



March 21, 2012 Joint Board and Plan Commission Meeting

Joint Plan Commission Meeting
with Garfield Town Board
Wednesday, March 21, 2012 – 5:30 p.m.
Garfield Town Hall

The joint meeting of the Garfield Plan Commission (Doug Richter, Chair; Jackie Rindahl, Alice Glavin, Dave Gran, Jim Christenson, and Marv Hong; Bob Poore-absent) and the town board of the Town of Garfield was called to order by Chairman Steve Dickinsen, at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Meeting notice verified. Several township residents (Dave Glavin, Brian Bethke, Don Brasda, and five others) were also in attendance, along with Karen Thayer, Jackson County Board, and Phil Hazard, Clerk of the Town of Cleveland.

Following introductions, Steve Dickinsen called the joint meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. -- brief discussion of the history of the township as far as mining is concerned, including metallic and non-metallic forms.

Atty. Mark Skolos was present and explained village powers to the group. He explained these powers are necessary for townships to be able to enforce their own ordinances. Dickinsen then went on to explain some of the options available to the town with regard to frac sand mining (non-metallic mining).

Brian Bethke questioned the proposed distances that will be in place between the proposed frac sand mining operations and the property lines of others, and whether or not other setbacks can be put in place. Our township is not zoned, and Skolos said that is more of a zoning issue. Another land owner questioned whether or not the state would get involved with environmental impact studies etc.

Skolos then gave a little history on his involvement with the frac sand mining issue currently before our area. He said the mining companies do need to comply with federal, state, county and local law, as well as MSHA regulations, the EPA, and the DNR. He explained the bonded reclamation plans that the mining companies need to have in place prior to doing any work. He advised concerned townships to make a list of their concerns so that these can be addressed in their ordinance. Then with the township's police powers, the ordinance can be enforced. The ordinance needs to be reasonable or it can be challenged in court.

Some residents discussed water and air quality issues that they could be faced with, as well as possible property value diminishment. Skolos answered their questions as they came up.

Dickinsen called for the Plan Commission to give him some recommendations as to what type of action they would like to see taken, whether or not they want the board to move forward with a licensing ordinance or not, with regard to the frac sand mining issue. Then, if they choose to draft an ordinance, we will have future meetings to determine what they want in it, with public input at a public hearing.

Jim Christenson made a motion that the board should draft a licensing ordinance, and Dave Gran seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried.

Next meeting of the Plan Commission will be a joint meeting with the town board on Wednesday, April 18, at 5:30 p.m.

Alice Glavin made a motion to adjourn the planning commission meeting, and Doug Richter seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Ardy Robertson, Acting Sec.
For Garfield Plan Commission

