

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 22th, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203
Special Meeting

The Franklin County Commissioners met in a regular meeting on October 25, 2022 at 10 am in the Commissioner /Council Meeting Room. Those present were Tom Wilson, Gerald Wendel, Erica Cowan, Fayette Hay, and Austin Jolliff,

Open: Tom W opened the meeting with the Pledge 10:02am

Tom Wilson Stated that the meeting today was for Zoning amendments related to Surveyor standards and to discuss nuisance ordinance. He proposed Surveyor standards where the surveyor would review and approval all applications for drainage, Tom stated they should be going to the APC for approval then the Commissioners.

County Attorney Grant Reeves spoke on possibly adding in a section on definitions. Have to send to APC for it to be publish for the APC meeting in December, if not will have to be for January meeting. Tom stated that if it isn't adopted then I can't be followed.

Surveyor Rob Seig stated CIC code has not been updated since 2010 or 2011. He was asking Commissioners to work with him on creating a new surveyor standard that will help him be an equal party and not unfair. He further stated that he is willing to go through APC if necessary. Surveyor Seig requested that no new applications should be approved until there is new standard passed and put in place.

Several audience members spoke questioning why the Surveyor would be approving drainage plans.

Mr. Bauman, County resident and developer, had concerns over the surveyor being the only one to approve or deny drainage plans for the entire county. Stated that the rules are already in place for the CIC code. As a developer, he favored having the APC board or Commissioners approve or Deny drainage plans. This would avoid any favoritism or biased decisions.

Mr. Bauman Requested and audit of the new equipment and software purchased by the County to make sure it has not been used for the personal business of Rob Seig.

Gerald Wendel asked Attorney Grant Reeves to weigh in on this matter. He suggested to create a policy with Commissioners, Tom Wilson said they should just pass it onto APC to review and change what they wanted and then bring back to Commissioners for final approval.

Tom Wilson stated that there is still CIC rules in place and state laws. Mr. Bauman came back and asked if Rob is now a Water/Sewage expert. He stated that the rules are in place already so there shouldn't be any problems. APC is supposed to adopt the rules and the commissioners would agree to the rules. Suggested that they remove the word "Surveyor" and replace it with "APC" or "Commissioners".

Mr. Bauman questioned Surveyor Seig how many cornerstones we have in the county, Mr. Seig could not answer.

Mr. Bauman asked him how many he has checked, Mr. Seig responded with 5%, Mr. Bauman asked how many that was and Mr. Seig responded with 12. Mr. Bauman further stated the surveyor has been in office 2 years and has not accomplished what he was elected to do by Indiana Law.

Mr. Bauman stated Mr. Seig was feeding his own business. Mr Seig said water is and continues to be a problem for the county and has resorted in deaths. Mr. Bauman stated the Gobbles Creek and Sanes Creek incidents were not caused from development as Mr. Seig had previously stated were that causes.

Mr. Seig had reported Mr. Bauman to the state 3 different times with no findings.

County resident Marty Hacker requested that the Commissioners get a policy in place before 2000 homes were to be built on Reservoir. Mr. Hacker also stated from the audience that if Mr. Bauman or any other developers were not doing anything wrong, then he should not have a problem with a new policy.

Darrell Kramer, Gus Adams, APC board members, requested that if there were a new policy within the next month, they would like a copy to properly review it before their next meeting. Stated they have had issues before with receiving a large document to review on the day of the meeting, not giving them adequate time to review the document.

Mr. Bauman again spoke to APC members asking if they were aware that Mr. Seigs new standard is 110 pages long and the particular standard policy was drafted from the city of Batesville, which is currently being updated form being out of date. Mr. Seig commented, that he was aware of where the policy came from.

APC members, Kramer and Adams turned back to Mr. Bauman asking if the current policy would be illegal or if the "surveyor" drafted a drainage plan would it be illegal. Mr. Bauman explained some of what the current standards are.

Mr. Bauman again requested and audit of Mr. Seigs software.

County Attorney, Grant Reeves, stated that we needed to remain discussing only what was on the agenda. Mr. Reeves stated Commissioners needed to either agree to send the policy to the APC board or they could postpone it to the next Commissioners meeting for further discussion.

Discussion among audience members about who wanted change and the reason for the change and what was different from new policy to the current policy.

Mr. Bauman stated the CIC code was in place and to use it until the new policy/standards get put in place. Mr. Bauman asked if Indiana Law already had standards, Mr. Seig Replied with, YES.

Clerk, Neysa Raible, approached Commissioners, requesting that the Commissioners adopt a policy like Dearborn County has, that her husband builds houses and has to follow policies.

Commissioner, Gerald Wendel made a motion for APC to review and come back to Commissioners to present it. Tom Wilson 2nd

APC members requested that they get more time to review the standard and possibly present in January.

Commissioner, Gerald Wendel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tom Wilson 2nd AIF

Tom Wilson AYES

Tom Wilson

Tom Linkel

Gerald Wendel

Gerald Wendel

ATTESTED BY: *Karla J. Bauman*

Karla J. Bauman, Auditor

NAYS

Tom Wilson

Tom Linkel

Gerald Wendel