

**Charter Township of Filer  
Minutes of the Planning Commission Public Hearing  
Held on February 16, 2016**

Present: Roger Dittmer, Shirley Ball, Richard Mark and Karen Kolk.

Absent: Linda Rogers, Jennifer Williams and Christa Johnson

Also present: Lynn Kooyers, Zoning Administrator and Terry Walker, Township Supervisor.

Hearing called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chairman Mark.

Douglas Topolski-Home Occupation Special Use Permit Application

Zoning Administrator Kooyers stated that the purpose of this hearing is to accept public comment on the Special Use Permit Application filed by Douglas Topolski to conduct a gainful home occupation called "Top Consulting" in the Medium Density Residential District of Filer Township. The applicant is proposing to sell firearms by telephone and internet from his residence located at 4497 W. Fox Farm Rd., Parcel #51-06-421-710-13, Lakeland Subdivision No, 1, Filer Township, Manistee County, Michigan.

Zoning Administrator Kooyers reviewed the main points of the application:

- Applicant states his hours of operation will be by appointment only.
- Applicant anticipates approximately one customer per/week will visit his home to pick up their order.
- Existing driveway will be used to provide off street parking. The residence has a long driveway that could accommodate up to 10 cars.
- Applicant will be applying for a Type 1 Federal Firearms License. If this SUP application is approved, no business may be conducted at this location until a copy of this license has been filed with Filer Township.
- Applicant states that no test firing of firearms will take place on site.
- Applicant anticipates keeping a maximum of 10 firearms at any one time in a locked safe in his basement for pickup by customers.
- 9 letters of support and 1 letter against this home occupation have been received by the township.
- No verbal comments were received by the office.
- 31.10.1080 Home Occupations- Applicant would be allowed to display one 4 sq. ft. sign according to township ordinance, if desired. A sign permit application would have to be filed with the zoning office in order to display a sign. Mr. Topolski states that he is not planning to display a sign.
- Filer Township has approved 3 firearms related home occupation in the past, which are currently still active.

Mr. Doug Topolski introduced himself and spoke about his application.

- He is a retired police officer who previously held a Type 1 Federal Firearms License in the Detroit area where he worked and lived.
- Mr. Topolski stated that he will sell firearms only to select customers.
- Thorough customer background checks will be conducted on Facebook, social media and the Sex Offenders Website.
- Mr. Topolski stated that he does not feel that his home occupation will increase the traffic in his neighborhood by any noticeable amount.

Christa Johnson entered the hearing at 6:52 p.m.

- Johnson questioned the applicant's dual residency in the Detroit area & Filer Township.
- Mark questioned how multiple sales requests from any single individual would be handled.

Clerk Ball asked if any verbal comments on the application had been received by the office. Zoning Administrator Kooyers reported that none were received.

Public Comment

Chairman Mark called for public comment on the application. None was given.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kolk to close the Public Hearing. All in favor. M/C

Hearing adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Dittmer, Secretary  
Charter Township of Filer Planning Commission