

Imlay Township Zoning Board of Appeals

Imlay Township Hall
January 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Dennis Collison, Al Jager, John Mulder, Sam Scrafano

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Recording Secretary Carla Jepsen, Planning Consultant Dave Birchler, Staff Planner Susie Roble, Township Supervisor Steve Hoeksema and members of the public.

1. Roll Call

2. **Call to Order:** Chairman Collison called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

3. **Additions or Corrections to Agenda:** none

4. **Public Time:** none

5. New Business

- a. **Request for a variance to section 5.8 Sign Regulation by Gateway Assembly to erect a sign at their church larger than allowed.** Delene Gritzinger spoke on behalf of the neighbors expressing their concerns regarding the distraction factor, the possibility for accidents, and the brightness of the sign, especially at night. Chuck Vera from the sign company explained that the unit dims at night, down to 50% and can be reduced further in the programming of the sign. The intention of the sign is to inform the public regarding events and things happening at the church. Planner Birchler explained that the ordinance requires signs to be dimmed at night. During the day the message on the sign can change once every 15 seconds; after 8:00 pm the sign bottom will not change. The variance is for a sign 10 square feet larger than the ordinance allows. The ordinance does not allow for signs to have moving video.

ZBA Member Jager **moved** to accept the variance as is; **seconded** by ZBA Member Scrafano. Discussion was held; ZBA Member Mulder feels that the larger sign will actually improve safety. Chairman Collison asked about adjusting the size of the sign. Mr. Veras explained that the sign is as tight as practical.

Roll call vote: ZBA Member Scrafano-aye, because the visibility heading south would be better with a taller sign. ZBA Member Mulder-aye, due to the unusual site plan, the proposed sign would make the church more visible to traffic. ZBA Member Jager-aye, for the reasons already expressed. Chairman

