

ATHENS TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD
September 27, 2011

Zoning Hearing Board members in attendance were: Solicitor, Gerard A. Zeller, Esq., John Baird, Rita Jo Swingle, Diane Marvin, Walt Haggerty, Alternate, Cynthia Parrish, Assistant Zoning Officer, and Secretary, Elaine Daddona. Stenographer was Myra Ludden. Sign-in sheet was available for all others in attendance and is hereby attached.

Chairman, John Baird, called the meeting to order at 6:34PM. Motion by Diane Marvin to approve the minutes of July 26, 2011 and August 23, 2011 as read, second by John Baird, and motion carried.

Williams Ford Lincoln

Parcels #09-20.18-069-000-000, #09-020.19-003-000-000, & #09-020.18-032-001-000

Hearing began at 6:36PM regarding the application of Williams Ford Lincoln which is owned by Nancy D. Williams and Wendy Manchester as Trustees under Randy B. Williams Trust Agreement dated December 30, 1996. Cindy Parrish, Assistant Zoning Officer, reviewed the application for the Zoning Hearing Board explaining that the Zoning Office received the application for a variance on behalf of Williams Ford Lincoln on September 12, 2011 for property located at 1538 Elmira Street in Athens Township. The applicant was seeking relief for the erection of two franchise signs which exceed the permitted square footage of the Zoning Ordinance Section 704 D. The proposed "Ford" sign is 129.7 square feet in size for a combined total of 206 square feet. The Ordinance states that individual franchise signs not exceed a maximum of 75 square feet, and that all franchise signs must not exceed a combined total of 200 square feet. Chairman Baird asked Ms. Parrish if the Supervisors had stated any opinion concerning the application, and she stated they did not.

The applicant was represented by Kevin Horn, Manager of Williams Ford Lincoln and Attorney R. Joseph Landy and testimony commenced at 6:39PM and concluded at 6:52PM. Brenda Ferguson and Martin Lane, who were adjoining property owners in attendance, questioned the applicant regarding the placement of the signage. Mr. Lane was concerned with an explanation of the variance requested and Chairman Baird explained this to him. After conclusion of the testimony, the Board went into Executive Session which began at 6:58PM and the Board returned at 7:10PM. The applicant granted a waiver of receiving the written decision within 24 hours. Motion by Diane Marvin to **approve** the variance for the Lincoln sign which is 77 square feet in size, second by Rita Jo Swingle, and motion was unanimously carried. Motion by Diane Marvin to **approve** the variance for the Ford sign which is 129.7 square feet in size, stating that the total of both signs slightly exceeds the maximum square footage permitted, second by Rita Jo Swingle, and motion was unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM, as there was no further business to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine J. Daddona, Secretary

