

Minutes of June 28, 1999

A special meeting of the Sussex County Board of Adjustment was held Monday evening June 28, 1999 in the conference room, County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with Chairman McCabe presiding. The Board members present were: Mr. McCabe, Mr. Callaway, Mr. Mills, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Berl-Esquire, Mr. Rickard-Chief Zoning Inspector, Mr. Lank, Director-Planning & Zoning and Mrs. Massey-Recording Secretary.

Discussion

The first order of business was a discussion on signs. Mr. Rickard presented to the Board schematic sheets representing sign square footage on two local stores. These examples compared two local stores and it was concluded that the industry must use an average of approximately 3.25% front area square footage as a standard policy.

Mr. Mills suggested that the Board decide on a standard policy for approving sign footage and by doing so the public will be made aware of the precedence the Board is setting and on what will be accepted.

The Honorable Lynn Rogers, Vice President-County Council, made several points in reference to signs. He stated that Ralph Clausen of Del-Dot is making tremendous head way in locating and controlling the usage of signs, through photographs and metal tags with permit numbers on them that are issued by the State of Delaware. He also suggested that possibly the County and State could work together to further control sign usage.

Mr. Mills asked what was being done in reference to enforcing violations. Mr. Callaway was also very concerned with the issue of cases that were denied by the Board but were not being taken care of in a reasonable amount of time. Mr. Rickard and Mr. Lank both expressed the concerns of the County Inspectors. After much discussion the Board agreed to let Mr. Berl take the first steps in locating the problem in the chain of command. He will report back to the Board and suggest what can be done.

Mr. Rickard addressed Mr. McCabe's concerns about medical hardship cases that were brought before the Board and renewals for such cases by presenting the Board with a listing of cases from 1997 through present. Mr. McCabe's feelings are that some cases are slipping through without being renewed at the end of the 2 year period that is given at the hearing. Mr. Rickard stated that he keeps a master list on all medical hardship cases but due to the fact that the official date of renewal period is based on the date that the

Finding of Facts letter that is sent to the individuals it is causing his records to be left incomplete. Mr. Berl suggested that he could send a copy of the Finding of Facts to Mr. Rickard with the medical hardship cases highlighted. Mr. Berl also suggested that the cases numbers be changed slightly by adding a letter that would distinguish these cases from any others. Mr. Lank did not see any problem with this.

Mr. McCabe asked if any reply had been received from the County Council in reference to the March meeting. Mr. Lank stated that he had given them a summary of the meeting but as of this date, he had not received a reply.

Mr. McCabe asked if there were any more questions or comments. No-one responded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.