, only the keys. Chris felt another set should be made if two people possibly could be doing this work. Peg said that's fine and just wanted to tell everyone what happened. Rob said if he wasn't able to perform the duties but was expected to come back it would be unusual for his employer to take his work equipment away. Peg said we didn't take it away; we needed it for the interim ZA to work with. Rob understood but if it came up he needed it he could have coordinated with him at that time. Peg said if you're off work you don't come to work. Shelley said we met on January 11 and said Craig was on medical leave so he can get well and Peg was given authority to hire an interim ZA until such time as Craig's health was regained to a level that he would be able to perform. All of this transpired, we heard he was coming home and then it was delayed. She said the JPC's concern has been is he able to perform and we are concerned about Craig. People still build homes in the winter and if he needs to go on an inspection is he able to do it. Sally said the letter says he is. Shelley said yes it does but is he really able to go out there. Sally didn't feel we are able to override a doctor saying he can return to work. Rob said

we would need a different motion and Peg agreed a different decision would be needed. That is why she opened it to discussion. Irene asked Craig if he can go out and do a site inspection now. He said he has had two people offer to help him measure. He has no land use permit applications since December and those two on the computer he was going to print Saturday and mail to get the checks from them and was told he can not go in the office. Peg said you can't come to work when you are on medical leave; nobody can.

Peg said there have been issues and if she doesn't do the due diligence to take care of problems she can be sued for nonfeasance. This is a planning commission decision on what to do. Sally said these are two different issues. Shelley wanted to address the medical. She said Craig has people who can take him out. Is he able to do the job? If we have an issue that goes to court, everything that was done, all the notes, all the documentation, meeting minutes, everything, goes before the court. It isn't somebody doing it for him. We hired Craig as zoning administrator, not a proxy because he has issues. Sue has been helping him. We didn't know he was in the hospital right after the November meeting. We didn't know until into December when Peggy came to the Colfax meeting to address the attorney letter which Colfax received a copy which asked Craig if Colfax was going to be a party to the litigation. We didn't know what Craig's situation was and it's not our business to ask his medical condition. We wish he wasn't there but this is where we are.

Gene said it sounds like there are a lot of different things but the one thing the meeting was called about, and asked of Craig, was to provide a note that he was able to fulfill his duties and resume activity. He has fulfilled that request per the board's request and feels that has to be dealt with first and accepted as it is. If there are additional issues, that is something that needs to be brought to the regular meeting. Peg said we have to accept he is back from medical leave.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Motion/second by Sally/Chris to adjourn at 6:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Greene  
Secretary

*Minutes are proposed until approved at the next meeting*