

MINUTES  
CARLOS TOWN BOARD  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING with ALEXANDRIA GUN CLUB  
November 19, 2015 – Carlos Elementary School

The purpose of this meeting was to have the AGC, the county and residents meet to discuss concerns regarding the AGC open a gun shooting range at the Mark Lee gravel pit, located on CR34. Many residents live within ½ mile of the shooting range and were not notified this group would be using this area as a shooting range.

Board Members attending: Dwayne Waldorf, Rod Meyers, Bill Krivanek, [REDACTED] and Rebecca Anderson.

Chairman Waldorf called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The town board introduced themselves to the approximately 40 guests in attendance. The clerk has a copy of signatures of those who attended this meeting on file.

Chairman Waldorf stated this is a public meeting, however, it will be conducted in the same manner as a public hearing.

With that said, the clerk read the Rules of a Public Hearing, which indicated the meeting was being recorded. Dave Bartlow, Treasurer for the AGC asked for a change in the rules regarding length of time they could address the group. Chairman Waldorf stated speakers, such as Dave Rush, the AGC representative and the attorney representing the opposition will be given more time than what was stated in the Rules of a Public Hearing/Meeting.

Rod Schultz, chairman of the AGC, stated they lost their lease of 40 years in July, when a new owner purchased the property they had been leasing. They contacted Mark Lee and leased the gravel pit for 3 years at a cost of \$1,500 per year. They began using the range on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Because of the lapse in time from July-October, there was an unusual amount of traffic and usage, as no one had been able to site their guns since July.

They have approximately 125 members and shoot between the hours of 10-7 PM. You must be a member or be with a member to use the range. They are aware there are trespassers and will be installing a gate with a combo lock that will eliminate trespassers in this area of the gravel pit. However, they cannot do anything about people using the Ferguson gravel pit, which is located in the same area. The easement from CR34 to the gravel pit which allows Lee and Ferguson to operate out of the pit, will not be plowed in the winter.

He stated they want to be good neighbors and did not realize by moving to this area, there would be this amount of pushback.

Dave Rush, Director of Land and Resource addressed the group. He noted he is a resident of the township, but not a member of the gun club. The Douglas County ordinance does not regulate shooting ranges, as it cannot regulate recreational activity, hunting or shooting on private property. The county ordinance is silent on this use. He used an analogy of someone driving 4 wheelers across their property, then inviting friends, etc. to come onto the property. The residents felt this analogy was comparing apples to oranges, as there is a huge difference with 4 wheelers vs gun safety.

Dave Rush had spoken with Chad Larson, Douglas County Attorney, who indicated an ordinance could be created, as there are state rules related to shooting ranges.

Mr. Rush indicated the county did require a conditional use permit for the shooting range located south of the freeway and Long Lake Lodge. He felt these were different uses, as both these business operate extra uses, such as lodging, food, and sales of merchandise.

Public Nuisance: there are laws related to sound and noise/per times of day. This is one way the gun club could be required to move, however, the sheriff's office would use a decibel meter to measure the sounds.

At this time, the clerk realized the tape recorder was not recording.

Chairman Waldorf indicated he was in the area both weekends of the site in (October 24, 31<sup>st</sup>). He spoke with Gary Roach and Jack Greengo who both own property east of the Ferguson and Mark Lee gravel pits. He stated it was difficult to decipher if the shooting was coming from the shooting range, as there was shooting coming from other areas. He also noted he did see a deer in the area.

Gary Fuchs, attorney for the opposition addressed the group. He indicated he was not a member of the township or of the gun club. He stated he has been involved in land use issues for 30 years. He agreed with most everything Dave Rush had stated, however, he feels that if the use is not listed as a permitted use, it should not be permitted. If not permitted, a variance cannot be issued.

He did not feel the gun club is wrong, it just does not belong in this area. This area is classified as residential and there are 50 homes located within 1/2 mile of the site.

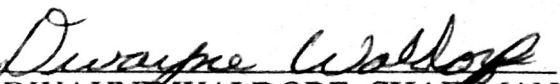
A resident can sue in a court of law to have this issue addressed.

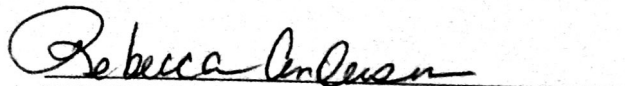
Residents Charles Andres, Phil Goeden, Michele Greengo, Ray Craft, Jack Greengo and Andrew Vilmain spoke on behalf of having the gun club move to a different area. Gladys Busch Paulzine, owner of building lots in Ida Pines, is attempting to sell building lots to the north of the easement road. She along with the other residents, are extremely upset that a gun range could be placed literally in their back yards.

A resident asked why the township board did not put a stop to this business. Carlos Township has all zoning/land use requests monitored by the county. Since the county does not regulate shooting ranges, a conditional use permit was not required, therefore, no notices were sent out. The township was not aware of the shooting range until it was brought to the attention by affected residents.

Brad Noetzelman asked if the gun range could move to a different area. Dave Bartlow, treasurer said yes, if they could find another location. They want to work with the residents to come to an agreement. The residents are not looking for any conclusion or adaptations, other than to have the gun club removed from the area.

There being no further business, Bill Krivanek moved to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Rod Meyers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

  
DWAYNE WALDORF, CHAIRMAN

  
REBECCA ANDERSON, CLERK