

Clarke County

PLANNING COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2019



A Business Meeting of the Planning Commission of Clarke County, Virginia, was held at the Berryville/Clarke County Government Center, Berryville, Virginia, on Friday, December 6, 2019.

Attendance

Present: George L. Ohrstrom, II (Chair); Randy Buckley (Vice-Chair); Robina Bouffault; Anne Caldwell; Mary Daniel; Frank Lee; Gwendolyn Malone; and Pete Maynard

Absent: Doug Kruhm, Bob Glover, and Scott Kreider

Others: Chris Boies (County Administrator); Cathy Kuehner (Public Information Officer)

Staff Present: Brandon Stidham, Planning Director; Ryan Fincham, Senior Planner/Zoning Administrator; and Debbie Bean, Recording Secretary

Called to Order

Chair Ohrstrom called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

The Commission voted to approve the agenda.

Yes: Bouffault, Buckley (moved), Caldwell, Daniel, Lee, Malone (seconded), Maynard, and Ohrstrom

No: No one

Absent: Kruhm, Glover, and Kreider

Approval of Minutes

The Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of October 17, 2019 for the Joint Workshop #1 with the Board of Supervisors.

Yes: Bouffault, Buckley, Daniel (moved), Lee, Malone (seconded), Maynard, and Ohrstrom

No: No one

Absent: Kruhm, Glover, and Kreider

Abstain: Caldwell

The Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of November 1, 2019 for the Joint Workshop #2 with the Board of Supervisors with a correction on page 27 of 42, the third paragraph down on the second line the word "he" should be replaced with the County Attorney.

Yes: Bouffault (moved), Buckley (seconded), Caldwell, Daniel, Lee, Malone, Maynard, and Ohrstrom

No: No one

Absent: Glover, Kreider, and Kruhm

The Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of November 14, 2019 for the Joint Workshop #3 with the Board of Supervisors.

Yes: Bouffault, Buckley, Caldwell (moved), Daniel, Lee, Malone (seconded), Maynard and Ohrstrom

No: No one

Absent: Glover, Kreider, and Kruhm

The Commission voted to approve the Business Meeting minutes for November 1, 2019.

Yes: Bouffault (moved), Buckley, Caldwell, Daniel, Lee, Malone (seconded), Maynard, and Ohrstrom

No: No one

Absent: Kruhm, Glover, and Kreider

Board/Committee Reports

Board of Supervisors (Mary Daniel)

Commissioner Daniel stated that Chris Boies, the new County Administrator, started on December 2, 2019. She said that he is the third County Administrator for Clarke County. She said that we also are expecting to hear from constituents on December 17th for Clarke County being a Second Amendment Sanctuary. She said if you have an opinion about this you can attend and if you cannot attend you can email it in and it will be just as valid and gets it in the minutes. She stated that we also have a hearing on the capital carry over for the schools and the government side on December 17th.

Board of Septic & Well Appeals (George Ohrstrom, II)

Chair Ohrstrom said that the Board of Septic & Well Appeals are in the middle of a very interesting application concerning the 7-11 at Double Tollgate. He said that their sewage treatment system has been somewhat problematic over the years and it drains into a ditch. He said that they are redoing all of that and as part of that they have asked for a variance for different things. He stated that the upshot of this is that we have not voted on it yet. He said that we have continued it to December 18th. He said that they are trying on their own volition to make this a much better system. He said that he applauds them for doing so much of this on their own. Commissioner Caldwell said that she has to be a little suspicious that people want to improve their septic system and present it as if they are doing this out of the goodness of their hearts. She stated that she always worries about what is in their back pocket and what they are going to come up with next. Vice Chair Buckley stated that he believes they have an actual maintenance problem. Commissioner Bouffault said she visited the site a few years ago and they had a serious sewage problem. Commissioner Caldwell asked if the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is involved. Mr. Fincham said that DEQ regulates the system now because of the surface discharge and they have been in violation of certain things. He said that it is currently in compliance and if they are granted the variance and they put the sewage out of the ditch into the ground then it will no longer be regulated by DEQ. He stated that it will then be regulated by the Health Department.

Board of Zoning Appeals (Anne Caldwell)

Commissioner Caldwell said that we have a side setback variance coming up next week for construction of a ground mounted solar panel array.

Conservation Easement Authority

Chair Ohrstrom stated that we have our year-end meeting coming up. He said that they recently closed on Opequon and Smithfield is in the works. He stated that it has been a good year for the Conservation Easement Authority.

Historic Preservation Commission (Doug Kruhm)

No report.

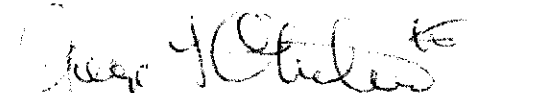
Broadband Implementation Committee (Mary Daniel)

Commissioner Daniel stated that we met with Mark Bayliss, President of Visual Link, and he is on the Technical Advisory Board to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). She said that he explained the new technology that is coming out this month. She stated that it is still WISP technology but it is so much faster and you no longer need a line of site in order to get your Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) coverage. She said that Mr. Bayliss said that right now it can cover 90% of the County. She said that he demonstrated the Tower Beam System which was connecting to the internet from one of the towers on the mountain and coming through one of the government buildings. Commissioner Bouffault said that it was coming from two towers, one at Mount Weather and another one in Warren County. She said that she went on Speed Test to see how fast it was going and it was only 4 or 5 megabits per second. She said that it was not super-fast. She said that the more you go through walls in a building the more it slows down. She said that Tower Beam device is very small. Commissioner Caldwell asked if there is any particular equipment that you need to purchase. Commissioner Bouffault stated that there is equipment that will need to be purchased but the service price will not go up. Commissioner Daniel said that it not high speed or fiber but it is step one which is access to a greater portion of the County.

Other Business

Mr. Stidham stated that we will have an application to review in January, a Site Plan Amendment for the Animal Shelter. Chairman Ohrstrom stated that if the Sheriff picks up a dog on the weekend or after closing time the only entrance they have is through the main front door and down through the whole kennel. He said that the Animal Shelter employees have been requesting a different entrance for a very long time. He stated that we are working our way through the process.

On motion by Commissioner Daniel and seconded by Commissioner Malone the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.



George L. Ohrstrom, II, Chair



Debbie Bean, Recording Secretary