

**LOWELL PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
December 10th, 2020**

President Jim Konradi called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was held. Recording Secretary Dianna Cade called the roll. Members answering the roll call were, Jim Konradi, Greg White, Shane Lawrence, LeAnn Angerman. John Alessia (via electronically). Chris Salatas logged in electronically after roll call. Eric Newell was absent. Also present was, Rich Oman Director of Planning and Building. Nicole Bennett, Town Legal Counsel, (via electronically).

Mr. Konradi read: the guidelines for participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. White made a motion to approve the November 12th, 2020 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried by a roll call vote of all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

Discussion – Technical Review Committee

Mr. Oman stated from a staff level the projects that are going to the TRC meetings only the technical aspects are getting reviewed. Nothing is getting approved through the TRC. He stated staff feels that only the Plan Commission should be allowed approvals. The current ordinance was not established in that direction. Due to this the TRC has the power to approve some petitions and the meetings are open to public and minutes are required. He stated the staff would like to see if the Plan Commission would be willing to look at the structure and format of the TRC. He stated staff would like for it to be a recommendation committee only. Discussion followed. Mr. White asked Attorney Bennett for her opinion on making the TRC an advisory committee only. (Most of Attorney Bennett's response is inaudible, the following are the only items that were heard correctly). Attorney Bennett stated as the ordinance is written the TRC has more authority than the state statute requires. She stated it is up to each municipality how the committee is structured. She stated it is a significant revision for the code in that the TRC is referred to in many sections. She discussed the process to revise the code sections. Mrs. Angerman stated that this could a discussion worth having but there is a lot of information to review which would be better suited when the audio is better or at a in person meeting. Mr. White stated the TRC has 2 members of the PC sitting on the committee. Discussion followed. Mr. Oman stated he will gather some information and it can be up for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. White asked Attorney Bennett what the downside was of transfer of power to the PC from the TRC. (Audio was fixed) Attorney Bennett stated the way ordinance is written it gives the TRC the greatest authority under the state statute. The status states the PC has to review everything unless the local ordinance through the town council delegates authority to the TRC. Which is the way the Lowell ordinance is written. She stated in the past the Lowell TRC has acted only in an advisory manner. Taking the power away from the TRC is not unfamiliar, however the authority for the TRC is written throughout the Lowell zoning code. She would suggest

that a through review be done and for the PC to determine how they want this committee to serve. If it is strictly advisory then there has to be a written document from the TRC providing the PC with their opinion, including those of the public safety representatives. The petitioner would otherwise have to present to both the TRC and the PC, since these are not joined proceedings. Discussion followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next regularly scheduled meeting is on January 14th, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kenneth Michael Paciorek, 138 N. Union St., Lowell, IN. Mr. Paciorek stated that he would like to discuss voter fraud. He does not think his vote was counted. He has reported it. Mr. White asked the resident what he was disputing. Mr. Paciorek stated voter fraud. Mr. White stated this is the wrong body of government to review your concerns. Mrs. Angerman stated this is the Planning Commission. She stated that she works for the Board of Elections and would be happy to try and answer his questions after this meeting. Mr. Paciorek stated he has many concerns. He asked about the solar project. Mrs. Angerman stated if you are referring to the one out by 65 that is the counties jurisdiction. She stated this is the Lowell Planning Commission, that project would be heard by the County Planning Commission. He stated he did not realize that was unincorporated, he is just learning about that. He stated Lake Dale was an old saw mill and he is concerned about our water system. Mrs. Angerman stated that is also unincorporated Lake County. Mr. Paciorek asked what he could talk about because he has many concerns. He discussed a pot hole that he believes was not fixed properly and would like an audit on funds. He asked where he can get that from. He wants to know where the money is going, he feels it is shady business and people are taking the money and not using it properly. Mrs. Angerman stated he can call the Town Manager and discuss those concerns. He wanted to know where the cares money was going. Mrs. Angerman stated that is a federal grant and is distributed to many different entities. He asked about the torn down basketball courts and buildings on Washington. He asked where Chris Salatas was. Mr. White stated to Mr. Paciorek, you are at the wrong meeting the Plan Commission cannot answer these questions. Mr. Paciorek stated he has had many discussions with politicians around here and lawyers. Mr. White stated he should call the town manager. He stated he sent letters to Holcomb, and spoke with a rep from Mike Braun's office, health dept., and Tri Creek School. He stated he wants to see an audit. Mr. Lawrence suggested he call the Town Manager. Mr. Paciorek stated . He stated to recoding secretary when she asked for the spelling of his name that he is on the government watch list, but he is not a terrorist, government agent or Russian Spy.

Mr. White verified that there was no public participating on electronic media.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further comments or questions, Mr. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried with a roll call vote of all ayes.

Jim Konradi, President

LeAnn Angerman, Secretary