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Village of Lake Isabella
Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes
Regular Meeting: August 11, 2008

1010 Clubhouse Drive
Lake Isabella, MI, 48893

The Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by King.

Members Present: Dunham, Hiither, King, Kuhn and Nurski

Members Absent: Colby

The minutes from the June 9, 2008 meeting were accepted and approved as presented without objection or modification.

Business:

1. Public Hearing for Variance Application 2008-02

King opened the hearing at 5:02 PM.

John & Linda Spiris presented their application for a variance. Also representing the Spiris was Larry Rescoe. The Spiris' discussed their relationship to MARS and Homeland Security. Presently there are only two HAM operators connected to MARS in Isabella and Clare counties. Mr. Rescoe spoke on the need to use the lake for signal bounce.

Discussion with the applicant:

Hiither asked the Spiris if there was a reason that the antenna could not be located on the large tower/antenna next to the garage. *Mr. Spiris answered by stating that due to the ground plane, he was unable to get a signal with the antenna on the tower next to the garage.*

Dunham asked where the antenna was originally located, and if it was the same antenna that Mr. Pollion complained about in 2007. *Mr. Spiris responded that the antenna from 2007 had been sold, and that this was a different antenna. He also stated that the antenna from 2007 was placed in the side yard, and did encroach on the pine trees along the Pollion's side yard.*

Public Comments:

Jane Pollion of Clubhouse Drive: Stated her opposition to the antenna. She also stated that they never consented to the large tower next to the garage. She also stated that in speaking with Village staff, she felt the Village has not enforced the zoning ordinance fully.

King asked if either antenna interfered with their television reception. *Mrs. Pollion stated that there was no interference.*

Dunham asked if she felt the flagpole was actually a flagpole. *Mrs. Pollion stated that she has never seen a flag flown on the pole and believes that it is another antenna.*

Dave Shoemaker of Isabella Vista: Spoke on behalf of Mr. Spiris. He stated he owns the other adjacent property to the Spiris and has no objection to either the tower or antenna. He feels that the relationship Mr. Spiris has with Homeland Security is an asset to the community.

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Richard Pollion of Clubhouse Drive: Spoke in opposition to the variance. He stated that he felt the tower next to the garage was in violation of the setback as well and should be removed.

Eugene Schmall of Clubhouse Drive: Spoke in favor of granting the variance. He stated that the need to have communication in an emergency situation is vital to the community.

Jan Sanderson of Clubhouse Drive: Left a voicemail message stating her opposition to granting the variance.

Scott Slasor of Clubhouse Drive: Submitted his support for the variance in writing.

With no further public comments, King closed the public hearing at 5:33 PM.

2. Variance Application 2008-02

Hiither commented that he had only been able to view the property from the lake, and apologized for not visiting the site in person.

King stated that he also was unable to conduct a site visit prior to the meeting.

Dunham stated that due to his knee surgery last week, he was unable to conduct a site visit as well. He stated that the board should postpone action until they could all visit the site.

Kuhn commented on the flagpole and asked Mr. Spiris if it was really a flagpole. *Mr. Spiris stated that it was a flagpole, he just hadn't flown a flag in years. He also stated that when he put the flagpole in over 20 years ago he had permission from the LIPOA to do so.*

A motion was made by Dunham, which was seconded by Kuhn, to postpone further discussion and action on the variance application until the September meeting to allow everyone to conduct a site visit. VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comments:

Dave Shoemaker of Isabella Vista: Commented that the trees at Mr. Spiris' property obstruct any vision of the tower.

Linda Spiris of Clubhouse Drive: Commented that she wanted to make sure the board understood that MARS contacted them, not the other way around.

With no further business before the ZBA, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Jeffrey P. Grey
Village Clerk

Timothy R. Wolff
Zoning Administrator