

**Bland County Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for November 7th, 2005.**

Members Present:

Henry Blessing, John Dodson, Robert Trobaugh, Jim Baker, Jerry Mercer, Elmer Chewning, Allen Newberry and Stephen Kelley

Members Absent:

Guy Boone, Deborah Looney and R.B. Anderson

Others Present:

Jonathan D. Sweet, Planning Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 PM, Planning Commission Chairman Jerry Mercer called the meeting of the Bland County Planning Commission to order at the Bland County School Board Office, Bastian, Virginia.

ROLL CALL

Planning Commission Secretary Jonathan Sweet took the roll call and announced that there was indeed a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mercer requested a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7th, 2005 meeting. Commission Member Blessing made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 7th, 2005 meeting as presented; Commission Member Trobaugh provided a second to the motion, and it passed as written by acclamation.

ITEMS TABLED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None

PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONE AND/OR CUP

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Accept the Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics

Chairman Mercer presented the floor to Secretary Sweet to discuss with the Commission the purpose and benefits of considering a Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct. Secretary Sweet explained the purpose of such a recommendation by stating that such documents will provide the Commission with a uniformed guide on how to conduct themselves as well as some direction on ethics to be employed.

Secretary Sweet went on to further explain the importance of the Commission being consistent with their conduct and ethics to prevent individuals from making issues out of it later. In understanding that the Commission is and will be making recommendations that will be controversial, monumental and/or sensitive in nature, it makes sense that the Commission and future members of the Commission possess a clear understanding of what is expected of them to serve in such an important role. Secretary Sweet also made mention that the recommendation to accept a uniformed Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics was not a result of any actions taken or not taken by the Commission, but in fact a pro-active initiative to equip the Commission with a constant reminder of the principles expected of them.

The Commission openly discussed the need for such codes and the liability associated with approving them. Secretary Sweet noted that the Commission will only look to accept the Codes as general guidelines in which to conduct themselves. The Commission agreed that there was nothing within the documents that the Commission does not already do nor is there anything articulated that is not in the benefit of the Commission, Bland County Zoning, or its citizens.

Chairman Mercer requested Secretary Sweet to also construct an outline of rules and regulations for the public who might attend the Commission meetings and specifically public hearings. A request for a summary of Robert's Rules of Order with regards to Parliamentary Procedure was also made.

Commission Member Baker made a motion to accept both the Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics (*attached) and have them provided to the Commission each month within their monthly Agenda. Commission Member Newberry provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Review and Discuss Available Chapters of the Bland County Comprehensive Plan

The Commission reviewed those chapters made available by the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC) and discussed the document's contents. The Commission directed Secretary Sweet to request to the MRPDC that more attention be given to the impact the Bland Correctional Center has on population, employment, wages, age demographics, etc. It was the collective sentiment that the document did not possess accurate information needed in order to utilize the Comprehensive Plan as a tool in looking at our past, present and future.

The Commission concluded their discussion and Chairman Mercer requested that the Commission look closely at the goals and objectives section and be prepared to make

recommendations at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

No official action was taken on the Comprehensive Plan.

New Meeting Time

Secretary Sweet reminded the Commission that they may want to consider a change in time due to the recent daylight savings adjustment that just occurred.

Commission Member Newberry made a motion to move the Bland County Planning Commission's meeting time from 7:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Commission Member Trobaugh provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

-Notice-

Chairman Mercer requested that all Commission Members be present and presentable at the next meeting of the Bland County Planning Commission in order to get their picture taken so it can be displayed on the Bland County Website – www.bland.org

ADJOURNMENT

Commission Member Baker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commission Member Dodson provided the second.

Chairman Mercer obliged and the meeting was adjourned.