

**MINUTES
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
123 WASHINGTON STREET
COLUMBUS, INDIANA**

Members in Person: Eris Scheidt, David Flohr, Rodney Finke, Arnold Haskell

Members Absent: Mike Speaker

Staff Members Present: Angela Ross, Melissa Begley, Deputy County Attorney Jim Shoaf

David Flohr opened the meeting with a brief explanation of the board and its responsibilities. Proof of adequate public notice for all cases on the agenda was confirmed.

Jim Shoaf, County Deputy Attorney, administered an oath to all in attendance who would be speaking.

OLD BUSINESS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

None

NEW BUSINESS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

BDS-2025-005: Ogilville Church of Christ- A request by Ogilville Church of Christ for a development standards variance from zoning ordinance section 10(i)(3)(c) to allow a digital freestanding sign to be 66.67% changeable copy, 26.67% greater than the 40% changeable copy maximum. The property is located 7891 west 450 South, in Ohio Township.

Melissa Begley presented for the Planning Department.

Martin Peterson of 9575 S 875 W, Columbus, and Zachary of 5755 E 1100 N, Seymour represented the applicant.

Melissa Begley gave a brief description of the applicants request for a sign exceeding the county ordinance of changeable copy by 26.67%. Melissa explained the zoning ordinance considerations, planning concepts and development standards.

Arnold Haskell asked if Melissa could give the board, an idea on how bright 250 nits as that is the maximum brightness the sign could be lite at night.

Melissa states she is not able to give an example.

Martin Peterson presented a detailed slide show to the board on why the church would like the sign they are proposing, the breakdown of cost, and the size not meeting code but really needing it to be seen from the road and to reach the community.

David Flohr opened the meeting to public comment.

David Flohr closed the meeting to public comment.

Motion: Eric Scheidt made a motion to approve, the request stating that he agreed with findings #1 and #2, as stated in the staff report. Mr. Scheidt stated the criteria #3 has also been met because the property is located at an oddly shaped intersection and the additional size of the changeable copy is needed to be read from a distance for the traffic passing through the intersection, therefore there is a practical difficulty in the use of the property. The motion passed with a voice vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

FINDINGS OF FACT

BCU-2025-002: Henry Chateau

Julie Bergman raises a point of order stating Henry Chateau held a wedding at their location less than one month from the board's approval possibly without a fire system in place.

Jeff Finke clarifies that is an enforcement issue not for the current hearing but it would be noted in the minutes.

Motion: Eric Schedit made a motion to approve, the findings. Arnold Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

BDS-2025-004: Grillo's Pickles

Motion: Arnold Haskell made a motion to approve the findings. Rodney Finke seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the September 23rd, 2025 meeting.

Julie Bergman raises a point to order stating the minutes were very brief and only two pages long compared to the 12 page long meeting notes from the original meeting. Julie wanted to make sure the packet with information on violations that was provided to the county attorney, BCA members, and the planning department was a part of the minutes.

Julie is told all submitted documents and letters are part of the official record, even if not reflected in the minutes.

Melissa Begley explains the minutes were taken from memory as there was an audio issue during the meeting.

The only thing noted in the minutes was the misspelling of Eric Schedit's last name.

Motion: Eric Schedit made a motion to approve the minutes. Rodney Finke seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call or voice vote of insert number in favor and insert number opposed.

DISCUSSION

The board discusses the ordinance for signs and when it was last updated. Melissa explains the reasons behind each ordinance and it is decided there is no need to change the ordinance as the 40% rule hasn't come up often.

ADJOURNMENT 7:50pm

Motion: Eric Scheidt made a motion to adjourn. Rodney Finke seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call or voice vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed.

David Flohr, Chairperson

Eric Scheidt, Secretary