

Crow Wing Township Planning Commission Meeting May 1, 2023, 6:00 PM

Commission Members Present: Brad Arnold (Chair), and Commissioners Dan Lee, Linda Schuety, David Nelson, Paul Stephany (Township Board Supervisor), & Sue Kern (Township Clerk). Scott Saehr, Planning and Zoning Administrator was not in attendance. Brad called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearings: None.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Linda added a complaint from a resident regarding a property on Barrows Avenue.

Open Forum: Dan mentioned a resident had difficulty reaching someone to get his application. The matter was already resolved at the time of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The April 3, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed. Dan made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Paul seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 3-0. Linda and David abstained as they were not in attendance.

New Business: Short Term Rental Contract: Brad stated that he has talked to the Town Board and Scott Saehr regarding short term rentals. The Crow Wing County Ordinance was reviewed. Brad stated the Township is required by law to be at least as restrictive as the County. Brad mentioned the Town Board had concerns about more government, more rules and questioned the permit fees. It was noted the contract is only until 12/31/2023. Brad stated the fees are \$100 per bedroom and the number of bedrooms determines the septic size. The rentals are short term and would be for less than 30 days and are defined in the ordinance. The County will police it if the Township adopts it. A public hearing would be required to adopt it into the Ordinance. The options are to table it until December 31st, adopt it and reconsider it in December when it expires to see how it worked out or to write our own Ordinance which would be very costly. Brad felt it was a benefit to the Township to sign on to the agreement as is and consider it again in December after having seen how it works and if there would be changes in the Ordinance at that time. We may not have any STR's or there may be a few along a bike path, for example, at some point but we currently don't have any in our township that we know of. He stated there was nothing harmful or threatening to our residents. STR's would have to be advertised. Scott has talked to Chris Pence and updated the language. The Commission agreed (5-0) to accept the County's Ordinance as presented until December and go from there. Brad would contact Scott about publishing a hearing in the paper and putting it on the website. Brad asked the topic to be put on the Township Board Agenda as an action item.

Complaints: Brad stated that the complaints are confidential/anonymous but must be a written complaint. A written complaint has been handed to the clerk for 10207 Heron Street. Brad has talked to the person who filed the complaint. Brad stated there are 5 cars on the property, there were no piles of garbage but certainly piles of stuff. There was no evidence of burning garbage. Brad will talk to Scott, and he will look up the parcel number, make a phone call, write a letter, and invite the owner to our next meeting.

Linda mentioned the complaint on Barrows Avenue. There was no written complaint. Brad also mentioned he wanted a follow up letter written to **Mary Ream**. Dan mentioned there was a complaint regarding horses along Thunder Ridge. Brad stated that he had talked to them.

Survey Review for Minor/Major Subdivisions: The Ordinance was reviewed. Scott had mentioned the permit fee was lower than it should be as it does not cover the cost of a survey and his fees. On a Major subdivision the applicant pays the survey fees. Brad will review the financials for P&Z Fund. No action was taken.

Old Business: Planning Commission Appointments: The appointments were to be made in February but due to Brad's medical leave of absence, the matter needed to be resolved that night. The Chairman and Vice Chair positions were discussed at length. Brad mentioned he had been the Chairman for 20 years and encouraged others to take a turn and he would gladly mentor them. He intended to stay on the Commission but did not want to be Chairman forever. Dan nominated Brad to be Chairman and David as Vice Chair. David declined as he would like another year before becoming an officer. Dan and Linda did not want to be Chair. Dan withdrew his motion. David made a motion to have Brad as Chair and Dan as Vice Chair. The matter was discussed at length. Paul seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

P&Z Administrator's Report: The permits, subdivisions and on-going work reports were reviewed. Several of the ongoing work is being resolved or in progress.

Town Board Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Linda made the motion to adjourn. David seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.