

**June 26, 2006 Special Meeting
of the Grant County Plan Commission Board
County Council Chambers
401 South Adams Street
Marion, IN 46953**

The Grant County Plan Commission Board held a special meeting on June 26, 2006. The Board met to appoint members to the Advisory Committee (formed to research possible amendments to the Grant County Zoning Ordinance as it regulates Confined Feeding Operations). Staff members Tanya Ford (Executive Director) and Brenda Harrison were present. All Board members were present except for John Woodmansee and Dick Treon.

Tony Manry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Procedures and ex-parte communication were not discussed because this was not a public hearing.

Appointment of members to the Advisory Committee

Tanya Ford read the composition of the committee, which was established at the last meeting, to the Board. The Plan Commission Board is to appoint all members.

- One representative of the County Council
- One representative of the County Commissioners
- Three representatives of the Plan Commission
- Four concerned/interested citizens to be broken down as follows:
 - One livestock farmer or their representative
 - One crop farmer or their representative
 - Two interested citizens
- Executive Director of Area Plan, as a non-voting member

Tanya Ford explained that once the Plan Commission Board had voted to establish the advisory committee, the Office received many calls of interest. So they instructed all interested candidates to submit a profile. The profile would have to include their name and contact information, background, and any special skills or qualifications.

She also explained that if any of the Board members had someone in mind, other than a person who had submitted a profile, that it was appropriate to bring their name to the Board for consideration as well.

Bob Highley questioned whether the Commissioners had provided the name of who they wanted to represent them on the Committee.

Tanya Ford stated that she believed that it was Mr. Bardsley. Mark Bardsley stated that was correct.

Tanya stated she had not heard back from the Council yet on whom they wanted appointed. She asked Mr. Brankle if they had voted on or had a discussion on which they wanted. He said not a formal discussion, but they all were in agreement it would be him.

Mr. Manry then questioned if Mr. Brankle and Mr. Bardsley were on the committee then should the Council's and Commissioner's appointments to the Board not be eligible (i.e. Rana Vetor and Keith Roorbach). Mrs. Ford stated that it would be up to the Board whether or not they felt the two could be appointed, because the composition of the committee was for three Board members. It was not specified who the three board members could or could not be. There are no legal guidelines on the composition of the committee. Mr. Manry then asked if the Board could a different Commissioner or Councilman to the committee. Mrs. Ford stated that it was specified at the last meeting that the Plan Commission Board would appoint all members to the Committee; therefore, the Board could appoint whoever they wanted.

Mrs. Ford then brought to the attention of the Plan Commission Board that there were two interested candidates for the committee that did not reside in Grant County. However, these candidates either owned a substantial amount land in the County or worked for a company that owned a substantial amount land in the County. The Board needed to decide if this was an issue for them before they began appointing people to the committee. The Board wanted to know who the two candidates where. Mark Townsend who owns property and a business in the County. Brad Sommers who works for Pop Weaver.

Bob Highley asked if any of the Plan Commission Board members had expressed an interest in being on the committee. Mrs. Ford stated that John Woodmansee and Tony Manry had expressed a desire to be on the committee. Rana Vetor stated she would be willing to serve on the committee. John Bonham and Dr. Fox stated they would be willing as well.

Mrs. Ford explained to the Board that they should vote on each member appointed to the committee. There were questions from the Board on who they should appoint for the County Council. Mr. Brankle stated he was the designated choice for the Council even though they had not had a formal meeting. Mrs. Ford clarified with Mr. Brankle that the Council had discussed the appointment to the committee and had agreed upon him.

1.) Mr. Highley made a motion to approve Mark Bardlsey as the Commissioner appointment.

Mr. Brankle seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2.) Mr. Roorbach made a motion to approve Myron Brankle as the Council appointment.

Mrs. Owen seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

3.) Mr. Highley made a motion to approve John Woodmansee as a Plan Commission appointment.

Mr. Trobridge seconded the motion.

Motion passed with Mr. Brankle casting the only dissenting vote.

4.) Mr. Highley made a motion to approve Tony Manry as a Plan Commission appointment.

Mrs. Owen seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

5.) Mr. Roorbach made a motion to approve Rana Vetter as a Plan Commission appointment.

Mr. Trobridge seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brankle then made a statement about Ronald Thurman, as the crop farmer appointment. He stated that Mr. Thurman had operated a confined feeding operation in the past. He also is a crop farmer. Mr. Brankle felt he would be a good candidate to be on the committee.

Mr. Highley clarified the fact that only one candidate met the qualifications for a livestock farmer – Mark Townsend. All board members agreed. Mr. Highley then questioned whether sufficient notice had been given to potential candidates. Mrs. Ford stated she felt that it had – the newspapers in the county did front page stories on the CFO/CAFO meeting and the committee. Mr. Bardsley stated he felt there were numerous people at the last meeting who could have volunteered if they were interested.

Mr. Roorbach asked if any board member had an issue with Mr. Townsend not living in the County, but owning property and a business. Mr. Townsend stated he had about 20,000 hogs between Blackford and Grant Counties. In Blackford County he had two CAFOs. Mr. Townsend stated that the Townsends had moved to Blackford County in 1839 from New York State. They have lived here every since. He likes to think that between his family and his neighbors that longevity shows that animal agricultural and neighbors can get along. There is a school, a campground and a church near by and they do not have any problems with each other. He believes in a reasonable common sense approach, that everything has a place, and that animal agriculture is good for the state. Mr. Bonham stated he knew Mr. Townsend and truly felt that he would be balanced and fair.

6.) Mr. Roorbach made a motion to approve Mr. Townsend.

Mr. Bonham seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Manry stated Pop Weaver was very interested in this issue and would like to be part of the committee. Mr. Sommer would be the representative from Pop Weaver. Mr. Chris Williams was present to represent Mr. Sommer. Mr. Sommer was raised on a dairy farm.

He is a microbiologist. He is in charge of all quality assurance for the company. He would have, at his disposal, all the experts working for Pop Weaver.

7.) Mrs. Vctor made a motion to approve Mr. Sommer.

Mr. Bonham seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thurman was asked to come forward. Mr. Brankle stated again that he felt Mr. Thurman would be a good choice. Mr. Thurman stated he felt he could be open and fair. Mr. Roorbach asked where Mr. Thurman had operated his CFO. Mr. Highley asked why they had ceased their CFO.

8.) Mr. Roorbach made the motion to approve Mr. Thurman

Mrs. Owen seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

Rana requested that all people that had submitted a profile that were present be identified. The Board decided to have all interested applicants to come to the microphone so that the Board could ask questions of them.

Mr. Marshall stated he would like to be on the committee to hear both sides of the issue. Mr. Trobridge asked that since Mr. Marshall lived within half a mile of the proposed site had he already made up his mind. Mr. Marshall stated he had not and that he wanted to make sure that anything going in would meet all the requirements and not hurt property values. Mr. Manry stated that Mr. and Mrs. Marshall had done extensive research into CFOs.

Mr. Street stated he would like to be on the committee because he is concerned and cares. He has a crude oil background and it is obvious this is an issue for this county. He is able to pull records and is familiar with the Geological Surveys. He would educate the Board and the Committee on the issues so that they can make decisions. He said the east side of the county had much better records than the west side of the county (for abandoned oil wells). He said he could get all the records on the wells.

Mr. Schimdt was not present.

Mr. Marley stated he has lived in Indiana all his live. He has worked on environmental issues in Grant County for the last sixteen years. He feels that the CFO issue needs to be addressed because where there is one, then others will follow. He is not personally against CFOs, but he is against what they stand for.

Mr. Cox was not present.

Mr. Yeager was not present.

Mrs. Thurman stated that her husband has seen all the information she has dug up on this issue. Her main concern is location, location, location.

Mrs. Marshall stated she would like to be on the committee. There were no questions for her.

Mrs. Thurman asked if she could make a statement for Mr. Cox. The Board did not feel that was necessary.

Mr. Brankle stated he was impressed by Mr. Street's experience and knowledge. He feels he would be a good asset. Mr. Roorbach agrees; however, he hesitates because he wants to make sure Mr. Street could go in with an open mind. Mr. Street stated he could be open and that under the right circumstances a CFO could be good thing. Mr. Highley asked Mr. Street if he thought there was a good place in Grant County to locate a CFO. Mr. Street stated he was not qualified to say and that it would involve a lot of research.

Mr. Bonham voiced his concern that people did not realize the importance of viewing the amendment to the ordinance for the County as a whole. Mr. Manry added that the amendment will apply to the entire county, not just Van Buren Township. He explained the process for approving an ordinance amendment. Mr. Bonham and Mr. Manry stated the importance of involving all the Town Councils in this process from the beginning. Mr. Manry stated emphatically that we can not outlaw CFOs in Grant County. We cannot make the rules so stringent in that a CFO could not locate here.

Mr. Bonham said he felt that it would have been helpful if IDEM would have had a public hearing on this issue. He feels that it would be beneficial to know the rules of IDEM because they are the rules we have to start with. Concerns with enforcement by IDEM are an issue that has been raised. Mr. Bonham has found, from the Town of Upland, that it is best to meet with IDEM in the beginning instead of waiting until there is a violation. He feels that we need to have someone from IDEM come speak with us. He feels it should be put on the Agenda for the Towns and requests their input. He also brought up SEA 35. He feels that this bill will definitely have ramifications on what we do with this issue.

Mr. Trobridge asked how long the cessation of permits was passed for. Mr. Manry stated 6 months, but that the Board had promised to try to not take the entire six months.

The Board discussed the qualification of Mr. Yeager, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Cox. Mrs. Thurman spoke in favor of Mr. Schmidt and his qualifications.

9.) Mr. Brankle made a motion to approve Mr. Street to the committee
Mr. Trobridge seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Bardsley abstaining.

Tony Manry explained the duty of the committee and the process for getting an amendment approved.

John Bonham requested that the committee and board meet together with a representative from IDEM at the next meeting. The board decided to set a special meeting date in July.

2007 Budget Proposal

Mrs. Ford presented the 2007 budget to the Plan Commission for their review. She explained the changes in the budget from last year.
The Board was fine with the proposed budget.

The board requested a list of the existing confined feeding operations in the county.

Mr. Bonham move to adjourn the meeting
Mr. Brankle seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by:

Tony Manry - Chairman