



LAPORTE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

Government Complex, 5th Level

809 State Street, Suite 503 A

LaPorte, Indiana 46350-3391

(219) 326-6808, Ext. 2591, 2563 & 2221

Fax: (219) 362-5561

Michael Polan
Building Commissioner

LA PORTE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES April 22nd, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Rita Beaty	Steve Holifield
	Joe Tuholski	James Pressel III
	Harold Parker	John Matwyshyn
	Eric Pointon	

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Biege, Attorney; Michael Polan, Recording Secretary; Ashley Kazmucha, Administrative Coordinator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rita Beaty asked for approval of the agenda for the April 22nd meeting.

Steve Holifield made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Eric Pointon seconded the approval of the agenda.

All Approved. Motion carries 7-0.

Rita Beaty asked for approval of the March 25th, 2025 minutes.

Harold Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Steve Holifield seconded.

All Approved. Motion carries 7-0.

Petitions:

1. **Petitioners Jason and Lisa Harlow and David K. and Rosemary Hooper Carlson represented by counsel Christopher L. Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Kanes, LLP** respectfully petition the Plan Commission to vacate the public way between their homes and extending from South Emmas Lane to a parcel of land owned by Sandra Kaye Glen, Parcel No. 46-10-16-101-009.000-060 located near 2083 & 2067 S. Emmas Ln., LaPorte, IN. Scipio Twp. Parcels 46-10-16-101-031.000-060 & 46-10-16-101-030.000-060. Exhibits attached hereto.

Attorney Biege stated notice is adequate.

Chris Willoughby stated he couldn't have done a better job summarizing that if he wanted to. They have his entire petition presented. Generally, he likes to think that these are straight forward when there aren't issues, but nothing is straight forward. The unimproved way that's at the issue of their request has been maintained by owners of that property. The Harlow's in excess of twenty-five (25) years and the Carlson's in addition to their preceding owners in excess of twenty-five (25) years. That property has always been maintained, not outwardly owning it obviously or they wouldn't have to be here, but grass planted, landscaping cut, et cetera as a part of their yards and routines. They only recently mentioned to one (1) or more of them that it might be a possibility to have this vacated. Of course, one (1) of the benefits of always doing this is the ownership of it and putting it on the tax rolls and having it be productive. He would also like to point out that one (1) other benefit in addition to not having a room full of remonstrators is that Sandra Glen submitted a consent to this petition which they feel is pretty significant because if there was anybody who would have a beef with what they are requesting it would be her. He has submitted a signed consent from her and with that they respectfully request that they consider and grant their petition. They have both sets of owners with him tonight for any questions otherwise they request that they grant their petition.

Steve Holifield stated he has one (1) question. Ms. Glen has no intentions ever in the future of doing housing on her private land which would require this road to be put in?

Chris Willoughby stated he can't speak for her. He wishes he could, but she is not his client. Their position would be that Joliet Road is there and this other road was there for other potential phases or development, but that hasn't happened. He wishes he could speak for her; he cannot.

Steve Holifield stated that is the only question he had.

Chris Willoughby stated the most that he can present to them is that she signed and consented to this.

Steve Holifield stated thank you.

Harold Parker stated in times before, they leave that open for any electrical or sewage work or anything. Do they have to do that out there for easements?

Attorney Biege stated if there are easements, they will remain anyway. This won't supersede an easement.

Harold Parker stated okay.

Steve Holifield stated it just takes away the easement for a road for the future, correct?

Attorney Biege stated that is correct. Technically, they are redoing the plat.

Rita Beaty stated like they said, they have access there from Joliet Road because she was thinking about the farmers that they would not go down Emma's Lane anyway to enter into the field. They

would go to try a different route. Unless there is some future development that he doesn't have knowledge of because it isn't his client.

Steve Holifield made a motion to approve the Petitioners Jason and Lisa Harlow and David K. and Rosemary Hooper Carlson represented by counsel Christopher L. Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Kanes, LLP to vacate the public way between their homes and extending from South Emmas Lane to a parcel of land owned by Sandra Kaye Glen, Parcel No. 46-10-16-101-009.000-060 located near 2083 & 2067 S. Emmas Ln., LaPorte, IN. Scipio Twp. to vacate the public way between their homes and extending from South Emmas Lane to a parcel of land owned by Sandra Kaye Glen, Parcel No. 46-10-16-101-009.000-060 located near 2083 & 2067 S. Emmas Ln., LaPorte, IN. Scipio Twp.

Eric Pointon seconded.

Attorney Biege stated they need to check that there are no remonstrators.

Rita Beaty stated she is sorry. She apologizes. Steve is the one that actually took the bull by the horns and made the motion.

Attorney Biege stated if there is ever a transcript later, they have to say it out loud otherwise nobody will know.

Rita Beaty stated he said he would entertain the motion, but I think he was making the motion. She is sorry. Are there any remonstrators in the room for or against the petition? You know, this is her first rodeo so.

No remonstrators present.

Steve Holifield made a motion to approve the Petitioners Jason and Lisa Harlow and David K. and Rosemary Hooper Carlson represented by counsel Christopher L. Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Kanes, LLP to vacate the public way between their homes and extending from South Emmas Lane to a parcel of land owned by Sandra Kaye Glen, Parcel No. 46-10-16-101-009.000-060 located near 2083 & 2067 S. Emmas Ln., LaPorte, IN. Scipio Twp.

Eric Pointon seconded.

All Approved. Motion carries 7-0.

Harold Parker stated they are losing their crowd.

Rita Beaty stated wow; they are entertaining.

Rita Beaty asked for any old business.

Steve Holifield stated he would like to bring up that without John Watson, they are going to be short one (1) member on the Solar Committee. He would like to nominate Joe Tuholski on that if he will accept it. It's just a couple more meetings a year.

Rita Beaty stated she needs to ask one (1) question before he accepts. That's fine if he does, but would John still be able to be on the Solar Committee even though he is no longer on the Plan? Sometimes she notices they do have public people involved in it.

Attorney Biege stated yes, he thinks he can stay involved. There is no seat requirements for a committee.

Steve Holifield asked if they are sure this time?

Attorney Biege stated yes.

James Pressel III stated there is a cap on the number of people allowed on it.

Steve Holifield stated yes, they can't have a quorum.

Eric Pointon stated for Plan Commission members they can't.

James Pressel III asked if they should wait until the other member is picked to see if they need to nominate that person also in this situation?

Rita Beaty stated John would be straight from the public since he is no longer on the Plan Commission. Is that what he is getting at?

James Pressel III stated no, not John Watson. Whoever is going to replace John Watson. They are still lacking one (1) person.

Steve Holifield stated waiting to see them, yes.

James Pressel III stated right, waiting to have a full board and see.

Steve Holifield stated okay. They have a quorum now, correct?

Rita Beaty stated she was just talking about the committee member to see if John Watson could stay on the Solar Committee.

Attorney Biege stated the Committee is mostly at the discretion of the President for the most part.

Rita Beaty asked if they know if John wants to remain on the Solar Committee?

Attorney Biege stated he hasn't talked to him.

Michael Polan stated he would say that based on what he has heard that John can continue to serve and it won't affect any new appointments by the Plan Commission and they do have a quorum this evening to vote.

Rita Beaty stated it was just a thought and she wasn't sure if they needed to reach out to John Watson first and see if he would like to remain before they move forward.

Eric Pointon asked if he needs to be voted on?

Ashley Kazmucha stated Watson can stay and they can put a new member.

Rita Beaty stated just go ahead and add.

Ashley Kazmucha stated she would probably wait until they have the new member and all of them are here.

Steve Holifield stated for the nine (9).

James Pressel III stated a complete board because they don't even know who the other member is going to be yet.

Ashley Kazmucha stated that way with all nine (9) here, one (1) of them can volunteer for the Committee.

Steve Holifield stated okay. They will just wait until the next meeting then.

Rita Beaty stated okay. Thank you.

Steve Holifield stated he has one (1) more other question. Can they proceed with the members that they do have to look at the Ordinance amendments.

Attorney Biege stated yes. He wants to get what the Committee has final before it goes to the Commission members.

Steve Holifield stated okay.

Attorney Biege stated he isn't sure what his comfort level is.

Steve Holifield asked if he put any of it together with what they gave him?

Attorney Biege stated yes. He got a copy right?

Steve Holifield stated yes. He is pretty certain with everything they got so far.

Attorney Biege stated okay. What he sent to him included all the changes everybody wanted, but he wants them to look it over to make sure.

Steve Holifield stated he only sent a copy to him them.

Attorney Biege stated he just sent a copy to him.

Steve Holifield asked if he can please send a copy to the rest of the Board and they can look at it for the next meeting.

Attorney Biege stated okay,

Steve Holifield stated every day they are out there putting flags in the field.

Rita Beaty asked for any other old business.

Rita Beaty asked for any new business.

Rita Beaty stated they have a new member on the Board. She would like to welcome Joe Tuholski this evening. Welcome and congratulations on his appointment.

Joe Tuholski stated thank you.

Rita Beaty asked for any other new business.

Michael Polan stated they recently appointed some people to the Steering Committee from the Plan Commission. He doesn't know if anyone that was appointed is now off the Board and they need to replace them or not.

Steve Holifield stated John Watson is he believes.

Michael Polan stated okay. He believes he could still remain on that, but it could be at the pleasure of the Board to put another member on.

Steve Holifield stated they have a meeting coming up soon on that.

James Pressel III stated he thinks it is next months.

Steve Holifield stated Comprehensive Plan Tuesday the 13th 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 next door. It is online Teams meeting with Antero. Would Mitch Bishop have to be involved in that as far as deciding who goes on the Committee because he was the one (1) asking.

Attorney Biege stated he would touch base with Mitch. He is really running the show on this.

Steve Holifield stated he will touch base in the morning with him.

Rita Beaty stated he needs to be in the loop.

Steve Holifield stated it is May 13th, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 next door.

Rita Beaty asked for any other new business.

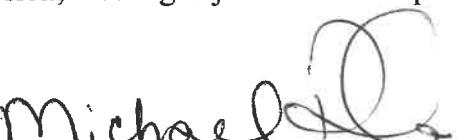
Steve Holifield made a motion to adjourn.

Eric Pointon seconded.

There being no further business before the Plan Commission, meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.



Rita Beaty, President



Michael Polan, Recording Sec.