

Howard County Planning & Zoning
January 15, 2025

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Old Business
5. Administrator/Board Comments
6. Reorganization
 - A. Election of Officers
 - I. Chairman - _____
 - II. Vice Chairman- _____
 - III Secretary - _____
 - IV. Members re-appointed for another term (3 years) Daryl Anderson, Ken Kozisek & Jack Reimers
7. Discussion & Possible Action- Review Farm Feedlot for Martin Helmuth
8. Discussion & Possible Action – Review of 4 additional farm feedlots on Blasé Farms operation
9. Discussion – Town Hall Meeting
10. Awards – years of service
11. Adjournment

MINUTES

A meeting of the Howard County Planning & Zoning Commission was convened in Open and Public session on the 15th day of January 2025.

Chairman Terry Spilinek called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M. and the Open Meeting Act was recognized. Administrator Klinginsmith read the Notice of Meeting. A proof of publication is filed at the Howard County Clerk's Office. Roll call showed 9 members present: Daryl Anderson, Dave Sack, Ron Kulwicki, Randy Kauk, Jack Reimers, Kenneth Kozisek, Jeff Christensen, Chris Kosmicki and Terry Spilinek. Also, present were Cherri Klinginsmith, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Jennifer Ostendorf, Planning and Zoning Secretary and Heather Sikyta, Deputy County Attorney. Members of the public were: Tylor Robinson, Chris Martin, Brandon Connick, Gunner Buchhammer, and Cassidy Van Meter.

The agenda and minutes were E-mailed and mailed to the board members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Ron Kulwicki and seconded by Chris Kosmicki to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous a voice vote.

Reorganization: Chairman Spilinek asked for nominations. Chris Kosmicki moved to leave all the current officers in their current positions. Chairman – Terry Spilinek, Vice Chairman – Jack Reimers, Secretary – Jeff Christensen. Ken Kozisek seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 9-0 roll call vote. YES - Daryl Anderson, Dave Sack, Ron Kulwicki, Randy Kauk, Jack Reimers, Kenneth Kozisek, Jeff Christensen, Chris Kosmicki and Terry Spilinek.

Daryl Anderson, Ken Kozisek and Jack Reimers were reappointed for another 3-year term by the Howard County Commissioners at their January 14, 2025 meeting. Terry Spilinek was reappointed as the representative for the Board of Adjustments.

Discussion & Possible Action: Review of Farm Odor Footprint – Martin Helmuth –

Administrator Klinginsmith informed the board that Mr. Helmuth has applied for a farm feedlot/odor footprint to house 60 animal units or 300 head of sheep in a barn for 7-8 months. Administrator Klinginsmith just wanted to review with the board to make sure they are ok with this given the recent discussions with farm odor footprints. The board told Administrator Klinginsmith that they were ok with her approving the farm odor footprint for Martin Helmuth.

Discussion & Possible Action: Review of 4 additional farm odor footprints on Blasé Farms operations. Administrator Klinginsmith informed the board that herself, Janet Thomson, Road Superintendent, Cassidy VanMeter and Gunner Buchhammer met out at the Blasé Feedlot operation to review the manure in the road ditches, per the consent order deadline and requested by Mr. Buchhammer. After review it is shown that the manure is out of all of the ditches except for one along 10th Ave, (Pen #9 on attached map) and Road Superintendent, Thomsen stated there were some areas yet needing berms placed to stop future drainage. Cassidy VanMeter did mention that pen #9 will be abandoned, and work will be completed on waste in the ditch once their bulldozer is repaired and the ground is not froze to finish the dirt work.

Administrator Klinginsmith also discussed with the board that at the Commissioner Meeting on November 26th 2024 that NDEE mentioned that when they were out for inspection there were 4 new pens that had cattle in them but they were not aware of. Administrator Klinginsmith was not aware of those pens either and the zoning office did not have feeding operation questionnaire applications for those pens. NDEE gave Blasé operation until January 15th to get them the information requested for those pens. Administrator Klinginsmith noted on NDEE website that Blasé attorney has been in contact with Jordan at NDEE and Blasé's have mailed the requested Form A's and Jordan stated this will be complete once they verify that the forms and fees have been submitted correctly. Blasé attorney Mr. Buchhammer has contacted NDOT, but has not heard back from them on if the state highway cleanup is satisfactory.

Then Administrator Klinginsmith told the board on December 12, 2024 she has received the feeding Operation Questionnaire for 4 more pivot corner farm feedlots, (Noted on attached map as #9, #19, #22 and #23), however was not comfortable approving them without discussing with the board given the history of this operation. Administrator Klinginsmith has also received a Rezone application to rezone the Vet Processing Center along HWY 281 of Blasé property from I-1 (Light Industrial) to A-2 (Agricultural Transitional District). Blasé's plans are to start processing the cattle in the Feed area, noted on the attached map. With this information, Administrator Klinginsmith asked the board if they thought that since they plan to move the processing center to the area of Blasé's operation, if the board thought that Blasé operation should apply for a CUP for a Class 1 Feedlot?

After much discussion with the board, it was discussed that it read in the Administrative Consent Order, Case No. 3632, paragraph 12. and online with NDEE that those feedlots have been and continue to be operated collectively under shared management by a single operator being Mr. Eric Blasé, who is also a member, manager, officer, director, shareholder, or otherwise associated with Blasé Farms, LLC and the Blasé Group Ltd, Inc. With that information and with the outcome of the past case with Howard County and farm feedlots. (Dirt Road

Development vs Hirschman's) that Blasé's feedlots would be considered adjacent as well and should be reviewed as a commercial feedlot not several farm feedlots.

It was left to have Blasé operation discuss their options and get back to the board or submit a CUP application in the Howard County Planning & Zoning office for a Class I Feeding Operation.

Discussion- Town Hall Meeting There was a town hall meeting held tonight from 5:30-7pm with Marvin Planning and Associates to discuss with County residents what they would like to see in Howard County's future. Discussion with the board and Administrator Klinginsmith noted that they were happy with the discussion and turn out for the meeting. There were 101 surveys turned in and of those 101 - 89% of them were fully completed. They feel like they are headed in the right direction and excited to continue the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan and County Regulations.

Awards: Administrator Klinginsmith presented and award for years of service to 2 board members. Chris Kosmicki 10 years of service and Jeff Christensen 15 years of service.

With no further business Ron Kulwicki moved to adjourn the meeting with Ken Kozisek seconding the motion. Motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

Jennifer Ostendorf
Planning & Zoning Secretary