

The Chester Township Board of Trustees met in special session **Monday, August 15, 2022** in the West Geauga Middle School gymnasium at 7:00 P.M. Chairman Ken Radtke presided. Trustee Richter was appointed Clerk pro tem.

Roll Call: All Trustees were present. Fiscal Officer Jarrett was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Board led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

7:00 PM – Zoning amendment Z2022-3 public hearing

2022-351. Mr. Radtke moved to open the public hearing for zoning amendment Z2022-23. The Trustees have received and reviewed the recommendation of the Geauga County Planning Commission. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

2022-352. Mr. Radtke moved to waive the reading of the legal notice. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Attorney Lorrie Sass-Benza outlined the rules for speaking at the meeting. The time allotted for public speaking was two minutes per person.

Mr. Radtke asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the proposed amendment. Attorney David Mitchell of the law firm Brenner Kaprozy Mitchell LLP was present on behalf of Biltmore Healthcare and Caves Road LLC, the owner of the subject property. Mr. Mitchell spoke briefly regarding the amendment, stating that it would add a use not currently found in the Zoning Resolution. If the amendment were approved, the property would be bought by Biltmore Healthcare and developed. Mr. Mitchell went over the two-minute time limit to speak, which upset some of the public attending.

In public comments, the residents were universally in favor of denying the amendment and spoke out strongly, citing many reasons why the amendment should not be passed. Reasons were many, including negatively impacting safety forces, lowering property values, impacting ground water supply, opening the door to becoming more of a city atmosphere and the potential for halfway houses and group homes for troubled youth. The public felt that taxes most certainly would rise as there would be a greatly increased need for safety forces staffing. They felt that attention would be better paid to local improvements to grocery stores and the local park.

2022-353. Mr. Radtke moved to close the public comment portion of the public hearing. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

2022-354. Mr. Radtke moved to close the public hearing at 7:59 PM for zoning amendment Z2022-3. Mr. Mazzurco seconded. Vote unanimous; motion passed.

Mr. Radtke stated it was very important for people to be heard; he encouraged the audience to attend Zoning Commission meetings to become more informed and involved. Mr. Radtke did not feel that the amendment took groundwater supply into consideration; he was also concerned about the presence of pharmaceuticals in waste water and the additional burden on safety forces. He was not in favor of the amendment.

