

Standish Township

Zoning Board of Appeals Special Meeting August 1st, 2025

A special meeting of the Standish Township Board of Appeals was held on August 1st, 2025 at the Standish Township Hall located at 4997 Arenac State Rd, Standish MI 48658.

Board member Dustin Cardinal called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Raymer-present, Stukel-present, Cardinal-present

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

New business

Cardinal discussed needing a chairperson for the ZBA, Raymer said he was willing. Cardinal asked for a motion to appoint Raymer. Stukel motioned, Cardinal seconded. Voice vote: 3 Aye, 0 nay. Motion carried.

Raymer discussed the ZBA needed a secretary, Cardinal said he was willing. Raymer asked for a motion to appoint Cardinal. Stukel motioned, Raymer seconded. Voice vote: 3 aye, 0 nay. Motion carried.

Raymer asked for a motion to open the public hearing for a variance for John and Jackie Beebe, Cardinal motioned, Stukel seconded. Voice vote: 3 aye, 0 nay. Motion carried, public hearing open.

John Beebe: Gave a little background on the situation. Said he put up an enclosure and had approval from ZA Harold Woolhiser. Twp told him it was wrong and took him to district court, district court laughed and said he did nothing wrong. Twp withdrew suit and filed one week later in circuit court. At this time it was still held up.

Vicki Morse: was turned down for a 6' fence last year because it blocked views. Not understanding of the precedence. Said the fence was put up illegally.

John Beebe: Said it was not new, he had 17 trees that were killed from a flood in 202, according to ordinance 3.5 (a), he was able to replace trees that were destroyed by Act of God. Blamed his wife because she wanted something that looked nicer than the trees.

Jerry and Janet Badarack: Lived there for 30 years, enclosure is better than trees or looking at dumpster and trailer.

Floyd Bender: Asked how much the twp has spent in legal fees with this in court. Wanted to know where it said in the ordinance book that an enclosure can't block a view.

Keith Beson: Said instead of spending all of this money in court, why wasn't a variance asked for beforehand

John Beebe: He requested an ordinance to change lots 140-146 to commercial which would allow an enclosure. Gave paperwork to Tom Mccoy, never got back to him on that

Harold Woolhiser: stated he was ZA at time. Stated complaint, reviewed, went to complaint, took pictures from both locations, decided it didn't obstruct view and approved it. He was asked by then Supervisor North to give Beebe a ticket, he said no and resigned on the spot.

Vicki Morse: Asked if by law it was considered illegal since it was 6', Harold said no.

John Beebe: Brought up ordinance law 3.5 that the 14' trees may be replaced by something smaller.

Mary Ellen Kielpinski: asked if anyone knew why it was approved or constructed. Gave permission to Beebe to use excavator. She put up with his dogs for years. Said he could put his trailer at his pole barn. Agreed the fence is beautiful but it blocks the view from her kitchen table. Wishes they could be friends again.

Emails were read from Deb Krajewski who was not in support of variance, Joe and Kelly Dixon who were in support of variance, Frank and Monica Allinger who were not in support of variance, Dale Raymond who was not in support of variance, and an anonymous emailer who was in support of the variance.

Cardinal spoke of a phone call he received from William Wanta who was in support of the variance.

Tom Mccoy: came on as ZA when the Beebe episode started. In regards to the trees, its too bad this has gone on this long. He sees it as an enclosure, not a fence. Said there are other issues at need, there needs to be unity and grace.

Mary Ellen Kielpinski: brought up that they are gone six months out of the year.

Raymer asked for a motion to close public hearing. Cardinal motioned, Stukel seconded. Voice vote: 3 aye, 0 nay. Motion carried, public hearing closed.

Cardinal brought up how Harold was ZA at the time and approved it. Believed that according to ordinance 3.5 (a), it was legal to put up.

Raymer: Brought up the fact that Harold approved it at the time and Tom agrees with it as well. Brought up ordinance 10.11(a).

Stukel: Did lots of research on it, doesn't see it as a fence but as an enclosure, gave props to both previous and current ZA who said they did and would approve it, same view or better than before.

Raymer asked for a motion to allow variance, Cardinal motioned, Stukel seconded.

Roll call vote: Cardinal-Yes, Stukel-Yes, Raymer-Yes. Variance was approved.

Public Comment: none

Motion to adjourn: Cardinal motioned, Stukel seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.