WHITLEY COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS STAFF REPORT

24-W-VAR-18 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS VARIANCE

Tommy Guy & Lisa Porter 2480 N. Binkley Road

OCTOBER 22, 2024 AGENDA ITEM: 1

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Current zoning: AG, Agriculture

Property area: 2± acre

The petitioner, owner of the subject property, is requesting a development standards variance for encroachment into the required side setback for an accessory structure on the property located at 2480 N. Binkley Road, in Section 30 of Richland Township. The property is improved with a residence and outbuildings.

The petitioner constructed a 12'x16' storage shed building on runners without benefit of a permit about two or three years ago. Upon requesting a permit, it was noted that the structure encroached into the required setback. Therefore, a variance approval is required before a permit can be issued. Additionally, a smaller shed was placed to the east of the larger one, with a 7.3' setback, also without a permit.

The structure location has a 6.4' side setback (from north property line). The code requires a 10' side setback, resulting in a 3.6' variance from the code requirement.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Indiana Code §36-7-4-918.5 and Section 10.10 of the Zoning Code state the criteria listed below upon which the Board must base its review. Staff's comments/proposed findings of fact under each criterion.

1. The approval will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community;

The proposed variance will not likely be injurious to the public safety, health, or morals, given the significant distance to any other improvements or roads. However, as with any variance, the general welfare may be injured by degradation of the effectiveness of the zoning code if there are not sitespecific difficulties for the variance.

2. The use and value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner; and

It is not expected that this variance will adversely affect the value of the area adjacent to the property as properties throughout the AG district have similar accessory structures. Use should also not be affected, at least not substantially, as an existing tree line serves as a buffer between properties.

3. The strict application of the terms of the Ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property. This situation shall not be self-imposed, nor be based on a perceived reduction or restriction of economic gain.

The strict application of the Ordinance terms could result in practical difficulties. While the petitioner could have placed the outbuildings elsewhere on their property, rolling topography, the pond, and septic system location reduces the suitability for the structures. The construction of pads to level the structures add further difficulty. However, these difficulties likely could have be avoided, or at least identified, if permits had been obtained prior to the placement of the structures.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS ACTION

| Findings | of Fact | Criteria |
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| | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Criterion 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Criterion 2 | - | | | ! ! | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Criterion 3 | | | 10.25 | | | | | i i | | |
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