MINUTES

POSEY COUNTY
AREA PLAN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING

POSEY COUNTY 4H COMMUNTIY CENTER
111 HARMONY TOWNSHIP ROAD
NEW HARMONY, IN 47631

AUGUST 18, 2026
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Joe Marvel - President, Mr. Greg Newman - Vice President, Mrs. Stefani Miller, Mr. Dave Pearce, Mr. John Gerton, Mr. Randy Rankin, Mr. Trent Van Haaften - Attorney, Mr. Jerry Cotner, Executive Director, Mrs. Taylor Elmendorf - Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Savannah Axley - Clerical Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Keith Spurgeon, Mr. Mark Seib

Discuss Proposed Amendments to The Unified Development Ordinance of Posey County

Mr. Joe Marvel explained that the purpose of the meeting is to provide the public with additional time to voice their concerns and offer suggestions regarding potential changes to the amendments.

Public Comments:

Suzanne Dougan- 8500 Downen Rd., Wadesville, In, spoke on improving data center ordinance to include a closed loop system, no other large data centers within 20 miles of each other, larger setbacks, noise testing at both day and night, provide at least 80% of its own energy, increase fines.

Joe Adams-1610 Red Leaf Dr., Evansville spoke about wanting data center to provide its own fire department and fire safety and prevention.

Dr. Roberta Hoebeke-10651 Greenleaf Dr., Evansville Indiana, spoke about heat produced by data centers and proposed amendments to address the issue.

Jason Naab-9650 Upper Mt. Vernon Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN, spoke about height restrictions, increase setbacks and height on berm, size limitations, at least 1 mile from high-risk citizens.

Chris Wolsiefer-6820 Wade Park Dr., Wadesville, IN, spoke on increasing setbacks

Damion Carl-10361 Far View Dr., Evansville, IN spoke on definition changes, test air quality outside of 3 miles or more and post construction noise level test.

David Esche-1920 Ford Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN, spoke on increased setbacks from schools, concerned about increased waste heat, should not be able to drill water wells.

Kathy Weinzapfel-6621 Lower Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon, IN spoke regarding wants to add a G rated decibel and change the amount in the other decibel reading, concerned about waste heat increasing utility bills, and improving air pollution standards.

Richard Maier-2700 Donner Rd., Wadesville, IN, spoke on stricter standards on noncompliance and stricter fees and proposed non-financial compliance standards.

Pam Schwitz-5901 Serenity Dr. Mt. Vernon, IN, stated that data centers should only allow municipal water, have larger setbacks, require major landscaping, and a decommissioning plan.

Kelly Collins-536 10th St. Mt. Vernon, IN concerned about fire safety, increased water and electric usages, concerned about further growth in county if data center would build in the county, and noise pollution.

Phil Seifert- 7333 Upper Mt. Vernon Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN stated should be a 200-mile setback and money shouldn't be a factor.

Aaron Wilson- 337 Tavern St., New Harmony IN, feels posey county needs growth, need to be concern about long term effects but not to close the door to growth.

Justin Griner- 8631 Waterford Dr., Mt. Vernon, IN, concerned about needing more time to investigate data center impact before setting the rules. Spoke about issues that other communities have experienced with data centers. Asked that Area Plan ask the Commissioners to set a moratorium to give time to research. Stated concerns about health effects and lack of jobs.

Dana Willis-1601 Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon stated that she doesn't feel like the community will gain anything due to lack of jobs for the community. Concerned that posey county is moving too fast on ordinances and increasing electric bills. We don't want it here.

Craig Geode- St. Philips, IN feels that data centers have a leg up from dealing with community ordinances for years and looking for exception. Would like board to take data centers under advisement to allow time to get all necessary relevant facts about data centers. No data centers are allowed in posey county until further notice.

Stephane Folz-5491 Lower New Harmony Rd. Mt. Vernon, IN, here to speak on behalf of Pam Bilski who lives at 3650 N Ford Rd., Mt. Vernon, IN stated that she has visited multiple data centers and spoke with residents about issues.

Kristyn Tromley- 4301 Joyce Ln., Mt. Vernon, IN, need a preapproval transparency measure to host a public meeting before applying for an application. Spoke of the dangers of technology. Need to research companies that are looking into developing in posey county.

Stephen Elfreich-10417 Downen Rd., Wadesville, IN, we need to learn from other county's mistakes and wanting board to have a back-and-forth conversation with citizens.

Bob Juncker- 8201 upper Mt. Vernon Rd., Mt. Vernon concerned about flooding after construction.

Speakers handing in documents for board to review in their entirety.

Mr. Joe Marvel spoke on what he has personally been doing to work on data center amendments.

Discussion and questions from the audience to the board members, board members answered questions.

Mr. Trent VanHaaften spoke on the moratorium process and what APC does.

Ralph Wallace- 10300 Highway 66, Wadesville, questions who will fix any issues caused by data centers.

Mr. John Gerton stated that he is trying to find a data center to visit, is reading emails and learning more as he goes.

Community members spoke from the audience with board members answering questions.

Mr. Randy Rankin stated that the ordinance states that fire departments will have input and approvals for projects.

Mrs. Stefani Miller stated that she has read all the emails, is doing her own research and is willing to visit a data center.

Mr. Greg Newman stated that he reads the emails, is getting information from other groups and has visited 2 data centers and driven by a data center that is being constructed. We need responsible development in the county.

Mr. Joe Marvel announced the next public meeting will be held at the 4H community center, 5:30pm on September 24,2026

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stefani Miller a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, Mr. John Gerton seconds. **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Joe Marvel – President

Mr. Jerry Gotner – Executive Director

- All Exhibits are available at the Posey County Area Plan Commission office.