

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF APPEALS

October 18, 2007

The Saugatuck Zoning Board of Appeals met on October 18, 2007, at the township hall on Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Present: Pam Marczuk, Tedd Oyler, Bill Rowe

Absent: None

Also present: Z. A. Ellingsen, Chief John Blok, Greg Janik

Chairman Oyler called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

One hearing was scheduled: A request from the Saugatuck Township Fire District, 3352 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453 (Parcel #'s 0320-010-018-40 & -50) for a variance to place a permanent sign in the road right-of-way to transmit public service announcements to the citizens of the Fire District.

Chairman Oyler read the notice from the paper.

Approval of May 10, 2007 & July 12, 2007 minutes, motioned by Rowe to approve the ZBA minutes, Marczuk seconded. Unanimously approve.

Chairman Oyler stated that the sign has already been erected.

Z. A. Ellingsen explained he had spoken with Janik when he was out of town. Janik stated he wanted to place the sign in the ROW. In the ordinance the sign is compliant but the placement of the sign is not. The fire departments lot has specific problems of the placing of the sign because of physical limitation. There are signs along Blue Star Hwy that are not allowable but the ordinance changed last year and now they may be grandfathered in. Planner Sission thought it was allowable but Atty Bultje disagreed with that.

Chairman Oyler had an e-mail from Bill Nelson stating he had no objection to the erection of the sign.

Chief Blok stated he thought after the approval from the road commission. Than after talking to Z.A. Ellingsen they were to come before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Chief Blok stated there was another sign 2 feet closer than the fire dept sign. Chief Blok stated the sign would give out public announcements. Also the sign would stand out so it would be noticed and would be able to see the fire dept.

Chairman Oyler mentioned if there would be another place they could locate that sign. Chief Blok mentioned he could cut down trees and remove the berm and therefore still come before the ZBA for a variance because of the tree ordinance.

Chairman Oyler mentioned there were 2 letters received in support for the erection of the sign. RJ Peterson and the other from Saugatuck City Manager, Kirk Harrier.

Chairman Oyler went through the conditions to see weather or not a variance is issued.

- 1) Can the land be reasonably built or used in conformance with the Ordinance? Oyler-No, Rowe-No, Marczuk-No.
- 2) Was the hardship self-imposed? Oyler-No, Rowe-No, Marczuk-No.
- 3) Do unique circumstances exist for this parcel? Oyler-Yes, Rowe-Yes, Marczuk-Yes.
- 4) Would a variance alter the character of the neighborhood? Oyler-No, Rowe-No, Marczuk-No.
- 5) Do unique or exceptional extraordinary conditions apply to this property that generally do not apply to other properties in the same zoning district? Oyler-Yes, Rowe-Yes, Marczuk-Yes.

Rowe made a motion to approve the variance with the condition to complete and file a sign permit. Marczuk seconded. Carried Unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Lori Babinski, Recording Secretary