

Minutes: Russell Township Board of Zoning Appeals
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
September 10, 2012

Present: Steve Gokorsch, Chairman
William Downing
Charles Johns
John Rybak
Diana Steffen, Secretary

Fred Cuffari was absent with apologies.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2012 – The board agreed to changes suggested by Mr. Cuffari and Mr. Downing. *Mr. Rybak moved to approve the minutes as amended, Mr. Johns seconded and the motion passed unanimously by 4-0.*

FINDINGS OF FACT #467 Charles Imm – *Mr. Downing moved that the findings of fact for Appeal #467 be approved as submitted, Mr. Johns seconded and the motion passed unanimously by 4-0.*

FINDINGS OF FACT #468 Lynne Gerace – *Mr. Downing moved that the findings of fact for Appeal #468 be approved as amended, Mr. Johns seconded and the motion passed unanimously by 4-0.*

OTHER BUSINESS – In anticipation of a variance request and a discussion with legal counsel at the October meeting, and knowing that one board member cannot attend on the regular date of October 1st, the Chairman recommended rescheduling the meeting date in order to have a full board available. Mrs. Steffen will look into October 10th as a possible date.

Mrs. Steffen mentioned the fracking forum to be hosted by the Zoning Commission on September 13th. She also handed out copies of zoning amendments which are now effective.

The board discussed variance cases in general, and the need for substantive evidence before making a decision. The Chairman said the board, in order to make an informed decision, should ask for more facts or expert testimony whenever it considers it necessary. At times this will mean delaying a vote and continuing a hearing to the following meeting.

There being no other business, Mr. Johns moved to adjourn, Mr. Downing seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Steffen Date
Secretary

Steve Gokorsch Date
Chairman