

The Special Meeting for January 7, 2020 of the Zoning Board of Appeals was called to order by Chair, Liz Grim-Vaughn at 5:04 pm in the City Council Chambers at New Buffalo City Hall, 224 W. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Roll Call

Members present: Chair, Liz Grim-Vaughn; Boardmembers Richard Cooper, Mark Joseph, Thomas Smith and Brandon McSmith

Members tardy: Vice-Chair, Arlene Pokuta arrived at 5:07 pm due to a doctor appointment.

Staff present: City Manager David Richards; City Clerk, Ann Fidler; Deputy Clerk, Nancy Griffin.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Boardmember Smith, seconded by Chair Grim-Vaughn to approve the agenda.

Unanimous 5-0, Motion Carried, Arlene Pokuta was not present at time of vote.

Public Comment

None

Public Hearing

Variance Request 1112 E. Clay allowing for additional lot coverage

- 11-62-8200-0203-04-4
- 11-62-8200-0206-02-7
- 11-62-8200-0207-04-0
- 11-62-8200-0207-02-3

Evan LaDuc of Abonmarche Associates, representing New Buffalo Area Schools presented the variance request in detail to the Board, including a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) building, retention pond, pavilion with restrooms, additional pickleball courts and parking and updates to the basketball court, tennis courts, skateboard park, parking etc. New Buffalo Area Schools is requesting for 68% of the property be hard surface.

Motion by Boardmember Smith to Close Public Hearing, seconded by Boardmember Pokuta.

Unanimous 6-0, Motion Carried.

Motion by Boardmember Smith, seconded by Boardmember Pokuta to open New Business.

Unanimous 6-0, Motion Carried.

New Business

- a. Variance Request, 1112 E. Clay allowing for additional lot coverage
 - 11-62-8200-0203-04-4
 - 11-62-8200-0206-02-7
 - 11-62-8200-0207-04-0
 - 11-62-8200-0207-02-3

Motion by Boardmember Joseph, seconded by Boardmember Smith to **approve** the variance request for 1112 E. Clay allowing for additional lot coverage for reasons as follows:

- The subject lot is an existing non-conforming lot of irregular dimensions making construction difficult and requiring accommodation
- The lot coverage proposed is consistent with the needs of the community
- The variances will have limited detriment to adjacent properties and the neighborhood.

Unanimous 6-0, Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Chair, Grim-Vaughn, seconded by Boardmember Joseph to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 pm.

____ Liz Grim-Vaughn resigned May, 2020 ____
 Liz Grim-Vaughn, Zoning Board of Appeals Chair

 Ann M. Fidler, City Clerk

 Arlene Pokuta, Zoning Board of Appeals Chair

 Ann M. Fidler, City Clerk