

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
JEFF GAYNOR, CHAIRPERSON, REMY ARNESS,
JOANN McEWEN, CLAIRE MOORE, AND GARY LONG

Jeff Gaynor brought the March 8, 2017 Board of Appeals meeting to order at 7:05.

R/C: Jeff Gaynor – here, Remy Arness – here, Joann McEwen – here, Gary Long – here, and Claire Moore – here.

Jeff: Thank you, record will show that we have a quorum. Is there any old business to be brought before the board?

Gary: Yes, I want to bring something to the table. I'm about sick and tired of looking at that mess out there at that storage place. Plus the fact I thought he wasn't allowed to advertise anything about his business on that screen sign? He is advertising room for advertising on the sign.

Jim: He can do that, as long as he doesn't advertise for the storage business.

Gary: What is the states on that mess out there?

Jim: It is back in court and they are having a go round.

Jeff: Is there any way our counsel could approach the court that the place be cleaned up a little bit?

Jim: Nope, nothing the Prosecutor's office can do and there's nothing I can do.

Gary: That's just absolutely terrible.

Jim: I agree and the person who is opposing him has brought it to the Judges attention that they are working on that.

Jeff: I don't see any movement at all

Gary: There was a lot of movement there for a while.

Jim: That was prior, it is back into court and that's where it is.

Gary: I don't have any more old business.

Jeff: On to new business: Variance request 2017 BZA 01 for John Paultet of 3146 Wolf Run Dr. Ravenna, Ohio. Mr. Paultet is requesting permission to operate a home based business in a planned unit development. I would like to remind you that the only people that are recorded are the board and the person sitting in this chair here. Comments from the back of the room are not heard and not recorded. IF you have something you want to say wait your turn. If you would come forward Mr. Paultet and bring a chair if you want. Swears in John Michael Paultet, 3146 Wolf Run Dr. Now the nature of your request for the board this evening.

John: Let me start from the beginning. I moved here from Aurora, my Mom and I bought this place together. My Pops died in North Carolina so we bought this place together after I went through a divorce. I have a home FFL License, Federal Firearms license, I don't have a store I have a home FFL license. So in order for me to move and keep my license I have to give ATF my new address, so that's really all I need. I'm not asking to run a business out of the house. I do private showing, I do gun parties kind of like a Tupperware party and by appointment only, so I want to run a business from the house but that's not really the case, I just want to give ATF my address to keep my license and then I can get mail and delivery to my house.

Jeff: Is it correct that the ATF will not transfer your license unless you show that you are allowed to have the business?

John: Correct

Jeff: That is what I thought I heard before. Is there a difference in what you call a home license and a business license?

John: There is, a home license you can operate from your home. You can do gun shows, you can do private, you can have a web site, which I do, which is run out of guys house in Northfield. The license is the same, however one has a store front and one doesn't. I don't and I don't plan on it.

Jeff: I'm not sure it's appropriate, but do you have a state wide vender's license then?

John: Yes, I do

Remy: Do you have sales when you do these home gun parties?

John: Yes, yes there are

Jeff: You are allowed to sell off primases then? Your permit has your address on it, but that you're allowed to sell it elsewhere. What are you selling?

John: Firearms and firearms accessories, holsters, technical gear, we do some survival gear and a lot of hunting guns, a lot of concealed is a hot market right now woman's especially, woman's market is huge that is why you see so many pink and purple and colored guns now that's mainly what I sell.

Jeff: Do you sell loading equipment?

John: I do not, I'm not licensed in that, I don't have a lot of education in that. It is something I'm interested in especially when the ammo is so expensive. This past eight years it has kind of dropped now and I haven't got into that, it's expensive, but no I'm not into that yet.

Jeff: Are you selling ammunition?

John: Not yet

Gary: Will you be selling ammunition out of this address?

John: No

Joanne: Will you be selling assault rifles?

John: No, I do not. I believe the assault is coming more from the person rather than a fire arm.

Jeff: I think she's speaking like a AKA 47.

John: I don't sell AKA 47's. I wish someone wanted one, but I just don't have anyone that requested one. Most of the stuff I sell is concealed and hand guns that seems to be the hot market now. A lot of hunting stuff.

Gary: How do you receive this merchandise?

John: I receive it from UPS or FEDX or the US mail it depends on where it is coming from.

Gary: And where is it delivered?

John: It's delivered to my house.

Joann: What if you're not home?

John: Then my Mom would sign for it, because she is there all the time. That's a good point somebody has to be 21 there to sign for it if it's drugs, firearms or alcohol. To sign the request signature. But, on firearms it has to be. So typically what happens is I drive to FEDX in Bedford on Majestic or the one over in Twinsburg where Chrysler used to be and they're hold it there for me if that happens. Which that happens all the time now because my address is still listed in Aurora where my x wife lives. So I'm spending 15 times a year driving to FEDX.

Claire: You said that the license is going to be at this address, but you are actually selling out of the Northfield residence?

John: No, I sell at gun shows, parties, and private appointment. My web site is operated out of Northfield.

Joanne: Is there a possibility for your house to be a target for somebody robbing you because of your ammo?

John: That's exactly why I didn't want to tell you guys what I was selling, but I know everything is going to stay in this room. I don't want everybody to know what I have in the house, because there is times I have 16 to 20 guns in there at once, don't want people to know that, so I'm trusting that nobody is going to say. I know a lot of people do and that's a good question and I do have good security, I have camera's

I have the system called Vivid, if your familiar with it, that's a good security system. We have everything locked up in a safe.

Claire: So do you stock the guns there then or do you just get them to sell?

John: I get in what I sell. If I get stock in it's for my personal use. I'm a collector myself.

Remy: What is the average length of time between purchase and pick up when a customer comes?

John: If somebody orders something from me, I get it within a week and they get it that day.

Remy: You notify them?

John: I usually get an idea when the shipment will come before the five days and they know when its coming and they are ready. We meet at their house.

Gary: You meet at their house? Not yours?

John: Yes, I don't want people coming to my house.

Gary: I just ask the question.

John: If it was a good friend or family I would let them come to my house but other than that no.

Remy: So your gun parties, you go to people's house?

John: I do

Remy: But, nobody really comes to your house?

John: No

Jeff: Anything else from the Board?

Gary: Let's just breathe for a couple of minutes.

Jeff: That's fine.

Gary: If the local, in this case Ravenna Township, this would be the Portage County Sheriff's department is the Portage County Sheriff's Department aware of your activity>

John: Yes, they are and so is Streetsboro. They're the ones that do my fingerprints and as soon as I get this done I have to bring a card with my new finger print on it to Ravenna and to Portage, just the fingerprint part, which they have and they get quite often, but this is going to be considered a new license.

Joann: Did you have problems at your prior location?

John: No, I was in Aurora and they all knew and bought firearms from me.

Gary: I don't know Jeff about item one here, I don't think it pertains to this, the statement is in Section B.1 all structures in activity areas shall be located at least 100 feet from property lines. But you're not going to have any activity at your home is that correct?

John: Correct.

Jeff: I don't see how you could, there is an awful lot of spaces that are 100 feet from the property line down there everywhere.

Claire: In a nutshell this is not really a home based business, it's a mailing address for your shipments?

John: That's what I need. Otherwise I don't know what I'd do, probably have to get an apartment somewhere or rent some space. I have a girlfriend, but I'm not going to do it at her house. I've only been with her two years, I'm not that committed.

Jeff: Do you have other employment?

John: Yes, I work for the City of Streetsboro. Fulltime

Jeff: So this would not be a fulltime situation here?

John: No, I would like it to be someday.

Remy: How long have you been doing this?

John: I've been doing this about 30 years. I've only had a license from the ATF since 2015.

Jeff: Gary you have a few more things written down, do you have anything else?

Gary: No, he is satisfying most of them. Will there be any customer visits to your home?

John: No

Gary: None what so ever?

John: No, none what so ever,

Gary: So if a customer wants to touchy feely a weapon what's your protocol?

John: I order it and bring it to the people. If I'm going to do a gun party, what I do is I'll have the person that wants to host it, they'll ask everybody what kind of things they are interested in. The last one, for example, about ten people showed up I made four sales. I brought twelve guns so out of them I had the rest left.

Gary: You don't have the gun party at your residence?

John: No, offsite.

Jeff: Have a seat for a second and we'll ask these other ladies if they have any questions. Swears in Kathryn Mosko 3185 Wolf Run.

Jeff: Your comment?

Kathryn: I just have a couple of questions for John. I don't see him too often, you had made the statement that customers do not come to your home, but earlier you had said if they were a good friend you would ask them to come pick up their stuff. Is that something you just do out of the kindness of your heart?

John: I don't know, I've never done that yet, but what I said was if it was a good friend or family I wouldn't be against that, yes.

Kathryn: Ok, I had a question about the email. My guess is that you do by mail and email, is that correct?

John: Yes

Kathryn: Is the address of your home on your email?

John: No, my website is run from Northfield, Ohio. I don't even run it, because I'm not, I like being out and about, I don't like sitting at my computer. I pay these guys to do that.

Kathryn: For the UPS and FEDX guys if they make a delivery, and I have seen them come once already, even though I don't sit in my room window to see who's coming to deliver stuff. If someone is not home are they required to take it back or do they leave it in the front door?

John: If it's a fire arm, I'm not allowed to get fire arms delivered there yet. The ATF won't let me. For example if it was. Somebody 21 or older has to be there to sign for it and the driver knows what's in that box. It comes up on his little computer that 21 signature like we were talking about before. No, they will never leave that.

Kathryn: They will never do that and so do they put a note in your door saying that they tried to deliver it?

John: I guess they would leave a note, that's what they do in Aurora, but now they started a new thing where you get a text message. So I've been getting text messages from Aurora that they tried to make a delivery so what I do is make friends with the driver and I call him and he'll come right out in Mantua in his truck. I've done that before too.

Kathryn: Ok, I think the whole thing is a little bit, if someone does come to your home and it requires for them to be shown outside are there any plans to take them out back and show them how something works?

Remy: Like a firing range a test area to test fire the weapon

John: Not there never. That's a good question because it is all about safety when there is firearms involved. I understand.

Kathryn: That's all I have.

Gary: Along those lines, and I don't know rather you can do this or not, I am waiting to make it a stipulation, the FEDX, the UPS and the post office are they aware of an authorized person to sign for you if you're not there and they're trying to make a delivery?

John: No, their policy is 21 and older and they will card that person. There is no designated person, however at my house now it would be my Mom and she looks way over 21.

Gary: I have a backup question that I want to ask, but along those lines, if your Mother wasn't there, for whatever reason, and you're not there for whatever reason, would they take it to the next door people and ask them?

John: No, they would take it back to either Majestic or the one in Twinsburg.

Gary: Then notify you?

John: Yes

Claire: Their policy is, they know, like he said, they know what's in the package if it alcohol, firearms, anything of that nature, they are not allowed to leave it at the next-door neighbors. Someone at that home is not present to sign for it, it goes back to the facility. I think they attempt three deliveries and after the third delivery it goes back to whoever shipped it.

Jeff: Do you wish to speak? You're ok for now. Any more questions from the Board?

Gary: In the neighborhood, I don't know whether there's teenagers and I don't know what caliber of people live there in the neighborhood. Do you periodically alarm your safety system?

John: On purpose, we have been there since June and I haven't done that yet. I did accidentally set it off once, but no I haven't tested it and that is a good point, I probably should.

Gary: Not knowing the citizenship, not know the teenagers that's there, I would highly recommend that, even though you're inside the home and even though your weapons are secured I'm just thinking of the safety of the neighborhood. That's the only thing that I'm thinking about.

John: I will test it. We actually want to get it upgraded, we found out we can save more on our insurance if we upgraded even to the next level.

Gary: What system do you have in now?

John: It's called Vivid and it's a really good system it has voice command when the alarm went off, she came on within ten seconds and ask me for my password and was everything ok ask me for my password again, ask me two times if we were ok and that was just by me opening the garage door by accident. I'm pretty confident with them, it's a little more expensive system than what I had in Aurora. All the windows are covered, all the doors are covered and we have cameras as well. Probably the cameras are going to help me after the fact. For right now to wake me up if something happened in the middle of the night that's what I trust the system for. I was impressed with that because they double check with everything.

Jeff: Did you wish to speak again?

Kathryn: We have one teenager in the neighborhood, but you never see him because he is playing video games all day. He doesn't come out of the house. He's a senior this year, does nothing with school does nothing in the yard just plays video games.

John: I did not know that. I thought I knew everybody on the street.

Jeff: Anything else?

Remy: When you load your weapons in your vehicle for transfer like to the party or wherever it is in the garage, correct?

John: Yea, I do that in the garage with the doors shut. I don't think anybody know, I seriously doubt if anybody can tell by just driving by or just by looking even neighbors look and I seriously doubt they can tell what is going on. I shut the door and I have good security.

Remy: How are the weapons secured to travel to the party?

John: For transport they are just in a box or they are in plastic cases.

Remy: The shipping case?

John: Yes, but some of them have locks, but I don't usually put the locks on, but when I go to a gun show I do. Because a lot of time some of them will be left under a table or something.

Gary: You transport no ammunition what so ever?

John: No, not for sale. Only if for myself I do when I go to the range. I also do CCW classes out at A&A and I travel around and do those quite often. So then I do transport ammunition but that's only for my own private use.

Gary: Is that secured in your home?

John: Yes, that's in my safe

Jeff and John Discussion on A&A shop

Jeff: Could I have a motion pertaining to this request?

Gary: I move that we grant the variance request of 2017 BZA 01 for John Paullet pertaining to the address on 3147 Wolf Run Dr. in Ravenna, Ohio to able him to obtain his FFL license for this address with a safety stipulation that periodically with a minimum of once every six month the security system is verified whether you trigger it or you call the security system and have the trigger it. Claire second it.

R/C: Claire Moore – yes, Gary Long – yes, Joanne McEwen – yes, Remy Arness – yes and Jeff Gaynor – yes Motion passed.

Jeff: Your request has been granted, there is an appeal period of which interested parties could file an appeal in the courts related to this application any action you take during that time is at your own risk.

John: What period was that sir?

Jeff: I believe its 30 days, but we are not allowed to give legal advice

John: Thank you

Jeff: The Board has some more business to take care of you are free to leave or stay whatever you want to do.

Jeff: Gary and I were talking about that Wynns property

Jim: The Prosecutors office is moving at a dead snail.

Gary: The reason we brought it up is that we want it on record. We're upset about it.

Claire: Why can't you enforce the cleanliness of it?

Jim: Because it's in the courts. It's like somebody that files for bankruptcy, everything is froze.

Jeff: We need a vote to journalize this decision.

Remy I so move and Jeff seconded it. R/C: Remy Arness – yes, Jeff Gaynor – yes, Joanne McEwen – yes, Claire Moore – yes, and Gary Long – yes Motion passed.

Jeff: Would anybody care to make a motion on our minutes of our last meeting?

Gary made the motion to accept the minutes of our last meeting October 12, 2016 and Joanne second them. R/C: Gary Long – yes, Claire Moore – yes, Remy Arness – yes, Joanne McEwen – yes and Jeff Gaynor – yes. Minutes approved

Jeff: Anything else anybody would like to say? Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Gary Motioned to adjourn at 7:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Carolyn Chambers
Zoning Secretary

Cc: Trustees (Coia, Artz, Gibson)
Zoning Inspector (DiPaola)
Zoning BZA (5)
File