

# Mason County Planning & Zoning Department

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December 29, 2015 [SPECIAL MEETING]

Minutes of the Mason County Planning Commission meeting held at 102 E. Fifth St.,  
Scottville, December 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Bieniek, Michael Shaw, Tom Hooper, Doug Robidoux

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Dunlap, Cary Shineldecker, Ralph Lundberg (all  
excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Reilly

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 p.m. by Tom Hooper.

Addition or deletions to the agenda: Tom Hooper asked that the second public comment  
be moved to after the interviews and before the Board's deliberation/decision.

Conflict of interest: None

Tom Hooper opened public comment.

Evelyn Bergaila stated that she had reviewed the information on the three consultants.  
She stated that some of the consultants have more experience with post-construction  
testing than others. She stated the board should be looking for "fairness, clarity, and the  
best possible objective data."

Aldon Maleckas said that the consultant should be more in tune with local communities  
and small government, not large corporations.

Tom Hooper closed public comment.

The Board reviewed the interview questions. Steve Bieniek suggested moving the  
question about availability in the spring of 2016 to the top of the list. The Board agreed.

The Board engaged in phone interviews with three sound consulting firms over speaker  
phone. Mary Reilly asked questions from a pre-prepared list. Interviews were performed  
in this order: Aercoustics (Payam Ashtiani), Hankard Environmental (Mike Hankard), and  
Cross-Spectrum Acoustics (Herb Singleton).

Tom Hooper opened public comment.

Evelyn Bergaila stated that all three firms seemed ethical and had the ability to be  
objective about the data. She did not think that Cross Spectrum had the experience that  
Hankard and Aercoustics had with post-construction testing. Both Aercoustics and  
Hankard held interesting discussions about how to perform attended/unattended  
measurements. The consultant needs to have the ability to make the results "stick".

1 Aldon Maleckas stated that the board needs to define clear objectives for testing and if it  
2 does not get done, then that firm does get hired to come back. He stated that infrasound  
3 and low frequency noise are different; low frequency is 20 Hz and above.

4  
5 Evelyn Bergaila stated that if mitigation is required but it makes a company go out of  
6 business [in reference to an earlier response from a question] mitigation should be still  
7 be enforced in order to comply with the law.

8  
9 Tom Hooper closed the public comment.

10  
11 Tom Hooper expressed concern about hiring another firm from Ontario. He stated that  
12 Payam was impressive and “truly knows what he is talking about.”

13  
14 Steve Bieniek had concerns about Cross-Spectrum’s experience with on-off testing. He  
15 stated that “we need very experienced people”. Mr. Bieniek stated that he had concerns  
16 with Aercoustics and their focus on the Ontario standards. He noted that Hankard had  
17 lots of testing experience in the US and that would be helpful.

18  
19 Mike Shaw stated that Cross Spectrum made a comment about “letting the lawyers deal  
20 with it” and this concerned him. He liked the comments about attended and unattended  
21 measurements from both Aercoustics and Hankard.

22  
23 Doug Robidoux liked Hankard and noted he perhaps has better availability because he  
24 lives in Wisconsin. He was leaning toward Hankard.

25  
26 Mary Reilly cautioned the board about the use of statistics with data gathered from  
27 unattended measurements. Gathering data from unattended measurement and using  
28 statistical analysis may be where “state of the art” has evolved, but it is not what the  
29 zoning ordinance says.

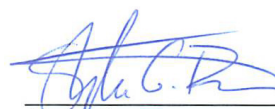
30  
31 The Board was unanimous in their opinion that it was very close between Aercoustics  
32 and Hankard Environmental and both candidates were highly qualified.

33  
34 Tom Hooper asked for a roll call vote. He asked each member to state their top choice  
35 for the sound consultant to fill the 4<sup>th</sup> consultant position.

36  
37 Steve Bieniek- Hankard; Michael Shaw-Hankard; Doug Robidoux-Hankard; Tom Hooper-  
38 Hankard.

39  
40 **The next regular meeting is Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 PM.**

41  
42 Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.

43  
44 

45 Steve Bieniek  
46 Mason Planning Commission Secretary