

MARION TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING August 16, 2016 Township Building

Present: Archie Gettig, Herbert Chapman, John R. Dillon, Matt Wensel, Christie Holloway, and Angel Emery

Guests: Ken Roan, Brian McCauley and Mark Holloway

Chairman Gettig, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gettig read the advertisement for the current meeting that was published in the CDT on August 4, 2016.

Public Comment:

McCauley and Roan both asked if there was anything for the public to review at the current time, Gettig explained that this was just a meeting for the BOS and Planning Commission to get together to discuss the draft ordinance and any changes that may need made. Gettig assured them that after the draft is in its final format and has been reviewed by the zoning officer and solicitor, then there would be a copy made available to the public before a public hearing is held. Roan wanted to know why this ordinance is being rebuilt, Wensel mentioned the residents that have voiced their concern over not being able to raise their own food and/or animals in what is supposed to be an agricultural township. Roan feels that enforcement needs to be addressed as he feels the current ordinance is not enforced.

Wensel made the point that agriculture is what Marion Township is about and he feels it's absurd that State College allows more agriculture than Marion Township. Roan voiced his concern about wells and septic tanks being contaminated. Mark Holloway added that farms spray manure so why are a few chickens an issue? Roan said his concern is more goats, horses, cows, and any other larger animals being put on small pieces of land. Roan mentioned that he did research and from what he found, a larger animal, such as a horse, needs two acres to survive. Wensel explained that this ordinance follows a lot of state guide lines so that there are specific guidelines for how much property a farm animal needs to thrive.

Roan and McCauley are concerned that the public is not having enough say. Dillon assured them that there will be public comment on the ordinance before it is adopted. They BOS and Planning Commission are just trying to get the ordinance together into something both parties agree on before the public reviews it.

Gettig asked if there was any more public comment, there was none so public comment was closed at 7:39 p.m.

Vice Chair, Holloway, explained how the ordinance was compiled up to this point. Stated that it does protect the township in a lot of ways. She also explained the lot size and density restrictions, a half-acre lot size is the minimum allowable. Wensel said that the ordinance excludes swine as there is a lot more that goes into raising pigs. The ordinance also excludes the town of Jacksonville (R2).

A clear definition needs to be made regarding livestock vs. pets. The ordinance will not regulate household pets, strictly livestock. What is considered large animals and what is considered small animals also needs to be more clearly defined. Holloway presented different examples of how the calculations work to determine how many animals of what size are allowed on properties. Chapman suggested putting a clause in for 4-H and like clubs.

It was decided that Weight needs to provide input on what fees he feels are acceptable for the amount of work that will need done.

Wensel proposed that the Planning Commission prepare a final draft for the Board of Supervisors before it is sent to the solicitor. He also suggested sending a letter to every property owner when the ordinance is ready for review.

On a motion by Wensel and second by Chapman, the motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. 5-0.

Angel Emery, Secretary/Treasurer

Archie Gettig Jr., Chairman of BOS

Matthew Wensel, Chairman of PC

Herbert Chapman, Vice Chairman of BOS

Christie Holloway, Vice Chairman of PC

John R. Dillon, Supervisor and PC Member