

TOWNSHIP OF FREMONT
COUNTY OF TUSCOLA
MAYVILLE, MICHIGAN 48744
Planning Commission SLU Meeting

July 6, 2023

Board Present: Ken Bragg, Kyle Thom, Tyler Ireland, Greg Eggert, Kim Vaughan, Brandon Blatt, and Rose Ann Laskowski. **Board Absent:** None

Guest Present: Jacob Bach (SLU applicant), Amy Holbrook (recording secretary) David & Penny Turner.

Special Land Use Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Eggert stated that the meeting was being held per Jacob Bach's request to operate a portable sawmill at 5191 Chambers Road, Mayville, MI 48744 (parcel numbers 011-020-000-0900-00 and 011-020-000-1000-00).

Jacob Bach (SLU applicant): Jacob stated that he takes custom orders from customers and processes the orders on site. Sometimes he takes the sawmill off site and processes it at their location, but he tries not to do that very often. He currently works 7am to 6pm Monday through Friday and no weekends.

Public Comments: A neighbor stated that they could not ask for a better neighbor and that Jacob is a good guy just trying to make a living. They stated that they have nothing negative to say about him. He works hard and is raising his children right and he should be able to run the sawmill at his place to make a living.

Board Discussion: Eggert mentioned that he has received no calls or letters regarding the approval of the special land use. Laskowski asked if he does this full time and Bach stated that yes this is what he does for a living. Laskowski asked if he has any employees and Bach said no. Bragg mentioned that he drove past there and there are a lot of logs piled up. Bach stated that he has more stock than normal right now because he placed the orders last year and the loggers could not get them out during the winter, so they were brought now. He also stated that work is slower, right not and in past years he would have used most of that stock already. Bach stated that Kappen comes in and grinds up all his slab wood and scraps. Laskowski asked how long he has had the sawmill and Bach stated that he has had it almost five years but most of that work was done off site. He has been processing onsite for about two years. Thom mentioned that logging is one of the oldest industries in Michigan and is part of our heritage and so we need to welcome that into our community. He also stated that no one is objecting to the application so at this point we just have to set up the hours of operation. Blatt stated that he thinks we should put the hours to be 7am to 7 pm just in case he has to work a little later to get an order out or if there is a problem during the day. Eggert mentioned that maybe we should include some Saturday hours just in case he needs the time for orders. Thom stated that maybe we should set Saturday hours as 7am to 5pm. Eggert asked how many semi loads he gets in a year and Bach stated that it is about 15-20 but this year will be less.

Motion: Motion made by Thom, seconded by Vaughan to approve the special land use request to allow Jacob Bach to operate a portable sawmill at 5191 Chambers Road with the hours of operation being 7am to 7pm Monday through Friday and 7am to 5pm on Saturday. Motion carried with all yes votes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Amy L. Holbrook, Secretary