

At a regular meeting of the Southampton County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) held in the Board Room of the Southampton County Office Center at 26022 Administration Center Drive, Courtland, Virginia on December 20, 2010 at 7:30 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Peter F. Copeland, Chairman
David M. Holland, Vice-Chairman
James E. "Jeb" Bradshaw
Douglas Chesson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Elma A. Brown
Marie Sykes
* E. Thomas Daisey, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT

Beth Lewis, Director of Community Development (Secretary)
Richard E. Railey, Jr., County Attorney
Susan H. Wright, County Administration Executive Secretary

** (Note: Commissioner E. Thomas Daisey, Jr. resigned effective November 15, 2010 due to health reasons. However, per the state statute, BZA members must continue to serve until a successor is appointed.)*

Chairman Copeland called the meeting to order at 7:57 PM, as opposed to the scheduled start time of 7:30, as there was not a quorum until Commissioner Bradshaw arrived at that time. There was now a quorum of 4.

Chairman Copeland sought approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting.

Vice-Chairman Holland moved, seconded by Commissioner Bradshaw, to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favor.

Chairman Copeland announced that the first and only public hearing was to consider the following:

Application of Triumph in Victory Christian Church, applicant, for Wayne Matney, owner, seeking a Special Use Exception to install a General Advertising Sign (billboard) as specified in Sec. 18-37(26) of the Zoning Ordinance. Said Special Use Exception is for property known as Tax Parcel 16-34H. The property is located on US 460, General Mahone Boulevard. The property is across General Mahone Boulevard from 37538 General Mahone Boulevard, Ivor, VA and includes 2,620' of highway frontage along US 460. The property is in the Berlin-Ivor Voting District and the Berlin-Ivor Magisterial District.

Mrs. Beth Lewis, Secretary, advised that Triumph in Victory Christian Church was seeking to install a double-sided general advertising sign (billboard) on the property. Billboards were permitted in the A-1, Agricultural Zoning District with a Special Use Exception. The billboard would be limited to 100 square feet in area, no more than 15' tall, and must be located at least 100 feet from the edge of the right-of-way. The proposed sign was 12' tall, and 96 square feet in area on each side. After review and approval by the BZA, the proposed sign must also be reviewed and approved by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). She noted that approval by the BZA did not guarantee approval by VDOT. She stated that the applicant had met the standards required in our Zoning Ordinance. However, VDOT had separate standards that the applicant must also meet before approval would be granted. She pointed out that the standards set by VDOT could be more stringent, but could not be less restrictive than the standards required in our Zoning Ordinance.

Chairman Copeland opened the public hearing.

Ms. Vindie Taylor, representing Triumph in Victory Christian Church, addressed the BZA. She respectfully requested that they approve the Special Use Exception for the billboard.

Chairman Copeland closed the public hearing.

Secretary Lewis clarified for Commissioner Chesson that the BZA was considering a billboard (a photo of which was provided in the agenda) for Triumph in Victory Christian Church only. The Church could not sub-lease the billboard – the use of the sign for another purpose would have to be approved by the BZA.

Commissioner Chesson moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Holland to approve the Special Use Exception. All were in favor.

Secretary Lewis noted that the BZA would not have an organizational meeting in January, as Mr. Richard E. Railey, Jr., County Attorney, had indicated that it would be acceptable to tend to organizational matters at their next meeting, whenever that may be.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Peter F. Copeland, Chairman

Beth Lewis, Secretary