

The Franklin County Board of Adjustment met in regular session on Wednesday, August 06, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Franklin County Courthouse Annex. The following members were in attendance:

PRESENT:

Vance Millender ----- Chairman
Richard Harper ----- Member
Gil Autrey ----- Member
Joe Hambrose ----- Member
Michael Shuler ----- County Attorney

The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2008, as mailed. On motion by Member Autrey, seconded by Member Harper and by unanimous vote, the July 9, 2008 minutes were approved as mailed.

The next item on the agenda was consideration of a request for a special exception to locate a public utility on a lot and a variance to construct this building, a vacuum station, 20 feet into the front setback line off of 5th Street, five feet into the west side setback line and five feet into the rear setback line on property described as lying in Section 29, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, and North of Highway 98, East of Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The request was submitted by Eastpoint Water and Sewer District, agent for the property owner, Franklin County.

Much discussion followed concerning this request. Mr. Buddy Shiver spoke in opposition to the facility. He said his daughter, Belinda Custer, owns the property directly behind where the vacuum station will sit. He said her property is 100' wide and this vacuum station will block 50' of her lot. Belinda Custer argued that she would not have an evacuation route in the event of Highway 98 being closed. She said she grooms animals and cares for abandoned and injured animals. She explained that when the last hurricane came through, Highway 98 was closed and 5th Street was their only exit.

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An adjoining neighbor, Ms. Margaret Harrington, was also present and objected to the vacuum station being placed in such close proximity to her home. She said she is a paraplegic and she doesn't know what she would do if she could not get out of her home in the event of an emergency. She inquired about Environmental Reports and Blueprints for the vacuum station. She stated that she believed the vents were to allow the escape of methane gasses. She implored the commission members to come out and take a look at the site before giving approval of this request. She stated that she was the only homeowner notified of this variance request.

Mrs. Rachel Ward of the Planning and Building Department, presented a list of names that had been notified, including Mark and Belinda Custer.

Mr. Hank Garrett of the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District was on hand to answer questions. He explained that the smell from the station is filtered and the vents are to allow heat to escape, not methane gas. He also noted that the location of the stations is determined by the engineer. He explained that the project manager, George Allen, is in Alaska and could not be here to answer questions.

On motion by Member Harper, seconded by Member Hambrose and by unanimous vote of the members present, it was agreed to table this request until the next regular meeting so that more information could be presented.

The last item on the agenda was consideration of a request for a variance to construct a vacuum station five feet into the south side setback line and 20 feet into the front setback line off of property described as lying in Section 31, Township 8 South, Range 6 West, 10 David Street, Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida. The request is submitted by Eastpoint Water and Sewer District.

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Brief discussion followed concerning this request. Mrs. Ward explained that no objections had been noted regarding this request for variance. On motion by Member Harper, seconded by Member Autrey and by unanimous vote of the members present, it was agreed to recommend that the Board of County Commission approve this request as submitted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Vance Millender, Chairman

ATTEST:

Rachel L. Ward, Zoning Administrator