

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, PLANNING, AND ZONING COMMITTEE
WOODFORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS
WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023
5:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Nick Miller, Blake Parsons, Zach Ferris, and Dan Steffen were present. John Krug and Erik Gibson were also present. Nathan Schertz was absent.

2. Approval of Monthly claims:

Mr. Steffen made the motion to approve the monthly claims, seconded by Ferris. *Motion Carried.*

3. Approval of January 9, 2023 minutes:

Mr. Parsons made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Steffen. *Motion Carried.*

4. Public Input: None

5. Unfinished Business: None

6. New Business:

- a) Annual Zoning Update. Ms. Jording provided the annual update(attached) it was noted that permit number were up significantly from prior years with solar being a main driver.

7. Planning and Zoning Issues:

a) Discussion and action on Wind and Solar Setback regulations required as a result of Public Act 102-1123 Ms. Jording provided two options for text amendments, one would modify the existing Wind and Solar sections to be compliant with the new statutory requirements the other option would be to eliminate the Special Use requirements and have the companies just apply for zoning permits in the office.

Ms. Jording and Mr. Gibson discussed that the statue sets the regulatory requirements so the county has no ability to add additional regulations. If the company meets the requirements of the statute and any ordinance passed in compliance with the statute the County shall issue the Special Use. Mr. Gibson discussed that we could continue to require Special Use Hearings, it would allow an opportunity for the public to come in and express concerns, however the Zoning Board would not have the ability to recommend denial if the company meets the state requirements. The committee discussed that continuing to have a Special Use requirement increases the work load of the Zoning office and Zoning Board of Appeals without the benefit of being able to deny or even place restrictions on Special Use Ordinances. Ms. Jording explained that we are required to have the ordinance amended by May 27 to comply with state law, in order to accomplish that we will need to take these changes to the March or April ZBA, she encouraged them to take it to the March Hearing to provide some time to adjust verbiage if necessary and return to April ZBA. Motion to submit changes removing the requirement for Commercial Wind and Solar Special Use to the Zoning Board of Appeals as presented made by Parsons, seconded by Steffen. *Motion Carried.*

8. Executive session (if necessary) None

9. Any action coming out of Executive Session:

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Parsons at 7:00 pm, seconded by Steffen. *Motion Carried.*

Lisa Jording, Secretary

Nick Miller, Chairman

Date