

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

THORN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

SPECIAL SESSION

Held: January 23, 2012

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The Board of Trustees of Thorn Township convened in special session in the Township Office. Trustee Dale Factor called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Billie Dearlove	Absent	Dale Factor	Present
Richard Wilson	Present	Robert Coleman	Present

Deborah Morgan was in attendance to take minutes on behalf of Billie Dearlove

Other Attendees: Julian Dornon, Vernon Warner, Richard Harris, Ron Baker, Jeff Zemalong, Bob Combs, Rick McCance, Pete Meyer and Sheri Ray.

Trustee Factor stated that this special meeting was scheduled to hear public comments and discussion about the proposed zoning language additions dealing with boat docks and skill games.

Skill Game Language

Dale asked Zoning Inspector Todd Brune to give everyone in attendance a brief history of how and why this language was developed. Todd explained how the language was developed. Rick Wilson had questions concerning who checks to see if the licenses that are required are actually in place. Discussion was held.

After discussion it was decided that all language dealing with licensing would be removed leaving only language dealing with the location and definition of skill games. Further discussion was held.

Dale asked Sherri Ray, since she currently operates a skill game in the Township, if she had any issues with the proposed language. Sherri Ray stated that she doesn't have any issues with the proposed language.

Dale explained to everyone the time frame in which the Trustees have to make a decision and criteria used for making decisions on the proposed language.

It was clarified that Sections 28.04 through 28.11 of the proposed language be removed. Rick Wilson moved to accept the addition of the proposed skill game language to the current zoning resolution leaving out proposed sections 28.04 through 28.11, Bob Coleman seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Boat Dock Language

Todd gave a brief explanation as to why and how this proposed language was developed.

Bob Coleman wanted to know what kind of body of water is this dealing with, is this all bodies of water such as ponds? It was clarified to Bob that this proposed language and its location will be in Lake Residential which designates the area as the Lake.

Further discussion was held on the issue of the canals/channels which are located in Thorn Township being private property or are they owned by the state.

Soup Dornon voiced his concerns over the Township trying to govern/zone private channels/canals. He would agree to paying a dock fee but feels the neighbors in this area should work out things such as location and placement of docks.

Further discussion was held on who does and doesn't pay state fees and how this would possibly be double taxing some.

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Dale questioned each person in attendance as to their opinion of this proposed boat dock zoning language:

Soup Dornon: Agrees that a dock fee would be appropriate but that's it.

Richard Harris: Mr. Harris stated that there should be consistency between the state regulations and our proposed regulations.

Ron Baker: Mr. Baker is concerned about the possible impact this language would have on the rest of the lake. Mr. Baker stated that he is opposed to all of this proposed language and feels that it is just another way to collect money. He also suggested that the Township go to the State and discuss this because the state has jurisdiction since they own the water.

Rick McCance (Chairman of the Zoning Board): Explained the board's intentions with this proposed language and also explained that the language is stated in such a way that residents of the township would not be double taxed if they are currently paying fees to the state.

Jeff Zemolong (Member of the Zoning Board): Stated that he opposes this language and did vote against sending it to the trustees. Mr. Zemolong stated that he feels that this should be an issue for neighbors to work out and if you are purchasing a home in the area and don't like the current location of a dock that just don't buy the home. It should be an issue for neighbors to decide together as to where the docks would be placed. He feels that there should be some sort of language in place but feels this current proposed language is not it and it needs more work.

Pete Myers: Stated that he applauds the effort in trying to be pro-active with this issue. There needs to be zoning in place dealing with this issue due to the fact that there possibly could be future law-suits dealing with this issue so getting something on the books before is a good idea.

Trustee Coleman wanted to know if someone that may not be able to meet the listed criteria for boat docks could apply for a variance. It was clarified that a variance could be applied for.

After no further discussion it was decided by all Trustees that they would like to consider all information and public comments concerning this issue and no decision would be made during this meeting.

Bob Coleman moved to adjourn the special meeting, Rick Wilson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Absent

Billie Dearlove

Robert Coleman

Richard Wilson

Dale Factor