**Caswell County Planning Department**

**Planning Board Meeting**

November 26, 2019

Members Present:

Russell Johnston, Keith Blalock, Ray Shaffner, Steven Harris, Don Swann, and Ron Richmond. Also present: Matthew Hoagland, County Planner and Ashley Kirby Powell, Administrative Assistant.

Members Absent:

Michael Poteat *Vice-Chairman,* Jason Daniel, and Commissioner William Carter.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Shaffner moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Melvin Butler, 8225 Cherry Grove Rd, came before the Board with two suggestions. First being that the Board look at the Explosion Ordnance that was created serval years ago because near his home there is a company that is testing propane tanks. They have multiple blasting’s daily and they are not doing proper protocol when it comes to the blasting’s. He has called OSHA to file a complaint. The blasting’s are so strong that they shake the ground and this could cause damages to homes and, he is concerned with the amount of explosives being used. Second, that the Board look at the Fire Range Ordnance, because is only has guidelines for commercial firing ranges and it should be for all ranges private and commercial.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the October 27, 2019 Planning Board minutes, seconded by Mr. Blalock. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

*Electronic Gaming Facility Regulations Follow up*

Mr. Hoagland gave a brief overview of the last Planning Board meeting and the Sheriff’s recommendations for some sort of electronic gaming facilities regulations.

Chairman Johnston questioned what regulations neighboring counties have on electronic game facilities. Mr. Hoagland replied he was not sure.

Mr. Harris suggested that the Board look into what neighboring counties regulations are. Chairman Johnston agreed. There was a consensus of the Board to bring this item back to the next Board meeting. The board instructed Mr. Hoagland to research neighboring county ordinances and bring them back before the Board at the next meeting.

*Comprehensive Plan Annual Review Discussion*

Mr. Hoagland stated that it is the county planner’s responsibility to bring the county’s Comprehensive Plan before the Board on an annual basis. He told the Board he would be happy to add the Comprehensive Plan to the next meeting agenda if they thought they’d like to make changes. Mr. Hoagland also mentioned he had recently read back through the Comprehensive Plan and thought that it was very helpful and accurate; especially the chapter on land use planning. The Board agreed they did not see the need to prepare changes to the Comprehensive Plan at this time.

Other Business

Chairman Johnston questioned the December meeting date since it fell on Christmas Eve, and asked if the Board wanted to reschedule it. He also stated he thinks the Board needed to look into Mr. Butlers issues with the Environmental Ordinance.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to have the next Planning Board meeting on January 21, 2020 due to scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Blalock questioned, where did the county stand as far as the rock quarry, is it something that the Planning Board could vote on. Mr. Hoagland replied, no, the Planning Board does not currently have authority of oversight on a development of that nature. However, the Planning Board would have the responsibility of hearing appeals to Mr. Hoagland’s decisions if someone were to challenge his administrative decisions on the quarry, especially if it related to watershed regulations. Mr. Blalock questioned if it was out of the Caswell County Commissioners hands. Mr. Hoagland replied that for the most part, yes, however they could enact a moratorium. But even then he is not sure that the moratorium would stop the project since the developer may have vested rights. Mr. Richmond questioned how the watershed would affect the quarry. Mr. Hoagland explained the difference between pervious and impervious surface areas and how that would affect his determination of what percentage of the total parcel would be developed. That would trigger a S.N.I.A. Permit for a larger development. Mr. Hoagland said that decision could be appealed. Also, since they development is in a watershed they must submit a site plan and demonstrate that they are taking environmental measures like keeping buffers from streams. Mr. Blalock questioned who really has the final say. Mr. Hoagland replied the North Carolina Department of Quality right now. They are the primary agency needed for approval given our lack of zoning and other regulations. Mr. Richmond questioned if an impact study was completed. Mr. Hoagland replied he assumed there was since they had to submit plans to D.E.Q.

Chairman Johnston questioned Mr. Hoagland if he had received any updates on improvements to Highway 86. Mr. Hoagland replied yes, from what he remembers from the last local transportation meeting, the improvements are still scheduled to take place at the intersection of Park Springs Road first then at Old 86 but he’s not sure when they will start construction. Should be within the next three years or so.

Updates

Mr. Hoagland stated that Open Broadband LLC is still on go for 2020 for the first customer to have service. Chairman Johnston questioned the service radius from their antennas. Mr. Hoagland replied 3 to 5 miles from what he was told. Chairman Johnston thanked Mr. Hoagland for all his hard work he had put into this project.

Mr. Hoagland stated that at the December 2, 2019 Caswell County Board of County Commissioners meeting they will be hearing a presentation on zoning from someone from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. Also, he has heard back from the NC Wireless Association and they have agreed to meet with himself and someone from the county in the January/February time frame to help us craft better changes to the UDO Wireless Communication Ordnance. If anyone from the Planning Board would like to take the meeting, then he’d be glad to arrange it.

Adjournment

At 1:46 p.m. Mr. Swann made a motion to adjourn the November 26, 2019 Planning Board meeting, the motion carried unanimously.

*Ashley Kirby Powell recorded the minutes above.*