

Special Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - March 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chairman, John Wesely. Others present were Supervisor Heidi Kroening, Zoning Administrator Phill White, Assistant Zoning Administrator Ryan Clark, Clerk Scott Danelski, and Caleb Anderson from the Pine County Zoning Department. Absent Treasurer Ron Mossberg.

WINDEMERE TOWNSHIP & PINE COUNTY ZONING COOPERATIVE :

Caleb Anderson from the Pine County Zoning Department was present to discuss with the Windemere Board the future of the Windemere Township Zoning Department and the possibility of Pine County assuming all or some of the township's zoning responsibilities. Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation named Ordinance Comparison : Pine County & Windemere Township and explained the county-wide zoning ordinance which was adopted on 1/21/2020.

A number of Windemere township constituents were on-hand and posed questions regarding opting-in to the county-wide zoning model. Caleb Anderson's responses to those questions are listed below. Switching to the county-wide zoning model would be a no cost to Windemere township as the county's zoning positions are paid through a number of grants. The township would no longer have the need for a Zoning Department, Board of Adjustments, or a Planning Commission. Should Windemere township opt-in, Pine County would be looking at hiring an additional staff who would be located off-site at the Northern Pine County Government Center two days a week. All variance applications would go through the Pine County Zoning Board. Windemere Township Assistant Zoning Administrator, Ryan Clark, has been appointed by Pine County Commissioner Mikrot to the Pine County Zoning Board so Windemere Township will have local representation. Should the township opt-in and find that it is not the best model for Windemere, the township may opt-out from county-wide zoning.

Chairman Wesely asked our current Zoning Department what direction they believe would be the best option for the township in regards to zoning. Both Phill White and Ryan Clark believe that the county-wide option would be the best option for the township at this time. Reasons for their recommendations are that Windemere Township and Pine County overlap in shoreland zoning permitting and enforcement and that the township's Zoning Department has found it very difficult to enforce non-compliance. The township has needed to use a third party on a number of occasions to litigate many of those situations.

Motion made by Wesely, seconded by Kroening to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM. Motion passed, 2 Aye – 0 Nay.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Scott Danelski

Chairman, John Wesely