7275 W. MAIN STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49009-9334

NOTICE
OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - REGULAR MEETING

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON
AT OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP HALL
7275 W MAIN STREET
Masks Are Now Optional in Oshtemo Township Buildings
(Meeting will be available for viewing through https://www.publicmedianet.org/gavel-to-gavel/oshtemo-township)
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024
3:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
5. Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2023
6. Election of 2024 Officers - Chair, Vice Chair, and Recording Secretary
7. Public Hearing - Site Plan Review and Variance Request for 1560 S $\mathbf{8}^{\text {th }}$ Street:

Scott Williams, on behalf of 1560 S $8^{\text {th }}$ St LCC, is requesting relief from the setback provisions of Section 50.70 of the Zoning Ordinance in order to construct a 6,684 square foot building with a connecting breezeway to an existing building on-site.
8. Other Updates and Business
9. Adjournment

## Policy for Public Comment

 Township Board Regular Meetings, Planning Commission \& ZBA MeetingsAll public comment shall be received during one of the following portions of the Agenda of an open meeting:
a. Citizen Comment on Non-Agenda Items or Public Comment - while this is not intended to be a forum for dialogue and/or debate, if a citizen inquiry can be answered succinctly and briefly, it will be addressed or it may be delegated to the appropriate Township Official or staff member to respond at a later date. More complicated questions can be answered during Township business hours through web contact, phone calls, email (oshtemo@oshtemo.org), walk-in visits, or by appointment.
b. After an agenda item is presented by staff and/or an applicant, public comment will be invited. At the close of public comment there will be Board discussion prior to call for a motion. While comments that include questions are important, depending on the nature of the question, whether it can be answered without further research, and the relevance to the agenda item at hand, the questions may not be discussed during the Board deliberation which follows.

Anyone wishing to make a comment will be asked to come to the podium to facilitate the audio/visual capabilities of the meeting room. Speakers will be invited to provide their name, but it is not required.

All public comment offered during public hearings shall be directed, and relevant, to the item of business on which the public hearing is being conducted. Comment during the Public Comment Non-Agenda Items may be directed to any issue.

All public comment shall be limited to four (4) minutes in duration unless special permission has been granted in advance by the Supervisor or Chairperson of the meeting.

Public comment shall not be repetitive, slanderous, abusive, threatening, boisterous, or contrary to the orderly conduct of business. The Supervisor or Chairperson of the meeting shall terminate any public comment which does not follow these guidelines.
(adopted 5/9/2000)
(revised 5/14/2013)
(revised 1/8/2018)

Questions and concerns are welcome outside of public meetings during Township Office hours through phone calls, stopping in at the front desk, by email, and by appointment. The customer service counter is open from MondayThursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m., and on Friday, 8 a.m. -1 p.m. Additionally, questions and concerns are accepted at all hours through the website contact form found at www.oshtemo.org, email, postal service, and voicemail. Staff and elected official contact information is provided below. If you do not have a specific person to contact, please direct your inquiry to oshtemo@oshtemo.org and it will be directed to the appropriate person.

| Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Supervisor |  |  |
| Cheri Bell | 216-5220 | cbell@oshtemo.org |
| Clerk |  |  |
| Dusty Farmer | 216-5224 | dfarmer@oshtemo.org |
| Treasurer |  |  |
| Clare Buszka | 216-5260 | cbuszka@oshtemo.org |
| Trustees |  |  |
| Neil Sikora | 760-6769 | nsikora@oshtemo.org |
| Kristin Cole | 375-4260 | kcole@oshtemo.org |
| Zak Ford | 271-5513 | zford@oshtemo.org |
| Michael Chapman | 375-4260 | mchapman@oshtemo.org |


| Township Department Information |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assessor: |  |  |
| Kristine Biddle | 216-5225 | assessor@oshtemo.org |
| Fire Chief: |  |  |
| Greg McComb | 375-0487 | gmccomb@oshtemo.org |
| Ordinance Enforcement: |  |  |
| Rick Suwarsky | 216-5227 | rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org |
| Parks Director: |  |  |
| Vanessa Street | 216-5233 | vstreet@oshtemo.org |
| Rental Info | 216-5224 | oshtemo@,oshtemo.org |
| Planning Director: |  |  |
| Vacant | 375-4260 | planning@oshtemo.org |
| Public Works Director: |  |  |
| Anna Horner | 216-5228 | ahorner@oshtemo.org |

Mtg date: February 20, 2024
To: Oshtemo Township Zoning Board of Appeals
From: Leeanna Harris, Zoning Administrator
Applicant: Scott Williams
Owner: 1560 South 8th Street LLC
Property: $\quad 1560$ South $8^{\text {th }}$ Street, Parcel ID: 3905-22-485-030
Zoning: $\quad \mathrm{I}-1$ : Industrial District
Request: Site Plan Review and Variance Request from Setback Provisions
Section(s): Article 27-I-1: Industrial District
Article 50 - Schedule of Regulations
Article 64 - Site Plan Review

## OVERVIEW:

The applicant, on behalf of 1560 S . $8^{\text {th }}$ St LLC, is requesting Site Plan Review and relief from Section 50.70.B of the Zoning Ordinance in order to construct a 6,684 square foot building with a connecting breezeway to an existing building on-site. If approved, the variance would permit a new building 65 feet from the south property line while the ordinance requires 100 feet, a setback reduction of 35 feet. The subject property is currently zoned I-1: Industrial District and is located in the southeast quadrant of the Township. A map showing the location of the property is provided on the right, outlined in red.

The property in question presently possesses an existing 7,803 square foot building situated on the far east end of the site. A church previously occupied the building;
 however, in 2023, the property was successfully rezoned from R-3: Residence District to I-1: Industrial District, to accommodate future industrial land uses. As such, the property now hosts an office space and the applicant wishes to expand the business through constructing a 6,684 square foot building to serve as a manufacturer for the
printing and embroidery of pre-manufactured items, and other supplies. To facilitate the business's expansion, the applicant's desire is to place the proposed building northeast of the existing building along the parcel's south property line. Generally, the required side yard setback for a new Industrial building within an $\mathrm{I}-1$ zoning district is 20 feet or the height of the abutting side of the building at its highest point. However, the presence of a residential land use to the subject property's immediate south, the supplemental setback provisions outlined in Section 50.70.B of the Zoning Ordinance gets triggered, which governs that there shall be a 100 -foot setback that applies to industrially zoned property when abutting residentially zoned property. For this reason, the applicant has requested a variance for relief from said code section so that the proposed building be setback 65 feet from the side yard property line rather than the required 100 feet outlined in Section 50.70.B of the Zoning Ordinance.

## ANALYSIS:

When reviewing this site plan and variance request, there are two sets of criteria that need to be considered: 1) the general Site Plan Review criteria outlined in Section 64, and 2) the supplemental setback provisions pertaining to industrial land uses abutting residentially zoned property outlined in Section 50.70.B. Below is an analysis of the proposal against these two code sections.

## SECTION 64 - SITE PLAN REVIEW:

## General Zoning Compliance:

Zoning: 1560 S . $8^{\text {th }}$ Street is currently zoned $\mathrm{I}-1$ : Industrial District and is located in the southeast quadrant of the Township. The property possesses 300 feet of frontage and is approximately eight acres in size. Surrounding zoning adjacent to the north is I-1: Industrial District zoned property, adjacent to the south is RR zoned property, and across South $8^{\text {th }}$ are R - 5 zoned properties (shown in zoning map below). The proposed warehousing and present office use are considered permitted uses within the $\mathrm{I}-1$ : Industrial District. All general zoning requirements have been met.


## Access and Circulation:

Access: The subject property currently has an existing drive into the site from South $8^{\text {th }}$ Street along the northeast corner of the property. All drives will continue to be used in a similar fashion as before. The circulation aisle widths are proposed to be 24 feet wide, which is the minimum width required under Section 52.50 of the Zoning Ordinance for two-way travel. Requirements are met.

Parking: A total of 32 parking spaces are shown on the Site Plan, nine of which are newly proposed. Two of the 32 parking spaces are ADA accessible and are proposed to be made of concrete. All parking spaces are proposed to be 10 feet by 20 feet. Office spaces require 1 per each 150 square feet of net floor area. Showrooms require 1 space per each 400 square feet of net floor area. Manufacturing and distribution uses require 1.5 space per 1,000 square feet, plus the required parking devoted to other uses. Storage requires 1 space per 1,500 square feet, plus the required parking devoted to other uses. After calculating the parking needed for the proposed uses on-site based on the floor plan and square footage calculation provided by the applicant, a total of 34 parking spaces will be required on-site. An additional two parking spaces will need to be provided and can be reviewed and approved administratively prior to building permit issuance.

Easements: All easements have been illustrated. Easements are present along the eastern property line for Consumers Power Company and for Michigan Bell Telephone.

Shared Use Path and Internal Sidewalk Network: The applicant is applying for two deviations from the shared use path and internal sidewalk network requirements outlined in Section 57.90 of the Township Zoning Ordinance, as well as the Township's Nonmotorized Transportation Plan, which requires connection to and establishment of a sidewalk or shared use path along South $8^{\text {th }}$ Street. Specifically, a 6-foot-wide shared use path is indicated on the west side of South $8^{\text {th }}$ Street along the subject site. The applicant has indicated that their reasoning for requesting said deviation (letter from request attached) is the proposed sidewalk would be running through an existing water run-off area and under existing utilities, there is steep terrain along the site, and significant site rework would be required. The applicant also applied for a deviation from the internal sidewalk network requirements connecting the existing and proposed buildings to the shared use path for the reasons listed above.

Per Section 57.90 of the Zoning Ordinance, unique circumstances may exist such that the installation of non-motorized facilities in compliance with this article may not be appropriate at the time of development. Accordingly, the property owner may, in lieu of constructing the required nonmotorized facility, request to enter into an Escrow Agreement with the Township as outlined in the NonMotorized Facilities/ Sidewalk Ordinance. The reviewing body is authorized to approve an Escrow Agreement in lieu of the required non-motorized facility in the following instances:
A. Where strict application [of implementing the sidewalks and non-motorized facilities] would result in extraordinary difficulty, including, but not limited to, severe variations in topography, unsuitable soils, or difficulty in providing safe separation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to site location, layout, or existing building arrangements.

In addition to considering the above, the Oshtemo Public Works Department did provide a letter supporting the two deviations for the shared use path and for the internal sidewalk network. With the Oshtemo Public Works Department's support, staff recommends that the Zoning Board of Appeals grant the requested deviations to permit the applicant to enter into an Escrow Agreement with the Township outlined in the Non-Motorized Facilities/ Sidewalk Ordinance in lieu of constructing the required nonmotorized facility and not be required to construct the connecting internal sidewalk network.

## Building Design:

Building Information. The proposed 6,684 square foot building is proposed to be approximately 26 feet to the east of the existing building on-site, connected by a breezeway, and is proposed to have a height of 18 feet. The proposed dumpster location will remain in place and submitted details meet Ordinance requirements. An elevation sheet was provided with the site plan. A snapshot of the north elevation for the proposed building can be found to the right. The exterior material for the proposed building will be black vertical ribbed siding.


Lot Dimensions: The overall project site is about eight acres in size and has approximately 300 feet of frontage adjacent to South $8^{\text {th }}$ Street. The lot exceeds both the property area (min. 50,000 square feet) and frontage ( min .200 feet) requirements for unplatted parcels carrying an I-1: Industrial District designation. The site's dimensions satisfy Zoning Ordinance requirements.

Setbacks: Building setbacks from the north, east, and west property lines have been met as the proposed building is set back in excess of 100 feet from said property lines. However, the proposed building location as proposed does not meet the minimum side yard setback requirement of 100 feet from the south property line. Per Section 50.70 .B of the Zoning Ordinance, an enhanced setback is required when industrially zoned property abuts property carrying a residential zoning designation. Due to this provision in the Zoning Ordinance, the applicant has applied for a variance, which will be discussed later in this report, requesting that the proposed side yard building setback from the south property line be reduced from the required 100 feet in the Ordinance down to 65 feet (a reduction of 35 feet). See evaluation under Section 50.70.B - Setback Provisions (Variance).

Landscaping: A landscaping plan was provided, but a number of details are still missing on the landscaping plan. An updated landscaping plan meeting all applicable requirements of Article 53 of the zoning ordinance shall be submitted to the Township and be reviewed and approved administratively.

Lighting: A lighting and photometric plan has been provided; however, some details are missing or need to be slightly adjusted. An updated lighting plan meeting all applicable requirements of Article 54 of the zoning ordinance shall be submitted to the Township. Staff is confident that a revised lighting plan can be reviewed and approved administratively and recommend the Zoning Board of Appeals include such as a condition of approval.

Signs: The applicant previously received approval for one monument sign near the northeast corner of the property, near the entrance from South $8^{\text {th }}$ Street. The specs and location of the sign is satisfactory and meets all Ordinance requirements.

Engineering: Prein \& Newhof and the Oshtemo Public Works Department have reviewed the proposal and have noted that there are some engineering concerns that have not yet been addressed; however, felt that the remaining engineering concerns are minor enough where they can be reviewed and approved administratively and recommend the Zoning Board of Appeals include such as a condition of approval.

Fire Department: The Fire Marshal has reviewed the site plan and for the most part is satisfied with the site; however, does have some concerns about the breezeway connecting the existing building to the proposed building. The Fire Marshal provided three different courses of action that the applicant could take to address the concerns. Staff are confident that this is something that can be reviewed and approved administratively and recommend the Zoning Board of Appeals include such as a condition of approval.

## SECTION 50.70.B - SETBACK PROVISIONS (VARIANCE)

STANDARDS OF REVIEW - STAFF ANALYSIS:
The Michigan courts have applied the following principles for a dimensional variance, which collectively amount to demonstrating a practical difficulty, as follows:

- Special or unique physical conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the property involved and which are not generally applicable to other properties in the same district.
- Strict compliance with the standard would unreasonably prevent the landowner from using the property for a permitted use; or would render conformity to the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.
- The variance is the minimum necessary to provide substantial justice to the landowner and neighbors.
- The problem is not self-created.
- Public safety and welfare.

Staff has analyzed the request against these principles and offer the following information to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

STANDARDS OF APPROVAL OF A NONUSE VARIANCE (PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY):
Standard: Unique Physical Circumstances
Are there unique physical limitations or conditions which prevent compliance?
Comment: The applicants indicated that unique physical circumstances in this case would be the location and size of the existing parking lot, the location of the existing septic tank and drain field, the setback of the existing building (shown to the right), and the location of the entrances into

the existing building. However, the location of the building is entirely discretionary and could be placed elsewhere, even with the aforementioned site elements. The property is 300 feet in width, has an average depth of 1,200 feet, and approximately 360,000 square feet in size (not including the unaddressed/uncombined parcel to the rear).

Standard: Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensome Are reasonable options for compliance available?
Does reasonable use of the property exist with denial of the variance?
Comment: The applicants indicated that the location of the proposed building was largely chosen in part due to the location of the existing 7,803 square foot building, existing building entrances, existing septic and drain field, existing parking lots, existing driveways and to encourage traffic flow and promote attractive curb appeal. However, the matter of building an additional structure on this property is discretionary and reasonable use of the property does still exist, whether in its present state or in a different configuration, even with the enhanced setback provisions abutting the residential zoning on the southern property line. The proposed building could be placed elsewhere on the property, especially given that the applicants also own the 5.320 acres of property to the immediate west, giving more options for reasonable compliance.

Standard: Minimum Necessary for Substantial Justice - need to review documents in office. Applied to both applicant as well as to other property owners in district. Review past decisions of the ZBA for consistency (precedence).

Comment: In researching past Zoning Board of Appeals decisions regarding the request for relief from increased setback requirements, Planning Department staff were able to identify 3 similar cases.

1. D \& R Sports, 8178 West Main Street, 10/6/2014: The applicants sought relief from the supplemental setback requirements for properties abutting residential zoning districts from the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow for the construction of a new storage building. If approved, the new structure was proposed to be located 58 feet from the property line, 33 feet less than required by the supplemental setback provisions. The applicant indicated that there was an existing berm fully planted with spruce trees that should completely obstruct the view of the building. The Zoning Boards of Appeals granted the variance request given the adjacent use of the property is a unique element and it was unlikely to have a material impact on the adjacent property. Minutes from the meeting are attached.
2. Spurr Dental, 1624 South Drake Road, $4 / 8 / 2002$ : The applicant sought relief from the supplemental setback requirements from CR: Local Commercial District, Restricted classification to adjacent R-3 properties from the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow for the construction of a new office building on the property. Without the variance, the applicants argued it would be difficult to construct a building with the resulting width of the property with the supplemental setbacks required on the north and south property lines. The Zoning Board of Appeals granted the variance request, allowing the building to be built to the standard commercial office setback requirements and not have to follow the enhanced applicable setbacks, citing that the conformance was unnecessarily burdensome, that the hardship was not self-created, and that the spirit and intent of the Ordinance would be observed by the variance. Minutes from the meeting are attached.
3. Friendship Animal Hospital, 2999 South $11^{\text {th }}$ Street, 11/14/2023: The applicant sought relief from the supplemental setback requirements for properties abutting residential zoning districts, with single-family homes located on them, from the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow for the construction of a new animal hospital. Without the variance, the applicants argued it would be difficult to construct a building with the resulting width of the property with the supplemental
setbacks required on the north and south property lines of 50 feet, leaving approximately 19 feet to construct a building. The Zoning Boards of Appeals denied the variance request given the request was a self-created hardship.

## Standard: Self-Created Hardship

Are the conditions or circumstances which resulted in the variance request created by actions of the applicant?

Comment: In 2023, the current property owners elected to rezone the property from R-3: Residential District to I-1: Industrial District. With the current configuration of the site, it could be argued that the need for the variance requested is self-created since the previous setbacks to the south were 50 feet for R-3 zoning classifications abutting RR zoning classifications, but due to the rezoning, now it is subject to an increased setback requirement. The applicants did indicate that this would not be a selfcreated hardship since they were not the original developer of the property; however, it is the applicants desire to expand and construct a 6,684 square foot building.

## Standard: Public Safety and Welfare

Will the variance request negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of others?

Comment: Setbacks act as a crucial part for any type of structure as they provide a form of security and privacy between adjacent uses, especially from Industrial uses to Residential uses, and in-between property owners. Setbacks can be considered the breathing room between properties where building restrictions apply. Although, the applicants indicated that careful planning was utilized in order to preserve the green belt along the south boundary line, in between the existing building and the residential property to the south. It should be also noted that there is currently a legally nonconforming 7,802 square foot building approximately 47 feet from the southern property line. Additionally, the applicants indicated that the property owner to the immediate south does not have any issues with the placement of the proposed building; however, it is important to note that ownership of property is not static. The current property owner could be okay with the proposed layout, but this does not mean that such will continue into the future with the future landowners.

## POSSIBLE ACTIONS

The Zoning Board of Appeals may take the following possible actions:

- Motion to approve as requested (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to deny

The motion should include the findings of fact relevant to the requested variance. Based on the staff analysis, the following findings of fact are presented:

- Support of variance approval
- Substantial justice is met as the Zoning Board of Appeals granted setback variances for two similar cases in the past.
- Support of variance denial
- The necessity of the variance from the enhanced 100 -foot setback is a self-created hardship.
- There are no unique physical limitations that prevent strict compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.
- Conformance to the ordinance is not unnecessarily burdensome.
- Allowing the variance may have a negative impact to the health, safety, or welfare of the public by allowing the building to be built within the required enhanced setback.

Possible motions for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider include:
A. Site Plan and Variance Approval

The Zoning Board of Appeals approves the site plan and variance request due to substantial justice being met with the following conditions:

1. Zoning Board of Appeals to grant deviations from the requirements in 57.90 for internal sidewalk network and shared use path.
2. An updated landscaping plan meeting the requirements outlined in Section 53 of the Zoning Ordinance shall be submitted to the Township for review and approval prior to building permit issuance.
3. A revised lighting plan meeting the requirements outlined in Section 54 of the Zoning Ordinance shall be submitted to the Township for review and approval prior to building permit issuance.
4. Finalization of grading details and any other engineering details shall be subject to the administrative review and approval of the Township Engineer prior to building permit issuance.
5. Annotations on sheet 1 indicating that the setbacks are 20 feet for the side are incorrect and shall be eliminated from the site plan prior to building permit issuance.
6. Verification of floor plan area calculations in relation to parking shall be reviewed and approved administratively prior to building permit issuance.
7. A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit from the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner's Office will be required prior to building permit issuance.
B. Site Plan and Variance Denial

The Zoning Board of Appeals denies the site plan and variance request due to the proposal being a self-created hardship, the lack of unique physical limitations on-site, conformance to the ordinance is not unnecessarily burdensome as reasonable use of the property will remain if denied, and allowing the variance might have a negative impact to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Attachments: Application for Site Plan Review, Site Plan, Exterior Elevations, Applicant's Letter of Intent for the Deviation Request, Landscaping Plan, Lighting Plan, Floor Plan, Drainage Calculations, Application for the Variance Request, Applicant's Letter of Intent for the Variance Request, Minutes from 10/6/2014 meeting, Minutes from 4/8/2002 meeting, Minutes from 11/14/2023 meeting

PROJECT NAME \& ADDRESS

7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-9334 Phone: 269-375-4260 Fax: 269-375-7180

## PLEASE PRINT

QTO 1560 S. $8{ }^{43}$ S).

## PLANNING \& ZONING APPLICATION



OWNER*:
Name: Scott (0:)lians
Address: 703 Treasure 1 skew $\mathrm{Dn}_{n}$ Mottewen mi 49071

Fee Amount $\qquad$
Escrow Amount $\qquad$
Email: Scott. wi)liems.smwe peri/. on
Phone \& Fax: 269-598-6928 —

This space FOR Towhee

USE
ONLY

NATURE OF THE REQUEST: (Please check the appropriate items))

Pre-Application Review
D Site Plan Review - I088
Administrative Site Plan Review - 1086
Special Exception Use - I085
Zoning Variance - I092
Site Condominium - 1084
$\qquad$ Accessory Building Review - 1083Rezoning - 1091
-_Subdivision Plat Review - I089 Interpretation - 1082
$\square$ Other: $\qquad$

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (Use Attachments if Necessary):


NAMES) \& ADDRESS(ES) OF ALL OTHER PERSONS, CORPORATIONS, OR FIRMS HAVING A LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY:
 860\% Swan St

## SIGNATURES

$I$ (we) the undersigned certify that the information contained on this application form and the required documents attached hereto are to the best of my (our) knowledge true and accurate. I (we) acknowledge that we have received the Township's Disclaimer Regarding Sewer and Water Infrastructure. By submitting this Planning \& Zoning Application, I (we) grant permission for Oshtemo Township officials and agents to enter the subject property of the application as part of completing the reviews necessary to process the application.


- owner's Signature (*If different from Applicant)

Applicant's Signature

Copies to:
Planning - 1
Applicant - 1
Clerk -1
Deputy Clerk - 1
Attorney - 1
Assessor - 1
Planning Secretary - Original



Date

Date
**
PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

## December 28, 2023

## Charter Township of Oshtemo

Attn: Leeanna Harris/Colten Hutson
7275 W. Main St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
To Whom It May Concern:
Enclosed, please find a revision to our original LOI for our construction project at $1560 \mathrm{~S} .8^{\text {th }} \mathrm{St}$. This version shares more context into the properties intended use as requested.

Broadly speaking, our intention is to construct a new 6,864 SF building which will conform with all township ordinances and codes. The new building will be connected by an open breezeway to the existing building on the property. We have entered into a long term lease agreement with local business, Complete Team Outfitters. They intend to operate all printing and other embroidery equipment used to run the business and to decorate pre-manufactured items.

The existing building will house all typical office related staff positions plus a samples showroom. The intent of the sample showroom is for sales staff to see a product prior to recommending anything to a client. They will not host any retail operations and have standard hours of operation 8-4pm M-F.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me as needed.


Scott M. Williams
Member, 1560 S. $8^{\text {th }}$ St. LLC.
1560 S. $8^{\text {th }}$ St, LLC

Enclosures:

1. $\$ 1,000.00$ fee

CC:
Anthony Pearson, FBi Buildings
Matthew Gibson, President, Complete Team Outfitters
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DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE SIDE ELEVATION
not to scale



SIDEWALK DETAIL







January 5, 2024
Charter Township of Oshtemo
Attn: Zoning Board of Appeals
7275 W. Main St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
To the Leaders of Oshtemo Zoning Board:
Following, please find a supporting letter respectfully addressing the township's request for a sidewalk located on the west side of $8^{\text {th }}$ Street and additionally perpendicular from $8^{\text {th }}$ Street to the building (1560). I request to be relief from this request. It has come to my attention that neighboring business owners are not aware of a potential future sidewalk request for their properties that would run towards the railroad tracks, which raises questions about its necessity and impact. Along with this, it is understood that there is no plan for the residential area to the south of $15608^{\text {th }}$ Street to participate in this project. These two items would leave a large gap and make the sidewalk unused for many years to come.

Furthermore, the proposed sidewalk causes concerns not limited to: running through an existing water run-off area on the site which was requested to be designated on the property by the township prior to our purchase of the site; steep terrain specifically on the west side of $8^{\text {th }}$ Street being not suitable considering potential ramping, leveling required to meet code for construction of the sidewalk that may mean significant site rework; sidewalk would have to weave around existing utility poles presenting a choppy look; and difficulty providing a safe separation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic speeds in a small corporate area. I highly encourage a brief site visit as the above-mentioned concerns will be apparent.

My goal is to bring economic development and employment opportunities to Oshtemo Township. I want to contribute to the local economy and provide tangible benefits to the community while being a responsible corporate citizen seeking to engage constructively with the township and its residents. I kindly ask for a thorough review of our concerns and a collaborative exploration of solutions that will benefit both our company and the township. I'm optimistic that a mutually beneficial resolution can be reached through open dialogue and pragmatic decision-making.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me as needed.
Sincerely,


Scott M. Williams
Owner
1560 S. $8^{\text {th }}$ St, LLC
CC :
Anthony Pearson, FBi Buildings
Matthew Gibson, President Complete Team Outfitters

### 57.90 SIDEWALKS AND NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES

For those uses requiring Site Plan review under this ordinance, an internal sidewalk network (including connection to and establishment of a sidewalk or shared use path in the right-of-way of any arterial, collector, or local road indicated on the Non-motorized Facilities Map abutting the site) shall be required to be constructed within public street rights-of-way and/or private street easements. Sidewalk easements on private property may be entered into and utilized if determined appropriate by the Township Engineer.

However, unique circumstances may exist such that the installation of non-motorized facilities in compliance with this article may not be appropriate at the time of development. Accordingly, the property owner may in lieu of constructing the required non-motorized facility, request to enter into an Escrow Agreement with the Township as outlined in the Non-Motorized Facilities/ Sidewalk Ordinance. The reviewing body is authorized to approve an Escrow Agreement in lieu of the required non-motorized facility in the following instances:
A. Where strict application would result in extraordinary difficulty, including, but not limited to, severe variations in topography, unsuitable soils, or difficulty in providing safe separation between pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to site location, layout, or existing building arrangements.
B. The Township has plans to install sidewalks along the property in question in the next five years or in coordination with an anticipated project.

## Section 294.000 NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES/SIDEWALKS

## Sec V Construction Regulations

H. Escrow Agreement - When the Township determines it is in the Township's best interest to delay construction of sidewalks, the developer/owner of the real property may pay the cost of construction of the sidewalk (as determined by the Township Engineer) to the Township and shall execute the Township's standard escrow agreement to guarantee completion of the sidewalk or non-motorized path/facility, pursuant to all Township standards and requirements. The cost figure shall include the costs of design, site preparation, construction, site restoration and site inspection.

Engineering comments based on information above:

- 57.90A applies: Trade-off of below considerations, protecting natural features and natural site topography would be more appropriate and beneficial to the community (Ord 56.20)
- To follow natural topography would compromise integrity of sidewalk and potentially safety of users if submerged as it would be construction through and long the bottom of a retention pond essentially.
- Adding fill to construct to a more appropriate grade would disrupt existing natural features and retention area which is also called to be preserved in other sections of Ord.
- Unknown time of NM install on $8^{\text {th }}$ St - largely because of bridge over Amtrak to the north of this site does not have adequate facilities for non-motorized at this time.
- Low, retention area also collects public road runoff and construction of acceptable nonmotorized facilities would require extensive work to create defined ditch, add drive culvert, etc. to accommodate public road standards if any impacts.




Complete Team Outfitters

IGNYTE

## 


=omem



FOUNDATION DETAIL


FOUNDATION PLAN








4 MEZZANINE SECTION @ EXPOSURE ROOM \& EMPLOYEE LOCKERS


MEZZANINE SECTION @ SCREEN WASH-OUT \& RESTROOM




PARTITION WALL SLIP CONNECTION


PARTITION WALL W/ STEEL CEILING PERPENDICULAR TO TRUSS


STUD WALL W/ STEEL CEILING PARALLEL TO TRUSS


STUD WALL W/ STEEL CEILING PERPENDICULAR TO TRUSS





DOOR \#4 HEADER DETAIL





# COMPLETE TEAM OUTFITTERS <br> OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP, KALAMAZOO COUNTY <br> STORMWATER CALCULATIONS 

Addition of proposed building and parking to existing site. Stormwater management to be provided by on-site retention in existing low area of site.

Affected Area of Parcel: $\quad 300 ’ \times 550 ’=165,000$ SFT/43,560 $=3.8$ Acres
Proposed Total Impervious Area:
Buildings:
Asphalt and Concrete: $\quad \underline{0.85}$ Acre
Total Impervious: 1.18 Acres
Impervious Percentage: 1.18/3.8 = 31\% Impervious

Non-Impervious Percentage:
$100 \%-31 \%=69 \%$ Non-Impervious
Average "C Factor" runoff value
Impervious area: $\quad \mathrm{C}=0.90 \quad 0.90 \times 31 \%$
Non-Impervious area: $C=0.30 \quad \underline{0.30 \times 69 \%}$
Average:

$$
\text { Use } \mathrm{C}=0.49 \text { for site calculations }
$$

Infiltration Rate:
Low area of site is Spinks Loamy Sand.
Permeability rate for Spinks Loamy Sand is 2-20 inches per hour from USDA/SCS Soil Survey. Use 2 inches per hour as conservative minimum.
Assume water within 930 elevation contour for infiltration rate determination. $9,836 \mathrm{SFT} \times 2 \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{hour} \times 1 \mathrm{ft} / 12$ inch x 1 hour $/ 60 \mathrm{~min}$. x $1 \mathrm{~min} . / 60 \mathrm{sec} .=0.46 \mathrm{CFS}$ Use 0.46 CFS as total site infiltration rate. $0.46 / 3.8=0.1211$ CFS/Acre, Use 0.1211 CFS/Acre in spreadsheet
Storage Volume Required:
From Modified Kalamazoo County Rational Method Detention Basin Sizing Tool.
Release rate set to 0.1211 CFS/Ac based on infiltration rate.
Result is 27,355 CFT as required volume of retention storage with 1.25 factor of safety. $27,355 / 1.25=21,884$ CFT required per Oshtemo Township with 1.0 factor of safety.

Retention Volume in low area on site.
Cross sectional areas:
Elevation 931: 17,349 SFT
Volume between contours:

$$
(17,349+9,836) / 2=13,592 \mathrm{CFT}
$$

Elevation 930: $\quad 9,836$ SFT
Elevation 929: $\quad 703$ SFT

$$
(9,836+703) / 2=5,269 \mathrm{CFT}
$$

$$
\text { Total below } 931=18,831 \mathrm{CFT}
$$

21,884 CFT - 18,831 below $931=3,053$ CFT above 931
3,053 CFT $/ 17,349$ SFT at $931=0.176$ feet max additional depth
High water elevation at required volume $=931.2$ feet, more or less. Excess capacity is available in retention area.

Location: Kalamazoo County<br>Project: Complete Team Outfitters<br>Job No.: 23-114<br>Date: 12/28/2023<br>By: Robert C. Andrew, PE

| Contributing Area [ac] $=$ | 3.8 |
| ---: | :---: |
| Runoff "C" Value $=$ | 0.49 |
| Allowable Release Rate [cfs/ac] $=$ | 0.1211 |
| Rainfall Frequency $=$ | $100-\mathrm{year}$ |
| Site Release Rate [cfs] $=$ | 0.46018 |
| Factor of Safety $=$ | 1.25 |
| Required Storage Volume [cft] $=$ | 27355 |
| Time to Empty [hr] $=$ | 16.5 |


| Time [hr] | Rainfall <br> Intensity <br> [in/hr] | Runoff <br> Volume [cft] | Discharge <br> Volume [cft] | Storage <br> Volume [cft] | Storage <br> Volume [ac-ft] | Time to <br> Empty [hr] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.167 | 7.740 | 8719 | 276 | 10554 | 0.24 | 6.4 |
| 0.250 | 6.640 | 11220 | 414 | 13507 | 0.31 | 8.2 |
| 0.333 | 5.752 | 12959 | 552 | 15509 | 0.36 | 9.4 |
| 0.500 | 4.560 | 15411 | 828 | 18228 | 0.42 | 11.0 |
| 0.667 | 3.800 | 17122 | 1104 | 20022 | 0.46 | 12.1 |
| 0.750 | 3.516 | 17822 | 1242 | 20725 | 0.48 | 12.5 |
| 0.833 | 3.275 | 18449 | 1381 | 21336 | 0.49 | 12.9 |
| 1.000 | 2.890 | 19534 | 1657 | 22346 | 0.51 | 13.5 |
| 2.000 | 1.785 | 24130 | 3313 | 26021 | 0.60 | 15.7 |
| 3.000 | 1.313 | 26631 | 4970 | 27076 | 0.62 | 16.3 |
| 4.000 | 1.055 | 28510 | 6627 | 27355 | 0.63 | 16.5 |
| 5.000 | 0.887 | 29968 | 8283 | 27106 | 0.62 | 16.4 |
| 6.000 | 0.768 | 31159 | 9940 | 26524 | 0.61 | 16.0 |
| 7.000 | 0.682 | 32272 | 11597 | 25844 | 0.59 | 15.6 |
| 8.000 | 0.615 | 33235 | 13253 | 24977 | 0.57 | 15.1 |
| 9.000 | 0.560 | 34085 | 14910 | 23969 | 0.55 | 14.5 |
| 10.000 | 0.516 | 34845 | 16566 | 22849 | 0.52 | 13.8 |
| 12.000 | 0.446 | 36161 | 19880 | 20351 | 0.47 | 12.3 |
| 18.000 | 0.321 | 39067 | 29820 | 11560 | 0.27 | 7.0 |
| 24.000 | 0.256 | 41568 | 39760 | 2261 | 0.05 | 1.4 |

## Notes:

1. Runoff volume is calculated by multiplying the Rational formula discharge, CIA, by the time, $t . \quad V_{R}=(C I A) t$
2. Discharge volume is calculated by multiplying the site release rate, $Q_{0}$, by the time, $t . \quad V_{o}=Q_{0} t$
3. Storage volume is calculated by subtracting the discharge volume from the runoff volume and multiplying by the factor of safety. $\quad V_{s}=\left(V_{R}-V_{o}\right) f_{s}$

4 The time to empty is the storage volume divided by the site release rate.

## Disclaimer:

Disclaimer: This Excel spreadsheet is furnished by the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner and FTC\&H for the convenience of the recipient to show compliance with the Kalamazoo County Site Development Rules.

Any additional conclusions or information obtained or derived from this spreadsheet program will be at the user's sole risk.

7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-9334 Phone: 269-375-4260 Fax: 269-375-7180

## PLEASE PRINT

PROJECT NAME \& ADDRESS

## PLANNING \& ZONING APPLICATION



NATURE OF THE REQUEST: (Please check the appropriate item(s))
$\qquad$ Pre-Application Review $\qquad$ Accessory Building Review - I083 Site Plan Review - I088

Rezoning - I091
_ Administrative Site Plan Review - I086 Special Exception Use - I085
$\qquad$ Subdivision Plat Review - I089
$\qquad$ Interpretation - I082
$\qquad$ Site Condominium - I084
$\square$ Other: $\qquad$
$\qquad$

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST (Use Attachments if Necessary): Our request is for a 35' deduction from the 100 setback requirement from the south property line. This would allow the proposed building to align with the north wall of the existing building to create better aesthetics
and enhance curb appeal. It will also preserving existing parking lots, drive lanes, and entrances into the existing building. Due to the placement
of existing drain fields, septic, parking lots, and drive lanes the best location was chosen for the proposed building

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (Use Attachments if Necessary):
SEC 22-2-12 S 300FT OF E 1200FT SE 1/4
***5-95 1995 SPLIT FROM 22-485-019

PARCEL NUMBER: 3905- 05-22-485-030
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1560 S. 8th St Kalamazoo, MI 49009
PRESENT USE OF THE PROPERTY: Light Manufacturing
PRESENT ZONING: 1 -1 SIZE OF PROPERTY: 7.802

NAMES) \& ADDRESS(ES) OF ALL OTHER PERSONS, CORPORATIONS, OR FIRMS HAVING A LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY:

## Name (s)

Scott Williams
$\qquad$

## Addresses)

703 Treasure Island Dr Mattawan, MI 49071

## SIGNATURES

$I$ (we) the undersigned certify that the information contained on this application form and the required documents attached hereto are to the best of my (our) knowledge true and accurate. I (we) acknowledge that we have received the Township's Disclaimer Regarding Sewer and Water Infrastructure. By submitting this Planning \& Zoning Application, I (we) grant permission for Oshtemo Township officials and agents to enter the subject property of the application as part of completing the reviews necessary to process the application.


Owner's Signature (*If different from Applicant)

## Applicant's Signature

Copies to:
Planning - 1
Applicant - 1
Clerk - 1
Deputy Clerk - 1
Attorney - 1
Assessor - 1
Planning Secretary - Original
\|Oshtemo-SBSIUsersLLindalLLINDA|Planning|FORMS


Date

Date

January 11, 2024
Charter Township of Oshtemo
Attn: Zoning Board of Appeals
7275 W. Main St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
To the Leaders of Oshtemo Zoning Board:
Enclosed please find a supporting variance letter respectfully addressing Section 50.70.B.3 of the Township's Zoning Ordinance that requires a 100 ' minimum setback distance between any building or structure and any rear or side property line for " $I-1$ " zoning abutting " $R R$ " zoning.

We are requesting a setback reduction for our proposed building construction, in consideration of the above-mentioned zoning ordinance, from $100^{\prime}$ to $65^{\prime}$. Our newly proposed building site does not extend further south than the existing building's footprint. The thought was to inset the building an additional 24 ' from the existing structure's most southern line, furthering the setback from the RR property. Although this falls outside of the updated ordinance, the location was chosen to create a functional work/traffic flow, minimal green space/topography disruption and to be as far from Mr. Matthew Stoops' residence as possible.

Additionally, Mr. Stoops who lives to the immediate south has been informed of the proposed construction project in detail with renderings, site plans and a personal walk-thru. We took great care and consideration to be completely transparent with Mr. Stoops to ensure he was in favor of the location. Mr. Stoops did not raise any concerns about our proposed building and was supportive of the proposed location in comparison to other options that would be more visually impactful to his home. Further, Mr. Stoops has offered to participate with the Zoning Board to discuss this request in detail.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me as needed.
Sincerely,
Sin
Scott M. Williams
Owner
1560 S. $8^{\text {th }}$ St, LLC
Enclosure: ZBA - Variance Request Review Form

CC:
Anthony Pearson, FBi Buildings
Matthew Gibson, President Complete Team Outfitters

## ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - VARIANCE REQUEST REVIEW FORM

## Criteria 1:

No: The proposed building location was selected with thorough consideration of all other alternative options. Using existing features on the property like existing building placement, existing building entrances, existing septic and drain field, existing parking lots, existing driveways, traffic flow, and curb appeal. This group feels the best most reasonable location was chosen.

## Criteria 2:

We are not aware of past decisions.

## Criteria 3:

Yes: We are limited in other reasonable locations due to existing parking lots, existing driveways, existing building placement, existing septic and drain fields.

## Criteria 4:

No: The conditions were created due to the original developer of this property and Oshtemo Township's approval of their plans.

## Criteria 5:

Yes: Careful planning has been used to preserve the $100+$ foot green belt between this project and the residential property to the south. Investments will be made to enhance the property and existing building to improve the curb appeal. Regular communication has been made with he property owner to the south, ensuring our plans will not disrupt their quality of life and property.

Mr. Fred Gould, 1919 Quail Run Drive, stated he was the former owner of the J Avenue property now owned by his daughter. He wants to maintain the integrity of their property. He and his wife are concerned about possible future development on the property adjacent to theirs if the variance were granted, especially if a building were placed close to their property and noted the intent of the previous owner, Mr. Snow, was not to divide the parcel in question and voicing their concern about quality of life and for wildlife in the area and their opposition to shrinking the "footprint" of the original property. Mr. Gould said there had been an opportunity for them to purchase the property in question from Mr. Snow, but that they had chosen not to do so. He also said he would have been at previous meetings regarding past similar requests if he had been notified, but that the 300 foot notification does not cover many people in more rural areas and suggested the Township consider expanding its notification guidelines.

Attorney Porter commented that if people buy property they can build on it wherever they choose as long as they follow the ordinance.

At this point, Chairperson Bell moved to Board Deliberations.
Mr. Smith said he appreciated the Goulds' sentiment, but that the request was not unique and noted that if one does not like what might occur on adjacent property in the future, they should buy it.

Comments indicated there was consensus in favor of the request.
Chairperson Bell asked for a motion to approve the variance request.
Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the request from Mr. Schoolmaster for the reasons listed above regarding the standards of approval and precedent as a result of previous approvals in the area for similar requests. Mr. Larson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPLICANT (D\&R SPORTS) REQUESTS VARIANCE FROM THE OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 9,600 SQUARE FOOT STORAGE BUILDING WITH A SUPPLEMENTAL SIDE YARD SETBACK OF 58 FEET, 33 FEET LESS THAN THE 91 FOOT MINIMUM PROVIDED IN SECTION 64.750(b) OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 8178 WEST MAIN STREET IN THE C-LOCAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (PARCEL \$3905-16-280-012).

Chairperson Bell said the next item on the agenda was a request from $D \& R$ Sports for a supplemental side yard setback variance and asked Mr. Milliken to speak regarding the request.

Mr. Milliken told the Board the applicants own and operate D\&R Sports on West Main Street and seek to add a new $80^{\prime} \times 120^{\prime}$ (9,600 square feet) storage building on site
for interior storage of boats and equipment. A 26 foot overhang / porch would be included on the east side of the structure. The proposed building is located on the western portion of the site about 300 feet from West Main Street. It is proposed to be 31 feet in height at its peak.

He said the subject property is predominately located in the $\mathrm{C}-$ - Commercial zoning district. The side yard setback for buildings in the C district is 20 feet or the height of the building, whichever is greater. However, when the property is adjacent to a residential zoning district, the setback is expanded to 85 feet plus one foot for each foot in height of the proposed structure over 25 feet. The property to the west of the subject property is in the RR-Rural Residential zoning district. Thus, the side yard setback requirement for the proposed structure is 91 feet.

He noted the new structure is proposed to be located 58 feet from the west property line, 33 feet less than the required, enhanced setback. Because of the nature of the use and improvements proposed and existing on site, the development could be approved administratively. However, due to the encroachment into the side yard setback, it is before the ZBA for a dimensional variance request.

He said while the adjacent property is in a residential district, it is occupied by a commercial entity - Handley's Tree Service - who has submitted a letter of support in favor of the proposed variance. It is unlikely that the proposed expansion would have a material impact on the adjacent property due to the unique nature of the use.

Mr. Milliken referred to the Standards of Approval and said in its current configuration, the building really cannot be shifted east to accommodate the setback requirement. With the large trucks and trailers involved on the site, it is important to maintain the separation between buildings. The building could be reconfigured to be narrower and longer and not encroach into the setback, although this could affect its functionality. It could also be relocated to the northern portion of the site.

He reviewed past decisions of the ZBA noting an August 26, 2014 denial of a variance request from Kalamazoo Hotels, LLC, denied due to potential impact on the adjacent Church facility, particularly considering the intensity of the commercial use. A variance was approved for Menard's in 2006 based on the use of adjacent property and a variance request from Hansen / Spurr Dental Office was approved in 2002 because without variance the property was unbuildable.

The prevailing unique element that affects this request is the existing use of the adjacent property. The Ordinance requires an enhanced setback from the subject property when adjacent to a residential zoning district. Although that is the case here, the adjacent property is occupied by a commercial use and the proposed structure would be adjacent to log piles.

He noted the applicant has chosen the size and location of the structure, both of which have combined to result in the need for the current variance. However, the applicant did not place the adjacent commercially used property in a residential zoning
district. The question for the ZBA to consider is whether the use of the adjacent property is a unique element that warrants the granting of the variance.

Chairperson Bell asked if there were any questions for Mr. Milliken regarding the application. Hearing none, she asked the applicant to speak.

Mr. Randy Van Dam, D \& R Sports Center, said he has worked with an environmental engineer to address both current and future issues and visions for the site. The original building placement was chosen to leave enough room for future development. He noted one of the reasons for the 26 foot overhang included on the building is to provide more display area for boats that is out of the weather.

In response to a question from Mr. Loy, Mr. Van Dam said the end of the lean-to structure would not be enclosed. He also explained the plan provides enough interior floor area for turnaround space while still leaving room to be able to use both sides of the structure for rack storage.

Mr. Larson confirmed the ridge line runs north and south.
In answer to a question from Mr. Larson about what portion of the 16 foot sidewall would be seen from the adjacent Handley property, Mr. Van Dam said there is an existing elevated berm fully planted with spruce trees that should completely obstruct the view. He commented that he has a good relationship with Mr. Handley and that he has no problem with Mr. Van Dam's request.

Attorney Porter commented the change in topography could be a point for the Board to use as a basis for their decision.

Chairperson Bell moved to Board Deliberation at this point.
Mr. Sikora confirmed with Mr. Milliken that the added outside display did not have a bearing on the request. Mr. Milliken indicated that in fact it would actually reduce the number of boats displayed outside which would be an improvement.

The Chairperson noted Handley's is in the RR district and that because it is adjacent to the D \& R property, an enhanced setback is required for the D\&R property.

Attorney Porter said commercial activity has been in place at the Handley's site long before now.

Chairperson Bell noted the denial that occurred at last month's meeting for a similar request was because the adjacent property to the commercial property was a church and Mr. Loy also noted that was also a request for a five story building; this request concerns a building that is 16 feet in height and will not be seen from the Handley property due to the existing berm/trees.

Responding to a question about what might occur in the future on the Handley property; Chairperson Bell confirmed with Mr. Milliken that any change would require the berm to remain in place, as approved years ago.

Mr. Loy made a motion to approve the request for setback from $D \& R$ for the reasons stated in Board discussion. Mr. Larson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## Any Other Business / ZBA Member Comments

Mr. Milliken told the Board a special meeting was scheduled for October 6 regarding a sign deviation request for the "Corner at Drake" development. If Omni is ready with an amended request, it could also be included on the agenda.

Chairperson Bell said she thought the suggestion by Mr. Gould to expand notification to property owners in residential areas was worth consideration.

Attorney Porter noted the Board has, on occasion, expanded notification beyond statute requirement.

## Adiournment

Chairperson Bell noted the Zoning Board of Appeals had exhausted its Agenda, and with there being no other business, she adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:23 p.m.

Minutes prepared:
September 25, 2014

Minutes approved:
$\qquad$
2014

## Agenda

PATTISON - FRONTAGE AND DEPTH-TO-WIDTH VARIANCES - 1600 BLOCK OF $9^{\text {TH }}$ STREET (AT THE END OF STEEPLECHASE COURT) - (PARCEL NO. 3905-11-355-041)
hardings - WALL SIGN DEVIATION - 5161 WEST MAIN STREET- (PARCEL NO. 3905-13-430-036)

EICHELBERG - SITE PLAN REVIEW - HOUSE CONVERSION TO OFFICE USE - 2800 SOUTH 11 ${ }^{\text {TH }}$ STREET - (PARCEL NO. 3905-25-335-040)

HANSEN (SPURR DENTAL OFFICE) - SUPPLEMENTAL SETBACK VARIANCE - 1624 SOUTH DRAKE ROAD - (PARCEL NO. 3905-25-230-074)

A meeting was conducted by the Oshtemo Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Monday, April 8, 2002, commencing at approximately 3:00 p.m. at the Oshtemo Charter Township Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stanley Rakowski, Acting Chairperson Dave Bushouse Jill Jensen Grace Borgfjord

MEMBER ABSENT: Millard Loy
Also present were Jodi Stefforia, Planning Director, Mary Lynn Bugge, Township Planner; Patricia R. Mason, Township Attorney, and 8 other interested persons.

## CALL TO ORDER

The Acting Chairperson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2002. Ms. Borgjord moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Ms. Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## PATTISON - FRONTAGE AND DEPTH-TO-WIDTH VARIANCES - 1600 BLOCK OF $9^{\text {TH }}$ STREET (AT THE END OF STEEPLECHASE COURT)-(PARCELNO. 3905-11-355-041)

The Board considered an item tabled from the meeting of March 18, 2002. The applicant requested a variance to allow a parcel with inadequate frontage and a depth-towidth ratio in excess of 4 -to-1 to be buildable. The subject property is west of $9^{\text {th }}$ Street in the 1600 block, at the end of Steeplechase Court. The subject property is located in the "AG" Agricultural-Rural District zoning classification and is Parcel No. is 3905-11-355-041.

It was noted that the item had been tabled so that the Attorney could research and consider whether a 66 -foot right-of-way could be required of the applicant should he decide to plat the subject property as a one-lot plat. The Township Attorney opined that the Land Division Ordinance did not allow for the requirement of an easement. The Ordinance did have an intent to connect to interior properties, and therefore, there was a section in the Land Division Ordinance concerning connection of street systems to adjacent properties. However, since the applicant would not be proposing an extension of Steeplechase Court, there would be no provision in the Ordinance to require a connection or right-of-way.

Ms. Bugge pointed out that Section 66.203 of the Zoning Ordinance allowed the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant a variance conditioned upon the requirement of conveyance or dedication of a public 66 -foot right-of-way. Therefore, as a condition of any variance granted, the Board could require a 66 -foot right-of-way. The requirement of such a right-of-way would meet the spirit and intent of the Zoning Ordinance and the Land Division Ordinance. The Attorney felt that the application was distinguishable from others that would be received in that the subject property was the only location which could connect the adjacent plat to the interior lands and ultimately $9^{\text {th }}$ Street.

Ms. Bugge indicated that the Road Commission suggested that the 66 -foot right-ofway run the entire length of the property along its north boundary line. The Road Commission had indicated that a road would probably not develop on the whole length of the property but would connect at some point to the property to the north. However, they had not evaluated the most appropriate place along the north boundary line to make that connection.

The applicant was present and had questions regarding the platting process. It was pointed out that the establishment of a plat could eliminate the need for the frontage variance, but that the applicant would continue to require a 4-to-1 depth-to-width ratio variance unless some of the parcel's area was deeded to the adjacent property.

Mr. Bushouse suggested that a variance be granted conditioned upon an easement 66 feet in width along the north boundary line of the property 100 feet east from the west property line where it met Steeplechase Court. He felt that this would best serve the goal of connection to $9^{\text {th }}$ Street without overburdening the subject property. The applicant indicated that his property is flat for about one-third of the length east from Steeplechase but then drops.

After further discussion, Mr. Bushouse moved to grant a variance from the frontage and depth-to-width ratio requirements conditioned upon the conveyance or dedication of a public 66 -foot wide right-of-way east 100 feet from the west property line of the subject parcel along its north boundary line. It was reasoned that the variance would best meet the spirit and intent of the Ordinance. Ms. Jensen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## HARDINGS - WALL SIGN DEVIATION - 5161 WEST MAIN STREET- (PARCEL NO. 3905-13-430-036)

The Board considered the application of Harding \& Hill, Inc. regarding the Hardings at West Main 2000, 5161 West Main Street, Parcel No. 3905-13-430-036. The application sought deviation from the wall sign provisions of Section 76.170 to allow a wall sign package that exceeds the number of wall signs and the area permitted. The subject property is located in the "C-1" Local Business District zoning classification. The Report of the Planning and Zoning Department is incorporated herein by reference.

Ms. Stefforia indicated that her husband had an interest in the request, and therefore, she stepped down from the dias during consideration of the item.

Ms. Bugge stated that the applicant sought to relocate three of the existing signs from the front of the existing building to a new building which would house the Hardings Market. The Board was reminded that the store is located at West Main 2000 and will face Drake Road. Following completion of the new store, the existing Hardings store, which faces West Main Street and Drake Road will be demolished and replaced by a Kohl's department store. The current building has six signs on the West Main facade and three signs on the Drake side. The three signs that would be relocated, pursuant to the request, were the main Hardings Marketplace sign, the Flagstar Bank sign and the Spartan logo sign. The total area would be 392 square feet.

It was noted that the store would be located 670 feet from the center line of Drake Road.

Under Section 76.170, the store would be entitled to one wall sign at a maximum of 253 square feet. The applicant was requesting deviation to permit the three wall signs with the combined sign area exceeding the permitted area by 139 square feet.

It was further noted that the Lowe's signage was approved under the old Ordinance provisions.

Ms. Bugge reminded the Board that it had denied a request from Kalamazoo Beer Distributors for a deviation from the permitted sign area in order to reuse an existing sign. However, in that case, the building setback was less than 70 feet from the right-of-way.

Mark Hill was present on behalf of the applicant. He emphasized that the applicant would be eliminating six of the signs on the existing building, which were "grandfathered" under the old Ordinance provisions. However, they would like to reuse three of the signs. He noted also the considerable distance from Drake Road and indicated that the store would be an even further distance from West Main.

Josh Weiner, of West Main 2000, LLC, was present, stating he felt he deviation was appropriate because the application would reduce the number of signs at the site by twothirds and would reduce the square footage of signage at the site by $40 \%$. Further, he felt that there was a hardship in visibility due to the distance from Drake Road.

There was no other comment, and the public hearing was closed.
Board members agreed that the deviation would not be materially detrimental to property owners in the vicinity in that it was consistent with other signage at the site. Board members felt that the distance from Drake Road presented a hardship created by the literal interpretation of the Section. Further, it was reasoned that the deviation would not be contrary to the general purpose or set an adverse precedent because the deviation would bring signage at the Hardings Market into closer compliance with current Ordinance provisions.

Mr. Bushouse moved, based on the reasoning cited above, to grant the deviation, and Ms. Borgford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board next considered the application of Bill Eichelberg for site plan review concerning the conversion of a residence to an office with related site improvements. The subject property is located at $2800 \mathrm{~S} .11^{\text {th }}$ Street and is Parcel No. 3905-25-335-040. The site is within the "R-3" Residence District zoning classification. The Report of the Planning and Zoning Department is incorporated herein by reference.

Ms. Stefforia stated that the "R-3" District allows conversion of homes to office use as a permitted use. The applicant sought to move his office (he is a builder) to the site. Ms. Stefforia made reference to Section 23.202 and the criteria located therein. She noted, with reference to this criteria, that there would be no external changes to the building itself. Further, the retention area would be located behind the house. Only two additional lights were proposed for the site, and these would have to be subdued. She felt the application met the requirements as to parking and screening of the site. The site would satisfy the Landscaping Ordinance provisions. The applicant had received tentative approval for its drive from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.

With regard to the criteria of Section 82.800 , Ms. Stefforia emphasized that she would like to see all site improvements, including parking and landscaping, be completed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. However, she felt it would be acceptable, if landscaping were not completed prior to the applicant seeking occupancy, that a performance guarantee be provided.

Craig Johnson, landscape architect, was present on behalf of the applicant. He stated that they had tried to design the site without removing existing trees to the extent possible. The driveway followed the existing location of the gravel drive. The applicant had tried to "break up" the parking with parking islands so as to keep a residential appearance. Fifteen parking spaces were provided at the site, but two to three spaces might be eliminated due to Fire Department requirements of a turnaround.

Mr. Rakowski suggested the possibility of a shared drive if the property to the north develops as an office. The applicant, Bill Eichelberg, was present, stating that he would be open to the possibility of sharing a drive if details could be worked out with the owner to the north.

There was discussion of the possibility of designing the site to accommodate the possible shared drive, and Larry Harris, a landscape architect for the project, stated that the applicant would rather keep the design submitted and work out a connection later if the property to the north developed as an office.

Mr. Bushouse noted the possibility of the widening of $11^{\text {th }}$ Street. Currently, the right-of-way is 33 feet from the center line. The applicant reported that the Road Commission had indicated that it would be adding six feet to the road surface on this side of the street. The driveway design was created to accommodate this road widening.

Mr. Bushouse wondered whether there would be room for the establishment of sidewalks in the future. The applicant indicated that, after widening, the road surface would still be 15 feet from the property line, and therefore, he felt that sidewalks could be accommodated in the future.

Jan Thompson, a resident to the north of the property, expressed concern about the changes taking place in the area. It was clarified with regard to her questions that some of the existing trees along the property line would be removed, and other plantings installed. There would be a combination of spruce and flowering shrubs established.

Ms. Thompson was concerned about car lights which would shine into her living room window from cars entering the driveway. The applicant stated that, in his opinion, the low shrubs would provide more screening from possible headlights. Further, as an office use, it would be unusual for cars to be entering or exiting the site after 5 p.m.

Lights would not be burning on the building all night. The lights established would be motion sensitive, the applicant stated.

The applicant also stated that he felt the proposal would improve drainage at the site so that it would not be a problem for the property to the north.

There was no other public comment, and the public hearing was closed.
Mr. Rakowski emphasized that he would like to encourage a shared drive with the property to the north if it was developed as an office use.

He questioned the applicant concerning hours of operation, and Mr. Eichelberg stated that he generally closes between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. There would be no heavy equipment located at the site as part of the operation of the office.

Mr. Bushouse moved to approve the site plan with the following conditions, limitations and notations:
(1) That there would be no changes to the exterior of the building.
(2) That the parking which is established meet Ordinance requirements.
(3) That any lighting established comply with the lighting guidelines of Sections 23.202(b) and 78.700.
(4) That a shared drive with the property to the north would be encouraged should that property develop for an office use.
(5) That landscaping comply with the requirements of the Township Ordinance in Section 75. All site improvements, including parking and landscaping, must be installed prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy, or in the alternative, a performance guarantee must be provided by the applicant.
(6) That the proposed driveway is subject to the review and approval of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission.
(7) That no dumpster was proposed, a residential Herby-Curby would be located at the site.
(8) That no outdoor storage was proposed or approved.
(9) That no heavy equipment would be located at the site as part of the office use.
(10) That a sign permit was required before any signage could be established at this property pursuant to Section 76.000.
(11) That the applicant comply with the requirements of the Township Fire Department.
(12) That the approval is subject to the Township Engineer finding the proposed site's engineering is adequate.
(13) That existing well and septic were planned to continue to serve the building.
(14) That an Environmental Permits Checklist and Hazardous Substance Reporting form must be completed and on file with the Township.
(15) That an Earth Change Permit from the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner's Office must be obtained before earth removing activities could begin at the site.

Ms. Borgfjord seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## HANSEN (SPURR DENTAL OFFICE) -SUPPLEMENTAL SETBACK VARIANCE-1624 SOUTH DRAKE ROAD - (PARCEL NO. 3905-25-230-074)

The applicant requested a variance from the supplemental setback required from the north and south property lines to allow the construction of a new office building on the subject property. The property is located at 1624 South Drake Road and is Parcel No. 3905-25-230-074. The property is located in the "CR" Local Business District zoning classification. The Report of the Planning and Zoning Department is incorporated herein by reference.

Mr. Rakowski indicated that he would like to abstain from consideration of the request because Dr. Spurr is his dentist.

Mr. Bushouse moved to allow Mr. Rakowski to abstain, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Jensen. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bugge noted that the property does not currently comply with the dimensional requirements of the Ordinance, but that it is being platted and would conform once the platting process was complete. Further, the site plan would be reviewed by the Planning Commission at a future date.

It was pointed out that the properties abutting the subject site are currently zoned " $\mathrm{R}-3$ ", although the Land Use Plan designates their future zoning as "CR". The property to the north, zoned " $R-3$ ", is also the location of a dental office.

Because the adjacent properties are "R-3", a supplemental setback of 85 feet from both the north and south property lines is applicable. Since the property is only 159 feet wide, no buildable area would remain.

Steve Bosch was present on behalf of the applicant. He argued that the situation was unique because the property would be unbuildable without a variance.

No public comment was offered, and the pubic hearing was closed.
Reference was made to the criteria required for the issuance of a nonuse variance.
Board members agreed that the conformance was unnecessarily burdensome in this case and that no buildable area would result from the supplemental setback.

Ms. Jensen moved to grant a variance conditioned upon use of the subject site for an office. It was required that the site meet the setbacks applicable to a commercial office building. It was reasoned that substantial justice would weigh in favor of granting the variance in that the office use would not be out of keeping with the office or residential uses
in the area, and further in recognition that conformance was unnecessarily burdensome. Further, the hardship was not self-created. It was felt that the spirit and intent of the Ordinance would be observed by the variance in that the Land Use Plan indicated that surrounding properties would be zoned "CR" in the future.

Ms. Borgfjord seconded the motion, and the motion carried 3-to-0 with Mr. Rakowski abstaining.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes Prepared:
April 11, 2002
Minutes Approved:


May 20, 2002
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# OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP <br> ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS <br> MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2023 AT OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP HALL, 7275 WEST MAIN STREET 

## Agenda

## 2024 ZONING BOARD MEETING DATES

## PUBLIC HEARING - VARIANCE: FRIENDSHIP ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Hansen Building and Design Corporation, on behalf of Dr. Laura Billings, was requesting a variance in order to construct a new commercial building 25 feet from both of the side yards while Section 50.70.E. of the Township Ordinance requires 50 -foot side yard setbacks.

A meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Zoning Board was held Tuesday, November 14,2023 , beginning at approximately 3:02 p.m.

ALL MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Anita Smith, Chair Rick Everett Dusty Farmer Fred Gould Harry Jachym Louis Williams, Vice Chair Alistair Smith

Also present were Iris Lubbert, Planning Director, Jim Porter, Township Attorney, Leeanna Harris, Zoning Administrator, Martha Coash, Recording Secretary and several guests.

## Call to Order

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order. Those present joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lubbert indicated there were no changes to the agenda
Mr. Everett made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Chair moved to the next agenda item.

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments on non-agenda items.

## Approval of the Minutes of March 21, 2023

Chairperson Smith asked if there were changes to the minutes of March 21, 2023. Hearing none, she asked for a motion.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 21, 2023 as presented. Ms. Farmer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Chair moved to the next agenda item.

## 2024 Zoning Board Meeting Dates

Ms. Lubbert provided the proposed meeting dates for the fourth Tuesday of each month with exceptions for holidays or for consistency with the Development Schedule of Applications:

| $1 / 23$ |
| :---: |
| $2 / 20^{*}$ |
| $3 / 26$ |
| $4 / 23$ |
| $5 / 21^{*}$ |
| $6 / 25$ |
| $7 / 23$ |
| $8 / 20^{*}$ |
| $9 / 24$ |
| $10 / 22$ |
| $11 / 19^{*}$ |
| $12 / 17^{*}$ |
| $1 / 21 / 2025$ |

*Dates shifted to avoid holidays or for consistency with the Development Schedule of Applications.

Chairperson Smith suggested moving the December Meeting to the $10^{\text {th }}$. Members decided to leave it as proposed, in the normal pattern.

Chairperson Smith asked for a motion.
Ms. Farmer made a motion to approve the Zoning Board Meeting Dates for 2024 as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Chair moved to the next agenda item and asked Ms. Harris for her presentation.

## PUBLIC HEARING - VARIANCE: FRIENDSHIP ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Hansen Building and Design Corporation, on behalf of Dr. Laura Billings, was requesting a variance in order to construct a new commercial building at $2999 \mathrm{~S} .11^{\text {th }} \mathrm{St} .25$ feet from both of the side yards while Section 50.70.E. of the Township Ordinance requires 50 -foot side yard setbacks.

Ms. Harris said 2999 S. $11^{\text {th }}$ Street, has approximately 119 feet of frontage, is 1.24 acres in size, and is zoned R-3: Residence District. The property is located in the southeast quadrant of the Township, southeast of the Crystal Lane and S. $11^{\text {th }}$ Street intersection.

Hansen Building and Design Corporation, on behalf of Dr. Laura Billings, was requesting a variance from Section 50.70.E. of the Township Ordinance that governs the minimum distance between any building or structure (that is not a single-family home or duplex) and any rear or side property line abutting property with a single- or two-family residence located in an equivalent or lower zoning classification. Specifically, the Ordinance outlines that the setback distance shall be 50 feet, or a type F greenspace shall be installed, along the property line between the improved area of the subject property and the abutting residence.
$2999 \mathrm{~S} .11^{\text {th }}$ Street is zoned $\mathrm{R}-3$ and is currently vacant. The property in question is situated between two parcels that are also zoned R-3 but have single-family homes. Generally, the required side yard setback for a new commercial building within an R-3 zoning district is 20 feet or the height of the abutting side of the building at its highest point. However, the presence of single-family homes triggers the increased setback requirements of 50.70.E of the Zoning Ordinance; a 50 -feet setback or type F greenspace is required along the adjoining property lines. It should be noted that there is an R-2: Residence District abutting the southeastern portion of $2999 \mathrm{~S} .11^{\text {th }}$ Street.

Although Section 50.70. E references a type F greenspace, she noted the referenced type F greenspace was removed from the Landscaping Ordinance when it was last updated. Staff were able to research the earlier version of the Landscaping Ordinance and found the greenspace standards previously in place. Generally, the minimum setback distance required between any building and any rear or side property line is 20 feet or the height of the building, whichever is greater. This request would meet this Ordinance requirement since the proposed building height is 25 feet.

The applicant provided a letter outlining their reasoning for the variance request. In summary, the applicant contends that the required increased setbacks would leave little developable space on this 119 -foot-wide parcel making development difficult and therefore this section of the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome. They also note the approval of this request will have no material impact on adjacent property owners. The applicant adds that even though the setback would be decreased, if approved, in order to meet the intent of the ordinance, they "will be landscaping the site very heavily, providing significant screening to all sides of the parcel. The 8 - foot evergreens will be staggered in such a way to obstruct the view of the building from not only the R-2 parcel but the adjoining R-3 parcels as well."

## STANDARDS OF REVIEW - STAFF ANALYSIS

Ms. Harris reviewed the principles the Michigan courts have applied for a dimensional variance, which collectively amount to demonstrating a practical difficulty:

- Special or unique physical conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the property involved and which are not generally applicable to other properties in the same district.
- Strict compliance with the standard would unreasonably prevent the landowner from using the property for a permitted use; or would render conformity to the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.
- The variance is the minimum necessary to provide substantial justice to the landowner and neighbors.
- The problem is not self-created.
- Public safety and welfare.

Ms. Harris indicated Staff analyzed the request against these principles and offered the following information to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

## Standards of Approval of a Nonuse Variance (practical difficulty) <br> Standard: Unique Physical Circumstances <br> Are there unique physical limitations or conditions which prevent compliance?

Comment: $\quad 2999 \mathrm{~S} .11^{\text {th }}$ Street is currently undeveloped with relatively flat terrain. The ordinance outlines that a parcel within the R-3 district is required to have a minimum frontage of 200 feet and a minimum area of 50,000 square feet. This property's frontage of 119 feet is legal non-conforming. The property's area of 1.24 acres exceeds the ordinance required minimum of 50,000 square feet. The narrower width, almost half what is required, is a unique physical limitation. If the increased setback of 50 feet is strictly enforced for the development of this property, it would only allow a nonresidential structure 19 feet wide or less to be built on this site. It could be argued that the increased setback requirement renders the property essentially undevelopable for any use other than a singlefamily home or duplex without a setback variance being granted.

## Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensome

Are reasonable options for compliance available?
Does reasonable use of the property exist with denial of the variance?
Comment: The matter of building a nonresidential use, specifically a veterinary clinic, on this property is discretionary and reasonable use of the property does still exist as a single- or two-family home; however, the enhanced setbacks from properties abutting those containing single- or two-family homes in equal or lesser zoning classifications severely limits the buildable area of this parcel for any other uses.

Section 50.70 E was originally designed to offer two options for enhanced buffering between uses. The first is a setback of 50 feet and the second is the installation of a type F greenspace (i.e. setback of 35 feet with increased landscaping). The second option is no longer available as the ordinance no longer includes the type F landscaping referenced, leaving the applicant with one less option to develop than previous developers. Even though this option is technically no longer applicable, the Zoning Board of Appeals should consider the original intent of 50.70. E which allowed for a decreased setback, in this case from 50 feet to 35 feet, as long as additional landscaping was provided.

Note: to address the spirit of the ordinance, the applicants have indicated they are willing to provide increased landscaping, to the north, south, and east sides of the parcel. Any proposed landscaping plan will need to be reviewed against the landscaping ordinance and approved by the Planning Commission with the review of the site plan. The Commission should consider this as a condition of approval.

## Minimum Necessary for Substantial Justice

Applied to both applicant as well as to other property owners in district. Review past decisions of the ZBA for consistency (precedence).

Comment: In researching past Zoning Board of Appeals decisions regarding the request for relief from increased setback requirements abutting single- or two-family homes, Planning Department staff were able to identify two similar cases.

1. Spurr Dental, 1624 South Drake Road, 4/8/2002: The applicant sought relief from the supplemental setback requirements from CR: Local Business District classification to adjacent R-3 properties from the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow for the construction of a new office building on the property. Without the variance, the applicants argued, there would be essentially no buildable area resulting since the width of the property is 159 feet with supplemental setback requirements of 85 feet on both the north and south property lines. The Zoning Board of Appeals granted the variance request, allowing the building to be built to the standard commercial office setback requirements and not have to follow the enhanced applicable setbacks, citing that the conformance was unnecessarily burdensome, the hardship was not self-created, and that the spirit and intent of the Ordinance would be observed by the variance.
2. D \& R Sports, 8178 West Main Street, 10/6/2014: The applicants sought relief from the supplemental setback requirements for properties abutting residential zoning districts from the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow for the construction of a new storage building. If approved, the new structure was proposed to be located 58 feet from the property line, 33 feet less than required by the supplemental setback provisions. The applicant indicated there was an existing berm fully planted with spruce trees that should completely obstruct the view of the building. The Zoning Board of Appeals granted the variance request given the adjacent use of the property is a unique element and it was unlikely to have a material impact on the adjacent property.

## Self-Created Hardship

Are the conditions or circumstances which resulted in the variance request created by actions of the applicant?

Comment: With the site currently being vacant, it could be argued that the need for the variance requested is self-created. However, the building setbacks for this property severely limit the amount of space available for development. The width of the property is 119 feet, and with the 50 -foot setback on both the north and south, it would give only 19 feet to construct a building.

Public Safety and Welfare
Will the variance request negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of others?

Comment: The applicant stated they would provide extensive landscape buffering to obscure the site from the properties to the north, south, and east, more similarly aligned with the type F greenspace referenced. If the variance is approved, the
site plan would require the review of the Planning Commission and a public hearing to ensure the proposed use and layout are compatible with the surrounding area. With the willingness to provide additional screening and the safeguards in place through the Planning Commission review, staff does not anticipate that allowing the structure to be built closer to the neighboring properties with single-family homes than is typically allowed would negatively impact the health, safety, or welfare of the neighbors or the community.

## POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Ms. Harris suggested Board Members could take the following possible actions:

- Motion to approve as requested (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to deny
- Motion to approve with an alternate variance relief (conditions may be attached)

The motion should include the findings of fact relevant to the requested variance. Based on staff analysis, the following findings of fact were presented:

- Support of variance approval
- There are unique physical limitations (property width).
- Conformance to the ordinance is unnecessarily burdensome as the enhanced setbacks for properties abutting those containing single- or two-family homes in equal or lesser zoning classifications severely limits the buildable area of this parcel.
- With increased landscaping/screening, per the original intent of 50.70 E, there would be no negative impact to the health, safety, or welfare of the public by allowing the building to be built with the proposed setbacks.
- Substantial justice is met as the Zoning Board of Appeals granted setback variances for two similar cases in the past.
- Support of variance denial
- The necessity of the variance from the enhanced 50 foot setback is a selfcreated hardship.

Possible motions for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider include:

1. Variance Approval

The Zoning Board of Appeals approves the variance request due to the unique physical limitations that exist, conformance to the ordinance is unnecessarily burdensome and there would be no negative impact to the safety of the public with the condition that enhanced landscaping, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Commission, is installed within the decreased setback areas to meet the intent of Section 50.70.E. and any proposed primary building meets the general zoning setback requirements (in this case, 20 feet or the height of the building, whichever is greater).
2. Variance Denial

The Zoning Board of Appeals denies the variance request due to the proposal being a self-created hardship.
3. Variance Approval and Denial

The Zoning Board of Appeals can choose to approve portions of the requested variance or provide alternate relief. For example, approve a variance for a setback larger than requested but less than the ordinance requires, ex. 35 feet.

Chairperson Smith thanked Ms. Harris for her presentation and asked if Board Members had questions for her. Hearing none, she asked if the applicant wished to speak.

Mr. Walter Hansen, of Building and Design Corporation spoke on behalf of Dr. Laura Billings, and noted the Kalamazoo County Road Commission has approved the proposed location of the drive, and for soil erosion permissions have both been received. He described the intent to develop an office on the property to the north, the extensive landscaping with evergreen trees that is proposed will provide very good screening, noted there would be 400 feet between the back of the residence on the R-2 zoned property and this development, and that approval of the variance would not result in negatively impacting the home directly to the south .

Without the variance, he said it would be almost impossible for any type of office use on the site, specifically citing that no fire truck turnaround would be possible.

Chairperson Smith thanked Mr. Hansen for his comments and opened a public hearing.
Ms. Penny Marsh, 3065 S. $11^{\text {th }}$ Street spoke in opposition to the variance request. Her comments are attached to these minutes in their entirety.

Hearing no further comments, the Chair closed the hearing and moved to Board Deliberations.

Mr. Smith noted that he would be in support of approving the variance as requested with the conditions outlined by staff. He noted the installation of the additional screening and the non-conforming, pre-existing width of the parcel which is a unique limitation.

Ms. Farmer said the request for variance was the result of a self-created hardship and that the ordinance is in place in large part to protect residential properties. The proposed business would be right next to a residence and cited her concern regarding equal or lesser zoning classifications. She noted that as zoning goes with the land, in the future the building might be an entirely different business.

Chairperson Smith also felt the request was based on a self-created hardship.
Mr. Williams encouraged the applicant to take another look at the plan.
Mr. Everett asked whether the site could be used for a residence.
Attorney Porter said it could be used for a single family residence or a duplex.
Hearing no further discussion, Chairperson Smith asked for a motion.
Ms. Farmer made a motion to deny the variance request to construct a new commercial building at $2999 \mathrm{~S} .11^{\text {th }}$ St. 25 feet from both of the side yards while Section 50.70.E. of the Township Ordinance requires 50 -foot side yard setbacks due to the variance request being the result of a self-created hardship. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The
motion was approved and the variance request denied in a roll call vote of $5-2$. (Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gould - yes; Mr. Jachym - no; Ms. Farmer - yes; Ms. Smith - yes; Mr. Williams yes; Mr. Smith - no; Mr. Everett - yes.)

Chairperson Smith moved to the next agenda item.

## Other Updates and Business

Ms. Lubbert said there will be two items to consider at the December 12 meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

Ms. Farmer noted this was the first time Ms. Harris had presented to the group and thanked her for a job well done; Chairperson Smith agreed.

## Adjournment

Chairperson Smith noted the Zoning Board of Appeals had exhausted its agenda. There being no other business, she adjourned the meeting at approximately $3: 44$ p.m.

Minutes prepared:
November 15, 2023
Minutes approved:
December 12, 2023

Statement to Oshtemo Township Zoning Board of Appeals 11/14/2023
Re: Variance for setback of proposed animal hospital on South $11^{\text {th }}$ Street

We are retired and moved to 3065 South $11^{\text {th }}$ Street on December 14, 2022 to be closer to two of our three sons who live in Kalamazoo. We made the decision to buy this house because we fell in love with the park-like character of our lot. Our property looks like a park with many beautiful mature hardwood trees, including maple, cherry and sassafras. We have already added several native woody shrubs and a white oak sapling to the plantings. If the variance is granted to reduce the animal hospital's setback along our property line, there will be a genuine loss to us in the spectacular views and privacy that our property now affords. Our interest is in maintaining the residential quality of our home's setting and the neighborhood's residential assets as well.

We have reviewed the Standards of Approval of a Nonuse Variance published on the Oshtemo Township website and note the following as they apply to this case:

- Re Standard One - reasonable options for compliance are available if the developer is willing to alter the sizes and sitings of the building and parking lot.
- Re Standard Three - there are no unique physical limitations or conditions to prevent compliance.
- Re Standard Four - the conditions or circumstances which resulted in the variance request are entirely created by the actions (planning \& design) of the applicant.
- Re Standard Five - the spirit of the Ordinance will not be observed, the public health, safety, and welfare secured, and substantial justice done if the variance is granted since this neighborhood at this end of South $11^{\text {th }}$ Street is zoned R3 and retains the character of a residential neighborhood.

There are several other nearby Oshtemo Twnp Veterinary clinics:

- Oshtemo Animal Hospital, 6303 Parkview Avenue, 49009 (. 9 mile away) *
- Kalamazoo Cat Hospital, 5263 W. KL Avenue, 49009 (1.4 miles away) *
- Pet Vet Family Pet Care Center, 229 S. Drake Rd, 49009 (2.2 miles away) *
- West Main Animal Hospital, 7250 W. Main Street, 49009 (3.8 miles away) *
- Eighth Street Veterinary Care, 624 S. Eighth Street, 49009 ( 2.9 miles away) *

Consider these facilities' settings, sitings on their lots, surrounding uses, set backs from other properties around them, and tell us what you think!

We do not approve of this proposed variance and sincerely hope that you will respect the zoning guidelines for residential setbacks in this case. Thank you for considering our input.

John Klyce and Penny Marsh
3065 South $11^{\text {th }}$ Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-365-9013

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# OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP <br> ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS <br> <br> DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 12, 2023 AT <br> <br> DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 12, 2023 AT OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP HALL, 7275 WEST MAIN STREET 

## Agenda

## PUBLIC HEARING - VARIANCE: HCD PROPERTIES LLC

Sign Impressions, on behalf of HCD Properties LLC, was requesting two sign variances pertaining to new on-site signage for an industrial property located at 3680 Stadium Park Way. Both variances were requesting relief from Section 55.90 of the zoning ordinance which governs the use, area, type height, and number of signs allowed for industrial land uses.

A meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals was held Tuesday, December 12, 2023, beginning at approximately 3:00 p.m.

## ALL MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: Anita Smith, Chair

Rick Everett
Dusty Farmer
Fred Gould
Harry Jachym
Louis Williams, Vice Chair
Alistair Smith
Also present were Iris Lubbert, Planning Director, Jim Porter, Township Attorney, Martha Coash, Recording Secretary and several guests.

## Call to Order

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order. Those present joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lubbert indicated there were no changes to the agenda
Ms. Farmer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Jachym seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Chair moved to the next agenda item.

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments on non-agenda items.

## Approval of the Minutes of November 14, 2023

Chairperson Smith asked if there were changes to the minutes of November 14, 2023.

It was noted the vote on page seven needed correction to reflect that Mr. Smith voted "no" on the motion rather than "yes" and that Mr. Williams voted "yes" rather than "no."

The Chair asked for a motion.
Ms. Farmer made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 14, 2023 as presented with the noted correction. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Chair moved to the next agenda item, opened the meeting for public hearing, and asked Ms. Lubbert for her presentation.

## PUBLIC HEARING - VARIANCE: HCD PROPERTIES LLC

Sign Impressions, on behalf of HCD Properties LLC, was requesting two sign variances pertaining to new on-site signage for an industrial property located at 3680 Stadium Park Way. Both variances requested relief from Section 55.90 of the zoning ordinance which governs the use, area, type height, and number of signs allowed for industrial land uses.

Ms. Lubbert presented an overview, explaining Sign Impressions, on behalf of HCD Properties LLC, was requesting two sign variances pertaining to new on-site signage for an industrial property located at 3680 Stadium Park Way (parcel no. 05-35-155-050), in the I-1 Industrial District. Both variances requested relief from Section 55.90 of the zoning ordinance which governs the use, area, type, height, and number of signs allowed for industrial land uses. For Request A, the applicant asked for a variance to establish a wall sign that is 105.33 square feet in sign area where only 50 square feet is permitted. In Request B, the applicant requested a variance for the proposed wall sign to be mounted at $30^{\prime}$ in height, exceeding the maximum permited mounting height of $20^{\prime}$.

She noted the subject 11-acre site is located in the southwest quadrant of the Township and has road frontage adjacent to Stadium Drive and Stadium Park Way. The site currently serves as a manufacturing facility for food flavorings. The purpose of the 30,000+ square foot building addition is to provide additional space for warehouse and cold storage needs. Individual industrial buildings located outside of an industrial-office park are allowed one wall sign and one ground sign. Currently, the subject site only has one ground sign erected. If signage is proposed to differentiate from what the zoning ordinance allows with respects to placement, height, size, and the number of signs, a variance request is required. Since the nature of these requests conflict with the code, the applicant requested the Zoning Board of Appeals consider the two variances for their proposal for relief from Section 55.90: Industrial Land Uses.

## SECTION 55.90: Industrial Land Uses

Ms. Lubbert reported the applicant provided the following rationale for the two variance requests from Section 55.90. She noted further rationale supporting such could be found in the letter of intent submitted by the applicant.

## - "Criteria 1 Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensome

1. The 50 sq ft requirement is significantly too small for the size of the building it will be attached to. Having a sign that you cannot see because it is too small for the size of the building does not benefit anyone in the community.
2. Having a sign in the middle of the building instead of where it can be seen higher up on the building does not allow for proper visibility."

## - "Criteria 3 Unique Physical Circumstances

Are there unique limitations or conditions which prevent compliance? YES The building is very large, 34 ' tall $\times 165$ ' long. Proper visibility requires a larger sign.

He provided two layouts. One is that of the proposed sign. The other is what is currently allowed by the Township without deviation. The additional sq footage we are requesting is necessary to ensure that the size of the sign is complimentary to the size of the structure it will be attached to. The layout that depicts the 50 sq ft sign is significantly too small for the size of the structure it will be attached to and visibility to the road will be substantially reduced if visible at all."

## Ms. Lubbert reviewed and provided staff analysis of the Standards of Review:

The Michigan courts have applied the following principles for a dimensional variance, which collectively amount to demonstrating a practical difficulty, as follows:

- Special or unique physical conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the property involved and which are not generally applicable to other properties in the same district.
- Strict compliance with the standard would unreasonably prevent the landowner from using the property for a permitted use; or would render conformity to the ordinance unnecessarily burdensome.
- The variance is the minimum necessary to provide substantial justice to the landowner and neighbors.
- The problem is not self-created.
- Public safety and welfare.


## STANDARDS OF APPROVAL OF A NONUSE VARIANCE (PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY):

Standard: Unique Physical Circumstances Are there unique physical limitations or conditions which prevent compliance?

Comment: Request A) The subject property possesses approximately 740' of road frontage adjacent to Stadium Drive and approximately 525' adjacent to Stadium Park Way. The segment of Stadium Drive adjacent to the site is a five-lane roadway with a speed limit of 55 mph and is heavily traveled. Additionally, although the minimum front yard setback required by ordinance is $120^{\prime}$ from the center of the street right-of-way, the building addition is set back approximately 220 ' from the center of the street right-of-way from Stadium Drive. It could be argued that a 50 square foot wall sign in this location is at a visual disadvantage due to the speeds in this area and the enhanced setback from Stadium Drive. Having signage visible from this major arterial would help with wayfinding. There are no significant elevation changes as the grade of the property is relatively flat.

Request B) FlavorSum received formal approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals on August 23, 2022, to construct a 30,000+ square foot building at the subject property. The building addition is 34 ' tall. The zoning ordinance only
allows for wall signs to be placed at a maximum mounting height of 20 ' above grade. Due to the building's height, the applicant requested a variance to mount the wall sign at 30 ' above grade. It is typical for a wall sign to be mounted near the top of any building. In this case, the zoning ordinance would restrict any type of wall sign exceeding a mounting height of 20 '.

## Standard: Conformance Unnecessarily Burdensome

Are reasonable options for compliance available?
Does reasonable use of the property exist with denial of the variance?

Comment: Request A) As the building addition is $165^{\prime}$ long and $34^{\prime}$ tall, it can be expected that a larger sign area is desired to match the building's scale. The building is also set back 220' from the center of the Stadium Drive street right-of-way, or rather 165 ' from the front yard property line, which also plays a factor into the need for a greater sign area due to the distance from Stadium Drive. However, the applicant can still propose adequate signage that meets the sign area requirements outlined in the zoning ordinance. The wall sign could also be relocated onto the original portion of the principal building which is not as tall or long as the new building addition, though equally as far from Stadium Drive.

Request B) Other than the Ascension Borgess industrial-office development, there are few other industrial buildings that have a height similar to the subject building. The building is $34^{\prime}$ tall. If the variance request for the wall sign is denied for a mounting height of approximately $30^{\prime}$, the wall sign would need to be placed just above the midway point of the building addition. As noted previously, it is common practice to place walls signs near the top of a building. However, the portion of the principal building which existed prior to the 2022 building addition does possess an elevation facing Stadium Drive as well. The top of said elevation as measured from grade is 18' tall, which is 16 ' shorter than the top of the building addition where the applicant would like the wall sign to be placed. It can be argued that if the variance for the wall sign was denied, the applicant could relocate the wall sign further east on the south elevation facing Stadium Drive and the visual issue in terms of placement for sign height can be avoided. Reasonable use of the property would also still exist.

Standard: Minimum Necessary for Substantial Justice Applied to both applicant as well as to other property owners in district. Review past decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for consistency (precedence).
Comment: In researching past ZBA decisions regarding sign relief for industrial developments, Planning Department staff were able to identify one similar request to allow for an increased sign area and increased mounting height for wall signs. A summary of said findings are described below. Although there are several similar cases for commercial properties, only the below industrial comparison was found.
Request A) Ascension Borgess, 2520 Robert Jones Way, September 28, 2021: Ascension Borgess requested a variance to increase the sign area of their wall mounted signs. The applicant indicated the request was to help to provide reasonable identification. Some of the unique physical circumstances included that the property has frontage on two major roads, there is a substantial amount
of preserved open space adjacent to the building, and the building is set back a significant distance from the roads. Therefore, wall signs larger than 50 square feet may be deemed appropriate for visibility. The ZBA granted the variance to increase the sign area for the wall sign on the south side of the building to 131.4 square feet in area and the wall sign on the west side of the building to 205.5 square feet in area, where the ordinance allows a sign area of 50 square feet.

Request B) Ascension Borgess, 2520 Robert Jones Way, September 28, 2021: Ascension Borgess requested a variance to increase the height of their south and west facing wall mounted signs. The applicant mentioned the request was to help to provide adequate signage in an appropriate location given that the building height ranges anywhere from $30^{\prime}-47^{\prime}$ tall. The increase mounting height of the signage would provide visibility from US-131 and Drake Road and would help guide patients and their families to the site. The ZBA granted the variance to increase the mounting height for the wall sign on the south side of the building to be mounted at a height of 33 ' above grade and the wall sign on the west side of the building to be mounted at a height of 30 ' above grade, where the zoning ordinance allows a maximum mounting height of 20 feet.

Standard: Self-Created Hardship
Are the conditions or circumstances which resulted in the variance request created by actions of the applicant?
Comment: Requests A \& B) Industrial buildings are often designed to be large, and in this case, large enough to store goods and other materials in the warehouse to be able to operate the business successfully. The zoning ordinance was not originally written with taller buildings in mind. The zoning ordinance does not have a maximum building height allowed for industrial developments. The applicant followed all requirements outlined in the zoning ordinance while developing the site. However, although all businesses on Stadium Drive share the enhanced setback of 120', it was the property owner's decision to set the building back an additional 100' from what the ordinance requires. It is the applicant's desire to establish a wall sign with an overall sign area that is double the maximum size allowed by code. It is also the applicant's desire to install a wall sign that exceeds the maximum mounting height allowed by the zoning ordinance. Installing a wall sign out of compliance with all aspects of the zoning ordinance is not required nor necessary. The request is a self-created hardship.

## Standard: Public Safety and Welfare

Will the variance request negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of others?
Comment: Requests A \& B) The increased sign area is not intrusive to motorists or any surrounding properties. The sign area requested could be argued to suit the 165' wide elevation the wall sign is proposed to be mounted on. Additionally, it is fairly common for businesses to have their wall signs near the top of their respected building. The zoning ordinance allows for a maximum wall mounting height of 20', whereas the proposed signs would be mounted at $30^{\prime}$ in height above grade. This request is to mount the subject wall sign 10' higher than what is allowed by code. Placing signage higher on a taller building to match this practice will not negatively impact members of the public. This has been implemented elsewhere
at other businesses and has shown no negative effects. Neither variance request will negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of others.

Ms. Lubbert provided possible actions the Zoning Board of Appeals might take and the findings of fact relevant to the requested variance based on staff analysis.

## POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Motion to approve as requested (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to approve with an alternate variance relief (conditions may be attached)
- Motion to deny.

The motion should include the findings of fact relevant to the requested variance. Based on the staff analysis, the following findings of fact are presented:

- Support of variance approval for Request A
- There are Unique Physical Circumstances. The property is located on a 55 mph five-lane roadway. The higher speeds in this area in combination with the setback of the building warrants a larger sized wall sign to provide appropriate advertisement to commuters on such traveled way.
- There is substantial justice. There is one previous case from two years ago in which an industrial-office development is granted a variance to allow for a significantly larger wall sign.
- Public health, safety, and welfare will be secured.
- Support of variance denial for Request A
- The variance request is a hardship that is self-created, as the applicant is not required to install a larger sign nor was required to set the building back an additional 100'.
- Reasonable use of the property would still exist if the variance were denied.
- Reasonable options for compliance are available.
- Support of variance approval for Request B
- FlavorSum received formal approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals on August 23, 2022 which allowed the applicant to construct the building this size and height, presenting a unique physical circumstance. The zoning ordinance was not originally written with taller buildings in mind.
- There is one previous case in which a taller, industrial building was granted a variance to allow for a greater mounting height for wall signs.
- If the variance was granted, it would not negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- Support of variance denial for Request B
- Conformance is not unnecessarily burdensome as other options for compliance are available. The wall sign could be relocated and mounted at a height which would comply with ordinance requirements on the portion of the principal building that predated the 2022 building addition which possesses a south elevation facing Stadium Drive.
- Visibility of the wall sign will be maintained regardless of height. Reasonable use of the property exists if the variance is denied.
- The request for the variance is a self-created hardship.

She provided the following possible motions for the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider:

1. Variance Approval for Request $\mathbf{A}$

The Zoning Board of Appeals approves the variance request due to there being unique physical circumstances with the property in question, minimum necessary for substantial justice, and approval will not negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
2. Variance Denial for Request $A$

The Zoning Board of Appeals denies the variance request as the need for the variance is a self-created hardship and conformance with code requirements is not unnecessarily burdensome.
3. Variance Approval for Request $\mathbf{B}$

The Zoning Board of Appeals approves the variance request due to there being unique physical circumstances with the property in question, minimum necessary for substantial justice, and approval will not negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
4. Variance Denial for Request B

The Zoning Board of Appeals denies the variance request as the need for the variance is a self-created hardship and conformance with code requirements is not unnecessarily burdensome.

Chairperson Smith asked if there were questions from board members.
Ms. Farmer asked what the difference was between this situation and the Robert Jones Parkway medical building that serves hundreds of patients each day. She did not understand the physical disadvantage for wayfinding. It could be argued that the restriction of 50 feet could be a visual disadvantage.

Ms. Lubbert indicated the FlavorSum property has frontage on two different roads and is set back the double required distance from the road. She noted they do have a monument sign.

Ms. Farmer commented the applicant chose the distance from the road, a self-created hardship and compared the amount of daily traffic of Robert Jones Way to that of FlavorSum in light of the substantial justice consideration.

Ms. Lubbert noted the uses are clinical vs. industrial, she suggested not focusing on that too much; it is more about the physical environment. Substantial justice should be considered regarding how past precedent was considered. She added that the medical building also received a variance for a second wall sign, where only one was permitted. This industrial request is only for the size and placement.

Attorney Porter added substantial justice should provide equal protection; the applicant should be treated the same as a former applicant.

Mr. Gould noted the board has revisited taller buildings requirements related to signage and he thought the ordinance was being rewritten to address that issue.

Ms. Lubbert said updating the signage height requirements is on the to-do list.
Attorney Porter said a number of commercial properties have the same issues.
Hearing no further comments the Chair asked if the applicant wished to speak.
Mr. Paul Havenaar, representing Sign Impressions, indicated 50 square feet for a sign that is 220 feet from the road is too small as well as being too small for the size of the building regardless of setback. He listed other local jurisdictions and their requirements, all larger than what Oshtemo allows. He also noted it is a safety issue. Truckers often miss the turn off to get to the back warehouses and have to turn around. The existing electrical box nearby makes the existing sign difficult to see.

He compared the requested sign to other larger business signs around the neighborhood and noted some also have signs mounted higher up on the building and that they are not obtrusive. Sign height is allowed regardless of placement on the building. Signs halfway up on buildings do not look good. The trees on the FlavorSum site, planted to Township requirements, will restrict visibility of a sign as they grow if, placed where currently required.

Ms. Farmer said any motion should include clear reasons as supplied by the Planning Director and asked Mr. Havenaar what method he used to compare industrial buildings' requirements to those of commercial buildings.

Mr. Havenaar said they tried to compare the ratio for larger buildings in the Township, most of which are commercial.

A representative of FlavorSum explained this location will have more traffic as they will be adding more employees, including more truck drivers and more warehouse employees. There will be more truck traffic including semis to deliver raw materials and take shipments out.

Ms. Lubbert clarified the pictures of commercial buildings provided for comparison are covered by the ordinance under different zoning and types of uses. Industrial classifications have more restrictions. She noted a large number of commercial buildings have asked for larger signs and most requests have been approved.

Attorney Porter said information regarding granted requests for commercial buildings were relevant to the discussion and confirmed the Board can take those decisions into account.

Hearing no further comments, the Chair closed the public hearing and moved to Board Deliberations.

Mr. Smith said he supported both requests: size and location for the purpose stated; the request is similar to other accommodations approved and he did not see the difference between this request and the one from Borgess.

Mr. Gould agreed, saying buildings will continue to get taller and adjustments in ordinance will need to be made to accommodate them.

Mr. Williams concurred with their comments.
Attorney Porter confirmed there is no height restriction for buildings in the Township other than for residential districts.

Hearing no further comments, Chairperson Smith noted there seemed to be board consensus and asked for two motions.

Ms. Farmer made a motion to approve Request A, a variance to establish a wall sign that is 105.33 square feet in sign area where only 50 square feet is permitted, based on meeting the criteria of unique physical circumstances, substantial justice and public health, safety and welfare. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Farmer made a motion to approve Request B, a variance to allow the proposed wall sign to be mounted at 30 feet in height, exceeding the maximum permitted mounting height of 20 feet, based on meeting the criteria of unique physical circumstances, substantial justice and public health, safety and welfare. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairperson Smith moved to the next agenda item.

## Other Updates and Business

Ms. Lubbert noted this would be her last meeting prior to her resignation from her position at the Township on December 21, and announced this would also be Chairperson Smith's last meeting as she was resigning from the ZBA. Chairman Smith was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Members thanked them both for their service and told them they would be missed.

Ms. Lubbert noted the ZBA would need to elect new officers at the first meeting in 2024.
Mr. Williams asked whether the ZBA could request that audience members remove headgear during the Pledge of Allegiance out of respect.

Attorney Porter said it is up to the Township Board to set meeting standards, but will look into what might be required or requested for the future.

Mr. Jachym noted he is an alternate member of the ZBA and asked what that meant as to his duties/restrictions.

Attorney Porter said they are the same as any other member.
Mr. Williams indicated he would be interested in chairing the ZBA in 2024.

## Adjournment

Chairperson Smith noted the Zoning Board of Appeals had exhausted its agenda. There being no other business, she adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared:
December 13, 2023

Minutes approved:
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[^0]:    *Distance is from our address/proposed vet clinic address

