

**Zeeland Charter Township  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Oct. 24, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Walters

Board Members Present: Rich De Leau, Bruce Knoper, Russ Mudget, Jeff Salisbury, Steve Walters, Ben Zwagerman, Dirk Pyle Absent: Jeff Salisbury

Staff Present: Zoning Administrator Kirk Scharphorn Jr.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2021: Motion Carried

A request from Corewell Health of 8333 Felch St., also known as permanent parcels 70-17-17-101-011, 70-17-17-101-012, and 70-17-17-200-003, seeking relief from Section 8.03 D(d) and other applicable provisions of the Zeeland Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to allow three signs to have in increased height of 2 ft. Cory Alexander from Midwest Sign represented the applicant.

The hospital has received concerns from patients and staff about the directional signage on its campus being difficult to read and also snow accumulation can hinder reading the sign at times. The variance request would accommodate a taller sign which would space out the wording vertically and allow for larger color bands, arrows, and eliminating dead space on the ends of the sign, by decreasing the width.

Motion by Knoper to open the public hearing. No citizen comment. Motion to close the public hearing.

Motion made by Knoper, supported by DeLeau to approve the variance as requested. Section 18.04 in the township ordinance requires seven criteria to be satisfied before a variance can be granted. The Board of Appeals feels the variance satisfies the criteria in the following ways:

1. Condition 1b. is satisfied because the structure is a hospital which has life safety requirements and concerns.
2. Condition is satisfied because a hospital has unique requirements for clear directional signage.
3. Condition is satisfied because it is a life safety issue, not advertising.
4. Condition is satisfied because signage is within the campus.
5. Condition is satisfied because all zoning is for the health, safety and welfare of the community.
6. Condition is satisfied because the condition is clear vision and snowplowing and is not self created.
7. Condition is satisfied because it is a life safety issue.

Motion Carried: Ayes: De Leau, Walters, Knoper, Mudget, Zwagerman, Pyle Absent: Salisbury

Motion to Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Jeff Salisbury, Secretary

Katy Steenwyk, Recording Secretary