

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road – Conference Room A
Woodstock, IL 60098

Minutes of Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ann Gilman, Chairman

Jim Heisler	Ann Kate
Peter Merkel	Marc Munaretto
Virginia Peschke	Barbara Wheeler

Chairman Gilman called the Planning and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:18 a.m. The following members were present: Ann Gilman, Jim Heisler, Ann Kate, Virginia Peschke, Barbara Wheeler and Pete Merkel. Mr. Munaretto arrived at 8:20 a.m. Also in attendance: Planning and Development Department staff members; interested public; and press.

MINUTE APPROVAL

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, to approve the regular session minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meeting of December 1, 2005. The minutes were approved as presented with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

PRESENTATION: None.

SUBDIVISIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Violations – Discussion on Fines: Chairman Gilman reported that this discussion is relative to fines for violations of the Burning Ordinance. Currently there is a maximum fine of \$500, but a minimum fine has not been set. Typically, the courts have imposed very low fines (\$10, \$15, or \$20) for such violations. She felt that the Committee may want to establish a minimum fine for burning violations. Ms. Ehardt stated that a repeat offender is usually imposed a higher fine but such fines are still low. She noted that the minimum inspection fee is set at \$62.00 to help cover staff time, field work, wear and tear on equipment, etc. Fees can be higher depending on staff time involved in processing paperwork. Mr. Munaretto stated these are all costs of doing business and he cautioned against imposing a fine to recoup service costs. Ms. Peschke stated that to her knowledge fire districts charge if they come out to put out a fire. Ms. Ehardt responded that fire districts do charge and their rate depends upon the results and nature of the fire. She knew of one case that was \$4,000. Chairman Gilman asked staff to prepare an ordinance amending the burning ordinance to impose a minimum fine. She stated that she finds the recent discussions on the Burning Ordinance interesting since the County does not have the will to adopt a smoking ban. Ms. Peschke responded that the Public Health & Human Services has never received such a request and to her knowledge no local municipality has adopted such a ban in public places.

REPORTS

Chairman Gilman announced that reports will be deferred to the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS: Chairman Gilman stated she has prepared comments for the Committee of the Whole meeting and distributed information to the members for that meeting. Ms. Peschke questioned if a State's Attorney's opinion has been received regarding if the Plan Commissioners serve until they have been replaced. Chairman Gilman was not aware of this request nor did Ms. Peschke know who had raised this question.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Munaretto made a motion, seconded by Mr. Heisler, to adjourn at 8:30 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

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