MINUTES OF MEETING OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
Held November 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers—City Hall Building

This public meeting was called to order by President David Hoar at 7:00 p.m. Shawna Humphrey opened with the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance and Jim Day led in prayer. Commission Attorney Thomas E. Scifres took roll, and those present were David Hoar, John Mishler, Lane Freiberger, Shawna Humphrey, Jeff Souder, Scott Maudlin, Adam Dufour, Danielle Walker, and Jim Day. Attorney Scifres presented the Board with the minutes of the October meeting, which were approved by a vote of 9-0 on the motion of Jim Day and seconded by Scott Maudlin. President Hoar welcomed those present and offered opening remarks.

The first order of business was the progress on the Agricultural Land Use sub-committee. Consultant Kari Keller Steele reported that there had been a meeting held October 4, 2012 and that the group took the agriculture zoning ordinance in a different direction. She reported a need for two (2) or three (3) more meetings on the agriculture portion of the ordinance.

Ms. Steele then presented the minutes from the August 21, 2012 meeting of the sub-committee. A question arose as to whether they needed to be reviewed and accepted. Attorney Scifres pointed out that although all action taken had been rescinded, it was deemed a meeting of the full Plan Commission, and minutes or memoranda should be prepared and adopted by those in attendance so as to properly document the meeting discussion and know what discussions were being rescinded. Lane Frieberger made the motion to the members of that sub-committee that were present at this meeting to approve these minutes, with John Mishler seconding. The motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Steele then reported that Farm Bureau would like to appoint people to the Land Use sub-committee. Keith Day, the Vice President of Washington County Farm Bureau advised he had two (2) members that would like to serve on this sub-committee. They are David Gottbrath of Pekin and Eric Stephenson of Salem. Kari Keller Steele asked for qualifications of these gentlemen, as she appoints people to this committee. Keith Day responded that Farm Bureau has been watching this process and that they decided they would like to get more involved. Both gentlemen have extensive farming backgrounds as well.

Don Rogers, a member of the public, spoke about harmful chemicals involved in concentrated agricultural feeding operations. He questioned statements made in previous meeting that no one was getting sick; pointing out that the farmers themselves had a disincentive to report illness. He feels that the Plan Commission needs to look more carefully into health concerns before voting to pass any ordinance. As for the discussed point system in the agricultural portion of the zoning ordinance, he feels that the placement and air flow should be considered also on these proposed operations. Don Rogers also voiced his concern about the spreading of manure that may contain antibiotics. He then handed out written arguments as source references. Chairman Hoar asked that he pin point specific citations within the sources. Don Rogers agreed to supplement these sources.

Kari Keller Steele stated she would like the Agricultural Land Use sub-committee to meet November 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. and November 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. The members of this sub-committee at this time are John Mishler, Danielle Walker, Jim Day, Scott Maudlin, Lane Frieberger, and Max Greene. It was pointed out that with five (5) members of the entire Plan Commission on this sub-committee, not all could attend any given meeting. Danielle Walker advised she would be unable to attend either meeting date, which would leave us with an acceptable number of Plan Commission members in attendance. Attorney Scifres reminded everyone that Kari Keller Steele would have the final decision of adding the suggested gentlemen from Farm Bureau to this sub-committee.

David Hoar recognized Kent Peter of Farbest, located in Jasper Indiana. Mr. Peter had several concerns to report on behalf of the company regarding the appearance that turkey operations are being singled out for regulation by the county. He stated that IDEM threshold for animals is based on manure production. The poultry threshold for poultry is set at 30,000 by IDEM and he feels lowering that threshold number to 18,000 could financially harm local farmers. As for set-backs, he stated that Farbest growers under the 30,000 IDEM threshold for poultry are advised to follow IDEM regulations anyway. He did not feel that the setbacks and thresholds are a big hindrance to anyone; the company just does not want to see them become more restrictive. He also commented on the proposed point system and the discussion regarding 4-inch water lines to the properties, stating that even those growers with 4" water line would face that line being taxed by other users. In response, Attorney Scifres advised that the proposed ordinance—including lower

threshold levels—applies equally to all livestock. Kari Keller Steele remarked that the water line discussion was not a required size but simply a way to get points under the system.

David Norton, a member of the public, asked if having five (5) Plan Commission members on the Land Use sub-committee was a violation of the Open Door Law. Attorney Scifres and Kari Keller Steele addressed his question, with Kari Keller Steele stating she has never been called directly and apologized for the delay in the minutes he requested being produced due to the death of her granddaughter.

Don Rogers spoke again saying that he feels communication is important. He has attended 3-4 meetings and has never been advised of the consultant's identity or contact information. He would like to be able to talk to her. Attorney Scifres advised he would get that information and forward it to Mr. Rogers. A discussion then ensued about the public being able to contact Kari Keller Steele directly and was that appropriate since she was hired and paid by the Plan Commission.

Max Greene stated that Travis Elliott had posted prior meetings of the sub-committee and he only brings up the issue of the number of Plan Commission members present and it was announced that people had been turned away.

Lane Frieberger and Scott Maudlin offered comments regarding whether the sub-committee should be opened up to the public. Attorney Scifres reminded everyone present that the language that ultimately gets presented will be subject to review by the public at both meeting and hearings before Plan Commission and the Board of Commissioners. No action was taken to alter the current structure of the meetings.

There being no further business before the Commission, Lane Frieberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Adam Dufour. The motion passed 9-0.

David Hoar, President

Scott Maudlin

Lane Freiberger

Adam DuFour

John Mishler

Jim Day

Danielle Walker

Jeff Soulier

Shawna Humphrey

COMMISSION ATTORNEY

Thomas E. Scifres