

WEXFORD COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Meeting Agenda: Monday, August 18, 2014
Human Services Building; 401 N. Lake Street
7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Monroe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call:** Prebay, Swank, Wiersma, Vice Chairperson Adams, and Chairperson Monroe were all present. Michael Green, Zoning Administrator, was also present.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion was made by Wiersma, with support by Adams, to approve the agenda with the addition of "Election of Officers" under item #5. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. **Approval of the July 21, 2014 Minutes:** Motion was made by Adams, with support by Wiersma, to approve the July 21, 2014 Minutes with corrections (see approved, signed minutes). Motion carried with all in favor.
5. **Election of Officers:**
 - (a) **Chairperson:** Wiersma moved to nominate Monroe, with support by Adams. Motion was made by Wiersma, with support by Adams, to close the nominations. Monroe was elected as Chairperson by a 4-0 roll call vote. (Monroe abstained)
 - (b) **Vice-Chairperson:** Swank moved to nominate Adams, with support by Prebay. Motion was made by Monroe, with support by Wiersma, to close the nominations. Adams was elected as Vice-Chairperson by 5-0 roll call vote.
6. **Correspondence not related to public hearing(s):** Green stated that the County Board is in the process of rewriting the Zoning Ordinance, with potential changes that might allow Verizon and other wireless tower providers easier approval for cell towers and may eliminate special uses altogether. Green also stated that he was advised by Tony Badovinic that Verizon could reapply for a special use permit for locations that were turned down on appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals as their intentions are to appeal to Federal Court through a lawsuit. Wiersma took issue with Green for speaking during public comment at the appeals hearing for the Verizon tower in Colfax Township and stated that it was a conflict of interest. Green responded that he has cleared the practice through past legal counsel and did ask for permission to leave the table to speak as a member of the public. Green also asserted his right to speak out because he does live within 300 feet of the parcel in question and was on the adjacent owner mailing list. [Monroe and](#) Wiersma disagreed with Green's explanation.
7. **New Business:** [None]
8. **Old Business:** [None]
9. **Other Business:** [None]
10. **Public Comment:** Patrick Donovan, of S. 29 Road, asked why property owners aren't notified or given the right to vote on a zoning amendment or new ordinance. Green explained that the Board of Commissioners makes the final decision and it is not automatically subject to a public vote, unless a petition for a referendum is submitted to the Wexford County Clerk that meets certain legal requirements.
11. **Adjournment:** Motion was made by Adams, with support by Wiersma, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Michael Green, Zoning Administrator

Beverly Monroe, Chairperson