

Town of Griffith  
Board of Zoning Appeals  
February 18, 2019

The Board of Zoning Appeals meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman John Mowery with members Carl Kus, Ray Elbaor, and Tom Wichlinski. Also present was Town Attorney; Joseph Svetanoff, and Building Commissioner; Steve McDermott. Absent was Town Council Liaison; Larry Ballah.

The minutes from the January 21, 2019 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting were approved as written.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Item #1 Central State Tower, LLC by Bryan Donley of Insite LLC. A Public Hearing on a Developmental Standards Variance at Wiggs St. & Pine St. (GHS Baseball Field). Exceeding the allowable height of a light standard to upgrade a telecommunications tower.*

Mr. Brian Donley appeared before the Board. Mr. Mowery asked if proof of publication and mailings were in order. Mr. Svetanoff stated all legal requirements have been satisfied. Mr. Mowery asked if the sign was posted at the property. Mr. McDermott stated it was. Mr. Donley explained the proposed monopole tower will be 125' with a 5' lighting rod. Verizon Wireless will be the main carrier, but can hold up to three wireless carriers. The tower will improve cellular coverage and the equipment will heed the demand. Mr. Donley stated the Griffith Schools are in favor of the proposal and will benefit. Mr. Mowery then opened up the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

*#1 Mr. George Jerome; Griffith Public Schools, Director of Operations* stated the schools are in favor of the proposed tower and are in need of the revenue. All employees of the school have an app on their cell phones that allows them immediate information if there were an active shooter, etc. As well as, receiving police responses within minutes. The proposed tower will be beneficial in maintaining high speed cellular service.

*#2 Mr. John Wotkun; 1004 W. Elm Pl.,* stated the structure will be 500' from his backdoor. Mr. Wotkun asked if the Board was able to deny the request based on esthetic and/or height. Mr. Mowery stated the BZA is hearing the proposal based on the structures height only. The Plan Commission would be a better board to hear comments on the esthetic of the tower.

Mr. Mowery then read aloud a letter presented to the Board from the Griffith Public Schools (attached to minutes). Mr. Wichlinski asked what the height is of a typical light pole. Mr. McDermott stated they are 70'. Mr. Kus asked if AT&T or T-Mobile could be added to the tower. Mr. Donley stated they could. Mr. Elbaor asked if the pole thickness is the same as a regular light pole. Mr. Donley stated the proposed light tower is wider, but the radius does decrease as it gets higher. Mr. Elbaor asked what the requirements are for the lightning rod. Mr. Donley stated there is electrical grounding, all codes will be met. Mr. Kus asked if the lightning rod is struck, will it affect the school. Mr. Donley stated it should not. Mr. Jerome stated the schools power source will not be connected to the light tower. No further remonstrators appeared before the Board. Mr. Mowery then closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. *Mr. Wichlinski made a favorable recommendation* to the Town Council on a Developmental Standards Variance to Central State Tower, LLC by Brian Donley to allow a 130' light standard (125' light tower with an additional 5' lightning rod) at Wiggs St. & Pine St. (GHS Baseball Field) to upgrade a telecommunications tower *seconded by Mr. Kus. All favored, motion carried.*

*Mr. Kus made a motion* requesting preparation of Findings of Fact, and allow Mr. Mowery to sign them upon completion on behalf of the Board. *Motion seconded by Mr. Wichlinski. All favored, motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**BILLS AND EXPENDITURES**

*Mr. Wichlinski made a motion* to approve a claim for the meeting held January 21, 2019 in the amount of \$35.00 *seconded by Mr. Elbaor. All favored, motion carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Zoning Appeals, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

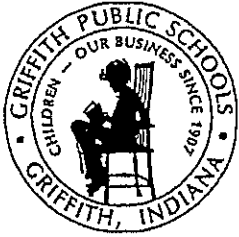
Respectfully Submitted



Tom Wichlinski, Secretary



Veronica L. Horka, Recording Secretary



## Griffith Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools, District Discipline Advisor  
Michele Riise

Board of School Trustees  
Gary J. Sutton, President  
Jennifer Dildine, First Vice President  
Kathy Ruesken, Second Vice President  
Richard Leber, Secretary  
Donald McCarter, Assistant Secretary

February 11, 2019,

Rick Ryfa, President  
Griffith Town Council  
Town of Griffith, Indiana

Dear Rick,

The February 18, 2019 BZA/Plan Commission meeting contains an item of interest to the Griffith Public School Corporation. Insite Inc., has been working with the school district for the past several months regarding the installation of a cell tower adjacent to the high school baseball field. The tower will be used by Verizon Wireless, and rental income will accrue to the school district. The ground space required by the tower is minimal, and baseball field lights will be attached to the tower itself.

I ask that the BZA and Plan Commission rule favorably on the request. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Michele Riise,  
Superintendent  
Griffith Public School District

cc: Steve McDermott, Building Commissioner