
**Porter County Board of Zoning Appeals
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Zoning Appeals was held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, in the Porter County Administrative Center, 155 Indiana Avenue, Suite 205, Valparaiso, Indiana. Debbie Cook presided.

Members present were: Luther Williams, Ken Williams, Michael Young and Debbie Cook. Also present were Attorney Scott McClure, Kristy Marasco, Monica Gee, Helene Pierce, citizens, and representatives of the press.

MINUTES:

Michael Young made a motion to approve the July 17, 2019 minutes as submitted. Ken Williams seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

UV-14-0041 – Jill Lowrey, 630 Springwood Drive, Hebron, IN in Porter Township in the RR, Rural Residential zoning district. Petitioner has requested to terminate the Use Variance allowing a small in-home pet sitting business.

Motion: Michael Young made a motion to approve the request to terminate the Use Variance as requested. Ken Williams seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

UV-19-0056 – Darrell Sowles, 242 West 900 South, Hebron, IN in Boone Township in the A1, General Agriculture zoning district. Petitioner is seeking a Use Variance to continue the operation of a well drilling business with outside storage. Mr. Darrell Sowles presented. There have been no changes.

Public Hearing: Debbie Cook asked if any of the public would like to speak in favor of or in opposition of this petition. Debbie Cook also asked that the public address their questions to the BZA while at the same time the petitioner will take notes and respond at one time. No one spoke; therefore, the public hearing was closed, and questions/comments were heard by the Members.

C: The last two (2) motions have had some stipulations that included putting up a fence, limiting the number of on-site vehicles to ten (10), tanks being removed, and the property being cleaned up. There is consistently more than ten (10) vehicles without counting the rigs, the fence has not been put up, and the property never seems to be cleaned up.

Q: How many of the vehicles are registered?

A: All of the vehicles, except five (5), are registered.

Q: What about the fence? Why was that not installed as required?

A: I had a heart attack and my daughter had a tumor that caused us to have unexpected medical bills and I was not able to work in the property as I had hoped.

C: This property has a number of concerns and the renewals seem to be getting closer together because nothing ever seems to get done as planned or required. Upon further discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Ken Williams made a motion to continue UV-19-0056 for one (1) month during which time the County Code Enforcement Officer will visit the site, inspect the site and take updated photos so that at the next meeting the Board Members are able to have a clear picture of what needs to be removed and where the fence needs to be placed. Between now and then, the petitioner will do what he can to get the property cleaned up and have a plan as to when he can actually comply with the stipulations. The petitioner may continue to operate his drilling business during the month continuance. Luther Williams seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried 4-0.

STAFF ITEMS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the August 21, 2019 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Debbie Kerr-Cook, President

Attest: Kristy Marasco, Assistant Director