

Joint Special Town Board and Plan Commission Meeting – September 12, 2016

Posted August 31, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Town of Russell Garage, Town Clerk’s Office and Town website. Notices sent to the Ashland Daily Press and Bayfield County Journal.

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Mark Bugher at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Russell Garage. Roll call was taken as follows; present Supervisors Jeff Benton, Larry Meierotto and Don Sullivan. The Plan Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Meierotto and roll call was taken as follows; Commissioners, Ann Bowker, Tessa Levens, and Jeff Benton were present. Clerk/Treasurer David L. Good was also present. Town Board Chairman Paul “Rocky” Tribovich and Plan Commissioner Kathy Wendling were excused.

Ten Town Electors/members of the public were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of the agenda – A motion was made by Town Board Supervisor Sullivan and seconded by Benton to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried. A motion was made by Plan Commission Commissioner Bowker and seconded by Benton to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT – Bugher asked if public input should be held at the beginning or end of the meeting. Discussion was held that one committee could hold public input at the beginning of the meeting and the other the end of the meeting. Steve Oberle questioned why adjacent land owners were not notified about this development and what were the attachments to the meeting notice. It was explained that this is an informational meeting only and that no actionable items are offered for approval. The attachment to the meeting notice pertained to airplane landing strips and was available on the Town website. He was provided a copy of the attachment.

NEW BUSINESS

Wayne Nelson and his representative Craig Haukaas spoke briefly on the planned development of the Boulder Pointe property. They stressed that the purpose of this meeting was to start an open dialog with the Town and the public about development possibilities for this property. Re-zoning would be necessary to accomplish the type of development proposed as well as changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion with the Board, Commissioners and public was held.

The meeting was recessed as the group traveled to the Boulder Pointe site which is located approximately one mile to the west of the Town Garage on the hill side. The first stop was the site of the gravel pit. This pit was previously approved with a 10-year operating permit. Discussion was held regarding the need for a longer term permit, 25-years, to make and recover the investment necessary to develop the site. Discussion with the public and others was held.

The next stop was further up the hill side to the site of a proposed airplane landing site. Nelson explained that this would be a private landing strip to serve potential residents. No lights, beacons, or towers were planned. Home sites with parking for planes were being proposed. Discussion with the public and others was held.

The next stop was at the top of the ridge where home sites would be proposed. The potential concept for an upper and lower level for homes was held. The view of the valley, lake and islands admired. Extensive discussion regarding how many home sites, area of land to be developed, access roads, and general discussion about the development was held as well as the possible impacts of a gravel pit within the close proximity of the home sites.

Vice-Chairman Bugher left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Many questions regarding the specific details of this development were asked. Nelson stressed that no specific plans have been developed at this time. Before he proceeds with design and the necessary permits, re-zoning, etc. he wants assurance that this development is supported by the Town Board, Plan Commission and Town residents. Discussion with the public and others was held. He thanked everyone for coming to this informational meeting.

A motion to adjourn the Plan Commission meeting at 7:37 p.m. was made by Levens and seconded by Bowker. The motion carried. A motion to adjourn the Town Board meeting at 7:38 p.m. was made by Benton and seconded by Sullivan. The motion carried.

The minutes respectfully submitted by:

David L. Good – Clerk/Treasurer