

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
February 26, 2014

Present: Richard E. Snyder, Chairman
Bruce Murphy
Donna Weiss Carson
Tom Warren
Diana Steffen, Secretary

Ben Kotowski was absent with apologies.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2014 – *Mr. Murphy made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, Mr. Warren seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

GUIDE PLAN UPDATE: Demographics – Bill Beers, Past President of West Geauga Local School District Board of Education – The Chairman introduced Mr. Beers and explained that Mr. Beers has done work analyzing the demographics of the school district, which may provide useful information for the Guide Plan update.

Mr. Beers said he is no longer on the school board, but was a member for 12 years and President for the last six years. Using a PowerPoint presentation he showed a number of tables regarding the student numbers at West Geauga schools. Enrollment numbers of the resident population of the school district have dropped by approximately 700 between 2002 and 2013. High school and middle school numbers have dropped, and kindergarten numbers dropped from approximately 200 in 2002 to 95 in 2013. To assist the budget the school district has open enrollment, with approximately 220 students attending from other school districts. This brings the total student enrollment to around 2100, which is a viable number from a programming standpoint, since class size goal is 25 or less.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the school district's finances and open enrollment. Mr. Snyder asked whether the drop in student enrollment was due to families leaving the area or to an aging population. It was mentioned that there are less children throughout the state as more families move to other states for employment.

Mr. Snyder thanked Mr. Beers for his presentation and for answering many questions from the Commission. Mr. Beers said he would be glad to come to another meeting if the Commission has further questions.

It was agreed to ask Mr. Kotowski, as a member of the school board, if he can obtain statistics on the number of students from Chester and from Russell that attend the school, the amount of property tax paid by residents in each township, and the number of home schooled students in each township.

Due to the absence of Mr. Kotowski the next item on the agenda was postponed to the next meeting. There being no other business, Mr. Warren moved to adjourn, Mr. Murphy seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Steffen
Secretary

Date

Richard E. Snyder
Chairman

Date

zc minutes 02-26-14