

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Austinburg Township Trustees Public Hearing

Meeting

Held September 8,

2009

The Public Hearing held Sept. 8, 2009 was called to order at 7:00pm. Trustees Burke, Kusar, Spade, Evelyn Schaeffer, Ted Seifert, Joe Hejduk, Winnie Cerbin, Ginny Seifert, Diane Mongenel, Jacklyn Krysa, Mike Schaab, John Beninato, Jim Simmons, Nelson Hejduk were present.

Jerry read the Zoning Commission recommendations into the record. Replace Section 1210(3) with "As long as the size, shape, and location of the sign is not changed, the copy may be changed without requiring a new permit and permit may be transferred to new owner."

Delete Section 1230(Political Signs) in its entirety.

A copy of the recommendations is available in township files.

Joe Hejduk questioned the transfer of permit to new owner. Should be to new renter. Ted Seifert explained the wording states "may be." It does not have to refer to owner only.

Mike Schaab stated 1210(2) now contradicts 1210(3). Jacklyn Krysa said 1210(2) refers to physical aspects of the sign, not copy.

John Beninato stated he also believes there is a contradiction here.

Evelyn Schaeffer said the text is not regulating content, only physical aspects.

Mike Schaab said he is not sure why the change is being made at all. Ted Seifert stated there was an overwhelming public opinion at the zoning public hearing in favor of the change. Mike Schaab said the problem the public had was with the permit fee, not the permit itself. Mr. Schaab also said he would like to see a time element addressed in the text when referring to political signs.

Jerry said he agrees that there could be a time frame in the removal of political signs. Also it would be beneficial to keep a permit process for signs to establish a paper trail. This way the township would know what businesses are coming in and which are changing hands.

Ted Seifert said political signs should not be regulated.

John Beninato said he brought information to the Zoning Commission regarding Ashtabula Twp. zoning. They have placed wording in their zoning, stating political signs can only remain in place for 60 days. John stated he assumed the prosecutor has seen this. John Kusar said he would think the Prosecutor had not seen it, there was wording in their zoning that she had instructed be removed from ours.

Jacklyn Krysa read a response to an e-mail Jacklyn sent to the Prosecutor. In it, the Prosecutor says that political signs may not be addressed in zoning. Mike Schaab suggested she be conferred with again, because she does not speak about time elements. John Kusar stated he believes she is clear when she says they can not be addressed at all.

Jerry stated the trustees have 20 days to take this into consideration and make a decision on the zoning recommendations.

Res. 1215-09 Jerry moved to adjourn the meeting. Janie seconded. The hearing adjourned at 7:35pm.

Barbara Schaab