

Thetford Township Planning Commission
Minutes of Special Meeting
August 23, 2013
approved

The meeting was called to by Chairman Robert Laugavitz at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Laugavitz, Helen Bloss, Dennis Bloss, Erik Gunnels
(arrived at 10:10)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laural Coe ~ excused

STAFF PRESENT: Leanne Pennington ~ Recording Secretary
Gary Stevens ~ Board of Trustee
Chief Robert Kenny ~ Thetford Police Chief

Chairman Robert Laugavitz ~ we need to discuss about officers

Dennis Bloss ~ my understanding is that we are up to elected new officers but to conduct business today I make a motion that we retain the same officers until next month's meeting when all board members are present. Supported by Helen Bloss. All in favor. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Chairman Laugavitz, supported by Dennis Bloss to approve the June 6, 2011 minutes as printed. All in favor. Motion carried.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Case #82113 ~ Site Plan ~ Thetford Police Department new office ~ South of the Clio Fire Department Station 2.

Chairman Laugavitz ~ Chief Kenny is you here to talk about the site plan that is presented to us

Chief Kenny ~ what we are purposing to you is Conlee Oil has donated a 46 x 24 modular office that is currently setting vacant behind the gas station in Birch Run. Use to house a 100 balloon ride in the early 90's, Birch Run Custom Glass for a couple years and now it sets empty. The building itself is around \$40,000 and a little under 1100 square feet. Conlee has donated or sold this building to us for one dollar (\$1.00). For us to use as the new police department, you have a couple of pictures there. The area that we are proposing and have all ready poured the concrete. If you guys deny it I guess we will put up a pavilion for the cemetery. The area we are looking at is just east

of the existing parking lot at the fire hall, north existing of the cemetery and south of the fire hall and red barn. The building is a two piece modular we would have to haul down here, set up and tied to the slab. We have to run electrical purposing, I have a 200 or 250 amp that has been donated to update the service box in the red pole barn. We want to run electrical from the pole barn to the building. The water we are going to tie into the fire department, the police department would not need a large amount of water maybe to wash your hand and flush toilets. We would have to purchase a septic tank with two chambers and a pump that would pump to the existing drainage field that is behind the fire hall. I have contacted the health department; they stated it wouldn't be a problem because the simple fact the amount that would be going to the drainage field would be so little that it would be able to handle it.

Chairman Laugavitz ~ what are you going to use for heat?

Chief Kenny ~ the building itself has heat and air conditioning all ready built in to the building.

Chairman Laugavitz ~ that why you need a pretty good service

Chief Kenny ~ yes

Erik Gunnels ~ this is a Planning Commission meeting?

Chairman Laugavitz ~ yes, tells the board to look at the three pages about the site plan (There is a lot discussion between Chief Kenny and the Board looking at the three pages all talking at once)

A lot of questions about the renovation and parking between the board and Chief Kenny

Motion by Helen Bloss, supported by Dennis Bloss to approve the site plan as presented. Roll call, all ya. Motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dennis Bloss ~ I appreciate all the donations that you have gotten Chief Kenny and you probably have already thought of it or are doing it but some kind of plaque or recognize the donors with a letter with township letter head to thank them.

Chief Kenny ~ yes I have in fact, I am looking at printed bricks to lie in front of the building as a side walk. Without donations this would not be possible.

Motion by Dennis Bloss, supported by Helen Bloss to adjourn. All in favor. Motion pass. Adjourn at 10:30 a.m

Motion by Dennis Bloss, supported by Helen Bloss to with draw the motion to adjourn and reopen for audience comments. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting reopened at 10:31 a.m

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Lucy Thorington ~ I have 5 questions, let's go backwards Are you going to dishonor the people that have been giving in five years like they did to our park down here? Why no notice to the public before this meeting was called? Was not placed in three different places threw out the township or printed there was a special meeting. What about a site plan approved before the concrete was poured? Because involves our septic system, it involves our cemetery. What about the garage doors that is to go on the fire hall to make it so they don't have to back up? And did this get called to the township board before this got started?

Erik Gunnels ~ I would like to respond to that. I don't know Lucy if it went through the proper procedure. I do agree with you before work is done we should have had a planning meeting before. The board did approve for this project to be done and gave the go ahead. I didn't know about this meeting until Gary called me this morning. And that is all I have to say about that.

Lucy Thorington ~ being that we have a member on this board as a township member there should have been something put in his box that this was even coming up last week. That's not fair for those who serve on this board to have a last minute meeting. Another thing going along with having a special meeting I know that you toyed with the idea of election of officers, being a special meeting doing anything that is not printed is illegal to do any other business without a full board.

Dennis Bloss ~ that's why we postponed it

Lucy Thorington ~ yes I agree with you

Chief Kenny ~ as far as dishonoring the people in five years from now, what do you mean by that?

Lucy Thorington ~ this township accepted the volunteer work for the park down there. This park was dishonor because there was a path way for wheel chairs to go down to the sitting area. You cannot get to the sitting area any longer; the swing set is sitting in the middle of that sitting area for two years now. So no one can use it anyways, they have a sign down there for landscaping that was donated. The landscaping has almost been all tore out it looks atrocious. Now that is something that has to come back to the township board to address I understand that.

Chief Kenny ~ then how do you think that we will dishonor the people?

Lucy Thorington ~ there is different ways, like plaque not there anymore. Oh we decided to move this so we won't tell anyone but we will just move everything. There are things along that line.

Chief Kenny ~ I can say as long as I can continue to be chief of the township. I am not going to move the plaques or any recognition from anybody donate to our police department and to better the police department. Without the public support we cannot function. So I will give you my guarantee that once I give the recognition it will stay and won't go anywhere.

Lucy Thorington ~ the reason I say that is there is a lot that will not volunteer because of that issue.

Luther Hatchett ~ my question is this, she is wrong because I was heavily involved with this down here, the people in the Park and Rec committee were suppose to keep that park clean. Not the township, yes the cemetery was to help out but the whole idea with that park was the Park and Rec committee that the township had at that time. I don't remember who was all on that committee but I do know that it didn't happen they got tired of it after awhile. So they tried to blow it all off on the township cemetery. But the park was designated by the Park and Rec but I understand Park and Rec now that the people that were on that dissolved the Park and Rec. So I think if that the people want the park to look better they need to go up there and give a hand on a weekend like they should of done when we had Park and Rec. I would like to volunteer to help but trying to push the buck on someone is wrong. Is everything being donated by the police department? If it is no cost to the people then what is the complaint? The fire hall, Gary asked me what about the drive thru doors. I was on that committee; they didn't want to tear down the pole barn, the electrical, the consumers and the septic. So the board decided not to do that. So they fixed the fire hall like it is now. I think that a lot of communication by the boards from the past and present should get information.

Chairman Laugavitz ~ I was also on that committee, there is a lot of this information should go to the township board we are not a policing board we are a recommending board. When it comes to a site plan we are the site plan people.

Chief Kenny ~ I never was aware I needed a site plan because we were not constructing anything it's a structure that can be moved in and out. I apologize, when I was made a where I needed a site plan that's when I asked for a meeting.

Chairman Laugavitz ~ most of that stuff was needed to be done for a site plan review anyways. The cement slabs ya that were done but to me that's not a big deal.

Erik Gunnels ~ to me the cement slab is not a big deal since the board did give you a green light on that

Lucy Thorington ~ one more question, so if I as a resident and decided to put in a slab some place on my property I wouldn't have to come to you at all?

Chairman Laugavitz ~ to put a slab like that, there is no requirements on that. It's like when people put it in for their patios they don't have to have a permit only if they are going to build something on it.

Motion by Dennis Bloss, supported by Helen Bloss to adjourn. All in favor. Motion pass.
Adjourn at 10:40 a.m