

**PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2008 SPECIAL MEETING**

Members Present: Howard Balzer, Christopher Finn, Glen Hymer, and Hulda Moffitt

Members Absent: Judy Stalter

Others Present: Dana Scott, Zoning Clerk; and Pam Williams, Township Resident

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Howard Balzer, Chairman, at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Balzer noted that this was considered a “special” meeting because the meeting date had been changed from November 25th to the 18th.

Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Balzer asked for a motion to approve or correct the October 28, 2008 Prairie Township Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes.

As there were no corrections, Mr. Finn moved to approve the October 28, 2008 Zoning Commission Minutes as written. Mr. Hymer seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows:

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| 1. Glen Hymer | Aye |
| 2. Christopher Finn | Aye |
| 3. Hulda Moffitt | Aye |
| 4. Howard Balzer | Aye |

The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Electronic Billboard

Ms. Scott informed the Commission that the Board of Zoning Appeals had for a second time tabled Lamar Outdoor Advertising’s application requesting a variance from the provisions of Section 1202, #1 and #2, to allow the firm to place an electronic message center on the eastbound face of the billboard located at 4601 West Broad Street.

Although the BZA had planned to act upon the request at its November 11th meeting, the Board did not do so because it was still gathering and reviewing information it deemed necessary to make a well-informed decision.

Ms. Scott said that Daktronics, the company that will manufacture the proposed Lamar electronic message board, recently provided seven packets of information for the BZA. Ms. Scott said that she emailed Daktronics and requested additional packets so that the

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information can be given to the Zoning Commission as well. She will distribute them to members as soon as they become available.

Ms. Williams remarked that the BZA's concern was not so much about this specific Lamar electronic billboard. She said that the applicant, Ed Hunt, has been remarkably cooperative and forthright with the BZA and is a very principled person. Rather, the Board of Zoning Appeals is more concerned about being adequately prepared once a precedent for an electronic billboard has been set in the Township. The Board is proceeding with caution because it is aware that future applicants for sign variances might not be so upstanding.

Other Emerging Sign Technology

Mr. Hymer remarked that another example of new sign technology is the solar powered LED-bordered stop sign at the intersection of routes #40 and #142. He said that the LED sign is much brighter and visible from a greater distance than a traffic sign with reflective sheeting placed over it.

Mr. Balzer observed that solar powered highway information signs and solar panels on poles that monitor weather conditions that affect road safety are becoming commonplace.

Both Mr. Hymer and Mr. Balzer counseled that it would be better to plan for and accept the new sign technology rather than resist it.

Next Meeting:

Mr. Balzer informed Commission members that the fourth Tuesday of December falls on the 23rd—Christmas week. Therefore, he asked if they wanted to reschedule the meeting. By consent the Zoning Commission decided to change the meeting to December 16th—the third Tuesday.

Mr. Balzer announced that the next meeting of the Prairie Township Zoning Commission would be Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 23 Maple Drive.

There being no further business, Mr. Balzer adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hulda Moffitt, Secretary
Prairie Township Zoning Commission

